



**Spotlight
Initiative**

Caribbean Regional Annual Narrative Programme Report

1 January 2022 – 31 December 2022

Programme Title & Number

Programme Title: Strengthening Regional Cooperation to Prevent and Respond to Family Violence in the Caribbean

MPTF Office Project Reference Number¹:

Recipient Organisation(s)

- ✓ UN Women
- ✓ UNDP
- ✓ UNFPA
- ✓ UNICEF

Programme Cost (US\$)

Total Phase I budget, as per the Spotlight CPD/RPD: 11,360,711 USD

Phase I Spotlight Funding: \$9,552,830 USD

Agency Contribution: \$1,807, 881 USD

Spotlight Funding and Agency Contribution by Agency:

Name of RUNO	Spotlight Phase I (+ II, where OSC approved) (USD)	UN Agency Contributions (USD)
UN Women	\$4,715, 845	\$209, 750
UNDP	\$1, 893, 461	\$301, 156
UNFPA	\$1, 490, 725	\$270, 975
UNICEF	\$1, 452, 799	\$1, 026, 000
Total	\$9,552,830	\$1,807, 881

Priority Regions/Areas/Localities for the Programme

Caribbean: Inclusive of all independent Member States of CARICOM

Key Partners

- ✓ UN: ILO, PAHO, ECLAC
- ✓ Regional institutions: CARICOM Secretariat, OECS Commission, CDB, CXC, CDEMA, CAJO,
- ✓ Governments
- ✓ Regional NGOs working on GBV
- ✓ Regional trade unions and employers' federation
- ✓ Academia working on Gender Studies – (UWI)
- ✓ Private sector organisations

Programme Start & End Dates

Start Date: 24 July 2020

End Date: 31 December 2023

¹ 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.

The Spotlight Contribution refers to the amount transferred to the Recipient UN Organisations, which is available on the MPTF Office GATEWAY.

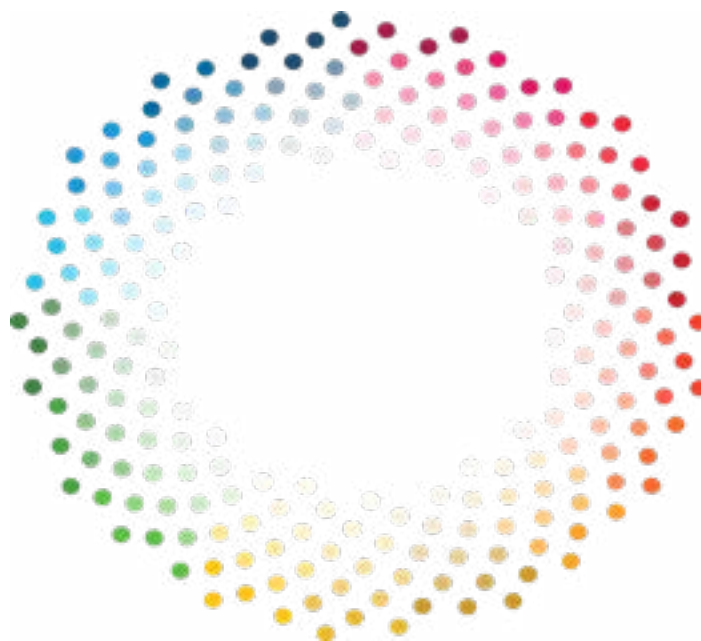
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List of Acronyms & Abbreviations

ACCP	Association of Caribbean Commissioners of Police
AWP	Annual Work Plan
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CCJ	Caribbean Court of Justice
CDEMA	Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency
CFPA	Caribbean Family Planning Affiliation
CMEU	Child Marriage and Early Unions
CoP	Community of Practice
CSE	Comprehensive Sexuality Education
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
CSRRG	Civil Society Regional Reference Group
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DRR/M	Disaster Risk Reduction and Management
DV	Domestic Violence
EVAWG	Ending Violence Against Women and Girls
ESP	Essential Service Package
EU	European Union
FV	Family Violence
FPA	Family Planning Associations
GDIGM	Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media
GBV	Gender-based Violence
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
GRB	Gender Responsive Budgeting
HFLE	Health and Family Life Education
ICT	Information and Communication
IPPF	International Planned Parenthood Federation
IGDS	Institute for Gender and Development Studies
KAP	Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices
LNOB	Leave No One Behind
NSC	National Steering Committee
NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
OECS	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States
PMU	Programme Management Unit

RC	Resident Coordinator
RSC	Regional Steering Committee
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SRH	Sexual Reproductive Health
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
SBCC	Social and Behavioural Change Communication
SI	Spotlight Initiative
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
TAG	Technical Advisory Group
TORs	Terms of Reference
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
UWI	University of the West Indies
VAC	Violence Against Childre
VAW	Violence Against Women
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
WEE	Women Economic Empowerment
VKP	Virtual Knowledge Platform



Executive Summary

The Spotlight Initiative Caribbean Regional Programme focuses on the reduction in prevalence and incidence of violence against women and girls in the context of family violence (FV). The programme aims to increase policy coordination and functional cooperation across the region to address family violence. It also aims to set regional standards for essential services delivery, for monitoring the implementation of regional and national family violence laws and policies; advance best practice models for prevention; and ensure the engagement of women's organisations in regional accountability frameworks.

The Programme focuses on four pillars: i) working to ensure institutions are gender-responsive; ii) establishing comprehensive and evidence-based prevention programmes aimed at changing social norms and gender stereotypes; iii) promoting the collection and use of quality, comparable data to inform public policy, advocacy, policy-making, and delivery of complimentary services to improve prevention; and iv) supporting autonomous women's movements to influence, and monitor policy and to ensure accountability. The regional programme complements the investments of regional institutions and contributes to the scale, sustainability, visibility, lessons learnt and replication of FV and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) programming in the Caribbean.

The Spotlight Caribbean Regional Programme significantly advanced implementation in the second quarter of 2022 as COVID-19 lockdowns and travel restrictions eased. This is also because the region continues to experience relative political stability, except for Haiti which is going through political strife punctuated by natural disasters such as earthquakes.

The acceleration measures put in place paid off as the delivery rate (expenditure and commitments) jumped from 26% at the beginning of the year to 62% as of 31 December 2022 based on the total budget made up of Phase I and Pillar 6 of Phase II funds (US\$ 9,552,830). However, delivery by Outcome Areas excluding programme management costs was 49% for the same period up from 18% in the previous year.

During this period there was a strong focus on joint stakeholder engagement leveraging a multi-stakeholder Spotlight collaborative platform formed in 2021, stronger UN coordination in the spirit of delivering as One UN, securing regional ownership and sustainability. The United Nations Resident Coordinator (UNRC)

steered implementation through strong leadership buttressed by a functional Steering Committee, Technical Advisory Group, improved partnership with the European Union, Civil Society Regional Reference Group, and other coordination mechanisms and partnerships that the Spotlight has either developed or leveraged.

Civil society organisations continue to be at the center of implementation of the Spotlight. A key development in 2022 was the formation of a regional network of gender NGOs and women’s rights organisations, the Caribbean Gender Alliance following a Civil Society Organisations retreat that brought 24 representatives from 10 CARICOM countries in August 2022. The retreat provided an opportunity for CSOs to network, build alliances and strategize for the CARICOM ending violence against women and girls (EVAWG) feminist movement.

A secretariat which was selected through a democratic process is overseeing the work of the Gender Alliance which is still in its formative stage with over 30 CSOs having joined. Learning from findings of the Medium-Term Assessment (MTA), to improve meaningful engagement with the CSRRG held a face-to-face retreat and the programme held a regional thematic dialogue: Enhancing civil society engagement with Spotlight in the Caribbean which brought together members of CSRRG with CSO National Reference Group Members from the Caribbean National Programmes with support from the PMU. There is evidence that some countries are beginning to implement guidance and using tools from the Spotlight Initiative Regional Programme. For example, St. Lucia, has adopted the Essential Services Package and in 2022 increased the capacity of Police Force in gender responsive policing based on the standards

“First, gender-responsive policing focuses on the implementation of policing services within the framework of the Essential Services Package of victims of Gender-based Violence adopted in St. Lucia in 2021,” - Director of Gender Relations, Janey Joseph said.

Key Results

outlined in the ESP in addition to training them on the new Domestic Violence Act. Overall, the programme has reached approximately 493 women and 286 men directly through capacity building and other Spotlight events. Since these are primarily decision makers, duty bearers and leaders from regional institutions, Member States and CSOs there will be multiplier effects because implementation will impact whole countries and the region. At least 28,000 women, youth and men indirectly through the gender and media advertising report posted on agency websites, mailing lists and social media. However, those reached by media advertorials, email lists and social media for the whole programme could not be quantified.

Specifically Key Achievements in 2022 are:

1. *Regional expertise was enhanced*

Initiatives across all pillars served to enhance the expertise of leaders of regional institutions and CSOs such as Police, Justice, Disaster Risk Reduction and Management practitioners and gender bureaus personnel. Capacity was built in:

- Integrating VAWG/FV in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRR/M) using guidelines (**Outcome 2**)
- Applying practical strategies that have an intersection between a reduction in VAWG and women's economic empowerment, and to design and implement appropriate intervention for gender bureaus across eight Caribbean countries (**Outcome 2**).
- Applying Methods and Approaches for the Anonymisation of VAWG Survey Data (**Outcome 5**)
- Capacity to plan, organise, monitor, and evaluate CSE through HFLE in schools in the region and train others in providing out of school CSE using international guidance contextualised to the Caribbean (**Outcome 3**).
- Conducting studies on the economic cost of violence with five young researchers joining the talent pipeline to reduce the region's reliance on international consultants in such specialised skills (**Outcome 5**).
- Resource mobilisation strategies for CSO leaders with special emphasis on proposal writing and importance of financial management (**Outcome 6**).

2. *Regional systems were strengthened*

Notable advances have been made to increase functional cooperation across the region to address family violence. Some key highlights are:

-
- The ESP CoP was established and is active and provides a new regional inter-agency and multi-sectoral cooperation mechanism. The CoP was formally launched at an in-person event in May 2022 giving further impetus to networking of members and its operations. **(Outcome 2)**.
 - The Caribbean is on the way to becoming the first region to integrate the education sector within the Essential Services Package (ESP) **(Outcome 2)**
 - Caribbean Observatory operationalised launched a virtual Integrated SRHR/GBV Knowledge Platform – unify and facilitate wider social monitoring & advocacy efforts **(Outcome 3)**
 - For the first time, through the M & E of CSE/(HFLE) Member States have access to a Caribbean contextualised standardised approach to data collection and analysis; thus, the region will have comparable data **(Outcome 3)**.
 - Foundational work on the Gender Equality Strategy (2022 – 2032) has been completed following virtual and in-person consultations with 12 countries **(Outcome 2)**

3. CSO Organisations and VAW Survivors were empowered

To ensure the engagement of women’s organisations in regional accountability frameworks and support the reinvigoration of women’s rights and gender NGOs and networks, there has been some visible progress. This includes:

- 30 CSOs have come together to form a Caribbean Gender Alliance **(Outcome 6)**.
- At least eight CSOs have benefited from small grants and four being finalised for disbursement **(Outcome 6)**.
- Business coaching for CSOs is increasing their capacity to effectively run the establishments and if this work is consolidated post-Spotlight will be transformational **(Outcome 6)**.
- 40 CSO actors have capacity in using social accountability mechanisms to assess availability and quality of services for survivors, secondary victims and perpetrators of
- FV/GBV - A scorecard has been developed and administered in five countries, more in 2023 **(Outcome 6)**.

4. Accessible relevant regional tools were developed.

There was progress in setting regional standards for essential services delivery through development of tools and guidelines for the CARICOM Secretariat & OECS Commission to utilise when they provide support to Member States. Some examples are given below:

- A draft of the Caribbean specific Common Standards for Police and Justice Regional Institutions to integrate gender and VAWG/FV to be validated in April 2023 with the aim to improve documentation, reporting, and data analysis systems **(Outcome 2)**.

- Development of the Women Economic Empowerment Initiative Guide (**Outcome 2**).
- A Gender Responsive Budgeting Manual that can be adapted across the region (**Outcome 2**).
- A guidance note to address family violence prevention through gender transformative parenting strategies (**Outcome 3**).
- A Social and Behavioural Change Communication (SBCC) strategy and accompanied by #PlayYourPart campaign package with multimedia communication materials to be launched in 2023 (13 countries, 4 production partners). This includes - A guidance document, 2 6-part radio dramas, an original song/music video, 2 PSA Champions video, social media pack and user guide (**Outcome 3**).

5. Regional knowledge was generated

More than eight products have been generated contributing to knowledge on CSE, gender and advertising, intersections on VAW and VAC; and its links to gender equality, gender norms, and violence against women and girls, etc.

- Three comprehensive assessments; findings to be used to
 - ▷ bridge the coordination gap between the Justice and Police sectors (**Outcome 2**)
 - ▷ review of citizen security frameworks with a view to integrate VAWG (**Outcome 2**)
 - ▷ KAP tools available (**Outcome 3**).
- A Massive Open Online Course on Gender Analysis of Prevalence and Administrative VAWG Data has been developed in partnership with The University of the West Indies (UWI), Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES) to be rolled out in 2023 (**Outcome 5**).

Given the achievements mentioned in the section above, the next year will focus on ramping up raising awareness, piloting, and where possible catalytic action to ensure use of public goods generated by the Spotlight Initiative by regional institutions, Member States and CSOs as appropriate. There will also be increased focus on sustainability and mobilising resources and regional ownership post-Spotlight.

Contextual Shifts & Implementation Status

Contextual shifts or new developments in the broader social, political, economic or cultural context

The Caribbean region experienced political and socio-economic contextual shifts which deepened pre-existing gender inequalities, affecting women and girls' vulnerability to violence. While there were peaceful general elections in the Bahamas, Dominica, Grenada and St Kitts and Nevis, Haiti continued to experience political turmoil. In October 2022, the United Nations Special Rapporteur in Haiti expressed concern over persistent scourges of insecurity, corruption, an emerging health crisis and ongoing rape incidents by gangs especially. This increased the vulnerability of women to all forms of gender-based violence in Haiti.

However, on a positive note, several countries continue to advance legislative and policy frameworks on gender equality which set a base for transformative changes in women and girls' lives if fully enforced and implemented. Most notable was the passing of the landmark Domestic Violence Act, 2022 by St. Lucia, becoming one of the few countries in the Caribbean to provide legal protections to people in same-sex relationships who experience domestic violence. It is the only country in the region to explicitly prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in the implementation of such laws. This can set a precedent for the region, and prompt other countries to do the same.

With respect to the humanitarian context, Haiti was the only country in the region to suffer a major earthquake last year (January 2022) and Jamaica to be impacted by Hurricane Ian in September 2022, the region continues to be on high alert because of its susceptibility to natural and humanitarian disasters. It is critical for partners to build on the work of the Spotlight Initiative and other programmes to consolidate and sustain efforts in capacity building and generating sustainable technical guidance and other resources for integrating gender-based violence in disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM). In response to this in 2022, the Spotlight initiative held two pilot capacity building sessions and a webinar with experts from DRR, staff of National Disaster Management Offices, shelter managers, staff from social protection and social welfare sectors and other stakeholders who work in gender and disaster management and risk reduction areas to build utilising the Regional Guidelines on the Integration of VAWG/FV in DRR/M in the Caribbean developed in 2021.

During the first quarter of 2022, periods of lockdowns due to the COVID-19 pandemic and persistent vaccine hesitancy continued to fuel economic insecurity, stress and uncertainty similar to 2021. However, by mid-year the region had adopted a policy of living with COVID-19 as governments and all sectors adapted. While this context affected the delivery of the Caribbean Regional Programme, significant progress in implementation was made since the opening of travel in the second quarter of 2022. During the first half of 2022 there was a reliance on virtual collaboration and meetings, which proved to be efficient and economical in many instances. This supported the continuity of the programme. From the second half of 2022, there was resumption of in-person workshops and meetings which contributed to deepen engagement; strengthened collaboration and resulted in acceleration of implementation of the programme. This significantly improved the operating environment and increased the delivery rate.

Implementation Status	
Total Funds received as of 31 December 2022 (including Pillar 6, Phase II)	USD \$9,552,830
Total Expenditure & Commitments as of 31 December 2022	USD \$5,981,752
Delivery rate as of 31 December 2022 (Including Pillar 6, Phase II)	62.6%

While off target at the beginning of 2022 with a lower delivery rate, the Programme picked up momentum with the opening of borders and travel. By 31 December 2022, the delivery rate for the programme was 62.6% (including programme management costs) up from 26% at the beginning of the year based on the total approved budget consisting of Phase I and Pillar 6 of Phase II funds (US\$ 9,552,830). However, delivery by Outcome Areas excluding programme management costs was 49% for the same period, up from 18% in the previous year as illustrated in Table 1. Implementation status by outcome area.

Table 1: Implementation Status by Outcome Area

Spotlight Initiative - Outcome Areas	Implementation Progress as of 31/12/ 2022
Outcome 1: Legal and Policy Framework	N/A
Outcome 2: Institutions	56.32%
Outcome 3: Prevention and Norm Change	59.15%
Outcome 4: Quality Services	N/A
Outcome 5: Data	35.73%
Outcome 6: Women’s Movement	47.41%
TOTAL	49.48%

This uptake in delivery rate was due to acceleration measures taken such as fast-tracking procurement processes; increasing human resources capacity at the regional institutions through hiring consultants to support; as well as working closely and sharing tools and methodologies with national programmes where this was possible. For example, the same methodology used in Jamaica was used in conducting the regional economic cost of violence study. There was also collaboration with national programmes in rolling out the gender responsive budgeting initiative using the same tools.

In addition, during the first quarter, the programme continued to implement the Rapid Results Approach, a focused learning process to jump-start major change efforts and enhance implementation capacity. Even though the Mid-Term Assessment pointed to mixed results using the approach, the monthly meetings improved collaboration between key stakeholders of the programme. Some agencies leveraged the platform which brought together RUNOs, regional institutions, civil society reference group members, consultants, and all Spotlight stakeholders to advance their work. For example; instead of convening a separate consultative meeting, UNICEF was able to use at least three meetings of the CSI Flights, to obtain feedback on the Social Behavioural Change Campaign #PlayYourPart.

In the first meeting they shared the concept and strategy, during the second one they

shared the look and feel options for the campaign and stakeholders were able to vote and in the third convening, UNICEF gave feedback on the outcome of the consultations. This proved efficient as they could rely on the Programme Management Unit to support the convenings of that particular group of stakeholders, which contributed to reducing the workload. UNDP was able to use the convening to hold a thematic dialogue on how the Spotlight Initiative can better work with the LGBTI community in an integrated and meaningful manner across all pillars. The agency could take advantage of an existing collaboration mechanism without having to call for a separate meeting.

A systematic way to tackle some of the bottlenecks experienced was through four task teams that were set up as part of the RRA. The task teams developed a work-plan based on four acceleration enablers that had been identified in 2021.

These included:

1. Enhancing collaboration
2. Streamlining administrative processes
3. Risk Management
4. Enhancing Communication

The work plan set timelines and roles and responsibilities and during monthly collaboration meetings they reported on progress. This contributed to a common understanding of the challenges and a team effort to address them.

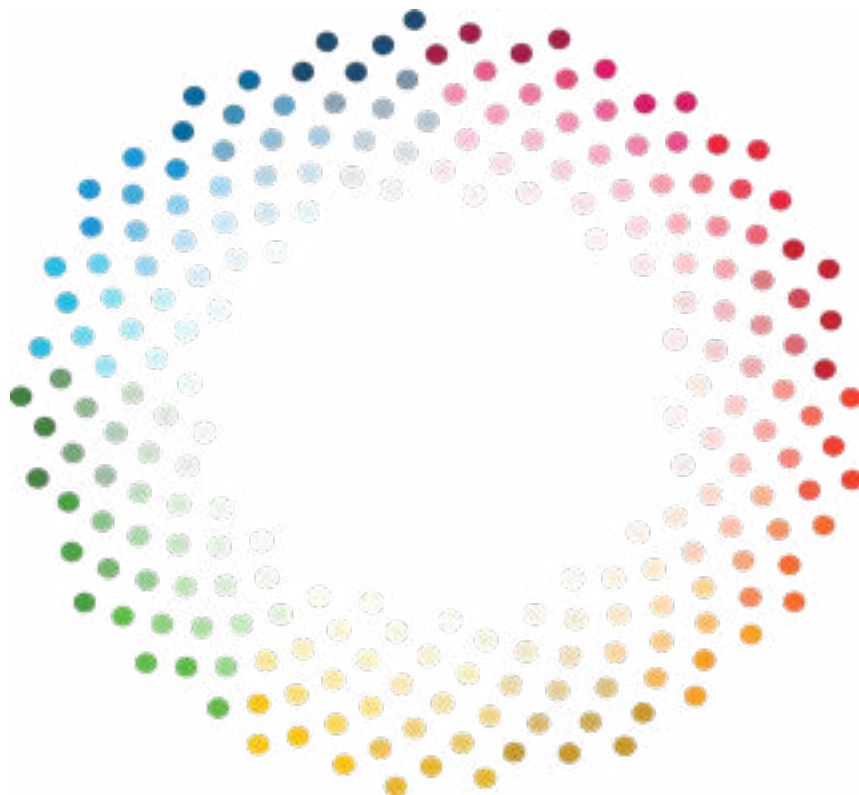
Sustainability

In 2022, the programme continued to foreground sustainability during implementation as well as endeavored to ensure that the approaches, public goods developed, and any changes are transformative and outlive the Spotlight Programme.

At the institutional level, efforts include strengthening of technical and coordination capacities of regional institutions and governments to ensure sustainability of results. In the coming year, advocacy will intensify to call on regional entities and Member States to have ownership and codesign the use of Gender Responsive Budgeting to sustain financing and capacity of Gender Bureaus, other key government ministries and national institutions to address FV and VAWG.

At the programmatic and interventions level implementing partners are advocating for and supporting institutions to include Spotlight interventions in their plans and budgets going forward. For example, there is progress towards the embedding of VAWG modules in the curriculum of pre-service health responders such as nurses, doctors, pharmacists and police.

The programme achievements will also be sustained through increasing CSOs' capacities in human, technical and financial competencies. In the coming year, this will be complemented by support for a resource mobilisation strategy to continue some of the work started by the Spotlight Initiative Regional Programme. In order to ensure that this is done in an intentional and systematic manner, the regional programme will develop a Sustainability Plan in 2023 with clear roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders. This will entail consultations with regional institutions, civil society organisations including the CS RRG, EU, UN agencies including associate agencies and rights holders as much as possible. This will increase regional ownership of the proposed actions.



Programme Governance & Coordination

A robust programme governance and coordination mechanism established in the previous reporting period continued to drive coherence and efficiency in the implementation of the Phase I work-plan of the SI Regional Caribbean programme in 2022 reporting period. The United Nations Resident Coordinator (UNRC) leads implementation of the Caribbean Regional Spotlight Initiative supported by a Programme Management Unit (PMU) that reports directly to his UNRC office. The PMU remains fully operational and adequately staffed by the following: i) Regional Programme Coordinator and Technical Coherence ii) Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, iii) Communications Officer, and iv) Finance and Administration Officer. The coordinator has a dual reporting responsibility to the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (UN Women) Representative who leads on technical coherence for the regional programme. The operations are guided by Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) developed by the SI programme stakeholders and approved by the Technical Advisory Group.

These were updated in 2022 to include a draft chapter on compensation for CS RRG members and will be adopted in 2023 should this be approved and operationalised by the CS RRG and Steering Committee. The SoPs outline the governance and management structures, working relationships, roles and responsibilities related to the implementation of the Spotlight Initiative including the PMU functions to ensure a coordinated approach to delivery.

○ **Regional Steering Committee (RSC)**

RSC is established and has two co-chairs - The Deputy Secretary General for the CARICOM Secretariat and the UNRC for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean. 11 members continue to make up the Steering Committee and the institutions have not changed from 2021. Most members are active and the institutions that make up the RSC can be found in the 2021 Annual Report. The Terms of Reference (ToRs) which were adopted at the Committee's first meeting remain in use. The Steering Committee per its mandate performed its functions in overseeing and guiding the Implementation of the Spotlight Initiative.

For example, while the Steering Committee's ToRs stipulate that it meets twice a year, the Committee held three meetings in 2022. The meetings identified and made

decisions to support acceleration measures for the regional programme, which was lagging behind due to its late start. For example, CARICOM Secretariat leadership agreed to bridge funds where there were delays in disbursement. Other key decisions were the review and subsequent approval of activities for Phase II Proposal following robust engagements and recommendation to RUNOs and PMU to trim proposed activities to ensure they are more feasible and can be executed in the remaining time.

○ **Civil Society Regional Reference Group (CSRRG)**

The CSRRG continued its functions in 2022 led by a chairperson and two Vice-Chairs. A budget of USD61,216 was allocated to support its operations for Phase I which has carried them through. Initially there were challenges in establishing mechanisms for the CS RRG to access funds for planned advocacy and other activities, however it was agreed that related costs will be paid directly to service providers by the UN agency responsible for Pillar 6 with support from the PMU. The CSRRG continued to meet every month until October 2022 when they agreed to bi-monthly meetings. Interpretation was provided for one of the members who speaks French for some of the sessions. Members of the CSRRG deepened their understanding of the Spotlight regional programme after they held an in-person retreat in August 2022. The PMU provided support during the meeting and was available to respond to questions.

The CSRRG members have increased knowledge on Participatory Monitoring Methodologies as they had a capacity building session led by Regional Spotlight Initiative Monitoring and Evaluation Officer during the retreat. They agreed to produce a Civil Society Scorecard on how the Initiative is doing vis a vis its commitments in 2023. During this retreat the CSRRG also produced a work-plan for 2022/2023 with an additional US\$50,000 budget which was submitted to UN Women for consideration as budget holders for Pillar 6. Members agreed to utilise the remaining budget to hire an independent consultant to support the production of the Civil Society scorecard per their work-plan. Among other activities, the new budget (if approved) will be utilised for an advocacy regional training workshop on scaling up and sustaining SI activities through CS national and regional reference groups. It is anticipated that it will bring together representatives of CSNRGs from the region. The regional retreat also explored how to mobilise other Reference Group Members across the regional and national programmes to strategise on sustaining the concept of reference groups across the region and potentially establish these in non-Spotlight countries.

To facilitate meaningful engagement throughout 2022, opportunities were provided for the CSRRG to influence and support several interventions as active participants or members of advisory, reference or steering committees that are driving implementation. Examples include the Chair and Vice-Chairs are part of the SRHR Observatory and are ESP CoP members, CSRRG members were consulted during the design of Social Behavioural Change Communications campaign #PlayYourPart and participated in advocacy activities like 16 Days of Activism and International Women's Day. CSRRG members have also been invited to provide inputs on strategies, ToRs and shaping various activities at key moments.

Like the previous year some members have been inactive and upon review it was decided to continue with the nine active members instead of adding more given that the current members have gelled and are working well together.

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

Inter-agency coordination and delivery as 'OneUN' as part of the UN reforms was facilitated through monthly dedicated RUNO and PMU joint meetings held throughout 2022. Similar to the previous year, this provided a platform to strategise, build synergies, brainstorm solutions to common challenges, share information to avoid duplication as well as ensure technical coherence. Where there were synergies and opportunities for joint implementation, RUNOs also met and worked bilaterally together with partners to ensure technical coherence.

For example, they coordinated their work with CARICOM Secretariat as much as possible and three agencies collaborated under the Essential Services Package COP. Representatives of RUNO agencies held a panel discussion during the CSO Retreat to inform CSOs about the Regional Programme and opportunities for engagements across the 4 pillars. CSOs were given space to ask questions. This was complemented by quarterly Heads of Agencies meetings where the RC engaged the Regional Directors and Representatives of RUNOs to review progress and identify challenges and propose remedial actions.

The Technical Advisory Group (TAG) met seven times throughout last year instead of only four times. Between January and June 2023, the TAG met four times as an extended group under the Spotlight Collaborative, which

brought together senior technical officers from regional institutions, RUNO coordinators from Regional and sometimes National programmes, CS RRG members, Spotlight implementing partners, consultants, and other role players.

This enhanced coordination of the programme and everyone was kept updated. The extended group worked together to troubleshoot and find solutions to barriers to implementation, give feedback on technical documents, share knowledge and other functions per the TAG ToRs. For example, the Spotlight Collaborative held a thematic dialogue: Let's Talk!



Invitation for the Thematic Dialogue with members of the LGBTQ+ Community held 30 June 2022.

Commitments made by the agencies and partners working on Pillar 3 during Let's Talk session.

Thematic Dialogue



In Pillar 3 we will,

1. Ensure the HFLE Curriculum reflects gender as a human rights issue (covers LGBTQ)
2. Out of school CSE - i) toolkit ii) Engagement with CSOs and communities including LGBTQ & other interest groups
3. Advocacy strategy on CSE under development - that will address pushback against CSE especially inclusion of LGBTQ
4. Develop a list of organisations that we should ensure that we include when we are conducting consultations/assessments/review of documents
5. Whole of education approach - addressing gender norms & heteronormative narratives, masculinities, etc
6. The SBCC campaign is inclusive of LGBTQ in its messaging

To be more be more inclusive



Spotlight Initiative

How can we enhance the LGBTQ community's participation and engagement with the Spotlight Initiative? RUNOs and partners responsible for each pillar made specific commitments on how they will ensure engagement with the LGBTQ not just as subjects of research but through substantive implementation initiatives and partnerships.

The TAG met a further three times between July and December where they gave feedback and approved the Annual Report, jointly developed the Phase II proposal, reviewed implementation progress, provided technical advice including on technical coherence and agreed on issues to be tabled at the RSC for decision-making. For example, most of the acceleration measures approved by the RSC were first discussed at the TAG meetings.

There were several other governance technical committees and governance mechanisms established to guide a number of Spotlight interventions to ensure that they benefit from the expertise of the multiple and diverse stakeholders including ensuring meaningful participation of CSOs and representatives. Examples are, but not limited to,

○ **the Caribbean Observatory on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)**

Though formed the previous year, the work of the Caribbean Observatory on SRHR took root in 2022. For example, to provide greater focus on specific areas, two working groups of the Steering Committee –

- ▷ Data
- ▷ Advocacy Working Groups were formed in 2022

The Observatory's website was also launched in December 2022 providing greater visibility to the work as well as a virtual platform to facilitate collaboration, advocacy, monitoring and act as a repository of information on GBV and SRHR. By way of background, the Observatory is a new advocacy platform created in 2021 through Spotlight support as a mechanism for conducting social monitoring and tracking progress towards the advancement of integrated SRHR and GBV in the region while lobbying for improved programming as well as policy and legislative reforms. The Observatory is governed by a multi-stakeholder Steering Committee mainly comprising 'on-the-ground' CSOs, working with different vulnerable groups along with members of academia, professional organisations and international development partners. The partners include: International Planned Parenthood Federation – Americas and

the Caribbean Regional Office (IPPF-ACRO), Coalition against Domestic Violence, Caribbean Male Action Network (CARIMAN), Caribbean Forum for Liberation and Acceptance of Genders and Sexualities (CARIFLAGS), United Caribbean Trans Network (UC Trans) La Casita Hispanic Cultural Centre, Barbados Council for the Disabled, and the Caribbean Organisation of Indigenous Peoples (COIP). The Steering Committee also included UNFPA's Youth Advisory Group (YAG) with the United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA) and the European Union (EU) observers.

○ ***Essential Services Package Community of Practice (ESP CoP)***

The newly created ESP CoP was formally launched in May 2022 at an in-person event in Trinidad and Tobago, that brought together regional institutions, representatives from key ministries of CARICOM and OECS Member States. The Regional ESP CoP seeks to promote exchanges, cooperation and learning among regional institutions representing the sectors of health, social services, justice and policing, and education, as well as overseeing governance and coordination across the region. The ESP CoP will standardise and facilitate the launch of relevant technical tools to guide the work around a multisectoral prevention and quality response to GBV. These efforts will enhance the region's technical capacity, coherence, and complementarity by adhering to a humanitarian-development nexus approach, where institutions, governments and services will be survivor-centered and accountable to the affected communities.

○ ***Use of UN Reform Inter-agency Tools***

The Spotlight Programme leveraged key dates such as International Women's Day and 16 Days of Activism to come together with the rest of the UN agencies that are not part of the Spotlight Programme. For example, the Regional Spotlight Initiative Communications Officer led the Social Media campaign as well as placed two advertorials in the newspaper that did not only represent the Regional Spotlight Programme but the entire UN system in Barbados. This ensured campaign efforts were coordinated.

The Regional Programme continued to use the inter-agency platform; Regional Spotlight Collaborative formulated in the first six months of 2022. Spurred by the importance of delivering as 'One UN' and the need to accelerate delivery using the Rapid Results Approach, the platform provided an opportunity for all stakeholders including RUNOs, regional institutions, CSRRG members, implementing partners and consultants to come together to:

- ▷ Accelerate delivery
- ▷ Streamline communication and collaboration
- ▷ Strengthen partnership and collective problem-solving and
- ▷ Support transparency and accountability.

Four task teams were identified to work on four areas, which stakeholders felt, if bottlenecks were removed, would fast-track delivery:

This is in addition to the programme's mandatory governance structures.

1. Enhancing collaboration
2. Streamlining administrative processes
3. Risk Management
4. Enhancing Communication.

Programme Partnerships

Key Regional institutions

The Spotlight Regional Programme partnered with regional institutions to contribute to increasing their capabilities for functional cooperation with Member States and support development of resources and guidance that national governments can have access to. Below are they key institutions partnered with:

CDEMA

The Regional Programme has a formal agreement with CDEMA, a specialised agency within CARICOM Secretariat, to implement key activities under Pillar 2. Collaboration with CDEMA includes integrating VAWG/FV in Disaster Risk Reduction/Management (DRR/M).

CARICOM Secretariat

In collaboration with the Gender and Development Programme within CARICOM, the partnership is focused on the revision and implementation of the CARICOM Regional Gender Equality Strategy 2022 – 2032, building the capacity of parliamentarians on gender-responsive family violence and citizen security legislation. The partnership will also focus on building the capacity of women entrepreneurs who are victims and survivors of GBV to implement their business plans with seed funding, and will support an assessment of regional and national budgets on VAWG using gender budgeting to increase and sustain financing.

The partnership also supports the Human Resource Development Programme around the CARICOM Violence Against Children Prevention Strategy (PVAC) and Caribbean New School Model to ensure integration and complementarity in family violence prevention and response. It will support partnerships between regional intergovernmental mechanisms and civil society for the development and implementation of regional standards, including in the Education sector, for service delivery, prevention programming and monitoring for the purposes of accountability.

In the area of Data and Research, the partnership supports the development of a standardised model Knowledge Attitudes Practices (KAP) Tool on social/gender norms and violence against women and girls, to enable the formulation of evidence-based

programmes aimed at changing social norms to scale up prevention. It will also support the development of minimum standards on VAWG administrative data, while strengthening the skill sets for the production, management, dissemination and utilisation of VAWG prevalence and administrative data, through the expansion and capacity building of the CARICOM regional pool of experts on VAWG administrative and prevalence data.

Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) Academy for Law

Association of Caribbean Commissioners of Police (ACCP) which are quasi-governmental institutions and have the mandate to mobilize stakeholders working in the police and justice sectors for building capacities and encouraging best practices in the judicial administration of justice. These are implementing partners for integrating gender and VAWG/FV in police and justice sectors as well as building capacities of police and justice personnel.

b. Civil Society Organisations

The Caribbean Family Planning Affiliation (CFPA)

The Spotlight Initiative Caribbean Regional Programme partnered with the Caribbean Family Planning Affiliation (CFPA) in 2022 to operationalise the Caribbean Observatory on SRHR which was launched in the previous year. Both CFPA and the SRHR Observatory are integral to help advance SRHR in the region with the former's regional positioning making it a leading advocate for SRHR at all levels; and the prevention and response to GBV being critical to its work. This is compatible with the aim of the SRHR Observatory which is to strengthen the region's positioning to deliver on key advocacy to eliminate GBV, and to promote SRHR through galvanising movements to advance legislative and policy changes, and to make programmatic linkages between GBV and SRHR, ensuring that no one is left behind.

Specifically, the partnership is meant to help advance three main strategic outcomes:

1. Improved analysis of quality disaggregated and comparable data on SRHR and different forms of VAWG used in line with international standards to inform laws, policies and programmes;
2. Increased quality engagement of civil society organisations (CSOs) leading to greater empowerment to conduct evidence-based advocacy; and

3. Strengthened policies, legislative and programmatic linkages between family violence and SRHR in the region.

The operationalisation and functioning of the SRHR Observatory through the partnership with CFPA has demonstrated inadvertently several ways sustainability can be fostered beyond the Regional Spotlight Initiative. The programme's contributions will be sustained through a transition process whereby the functions of the Observatory are embedded into a larger civil society structure that can continue the advocacy efforts seamlessly and with minimal effort and resources, while maintaining the platform's independence. The virtual knowledge platform (VKP) is also key to the sustainability efforts as its information and knowledge products can be easily accessed and utilised by key stakeholders post the Spotlight Initiative.

One of the main obstacles to working with the partner is its size, including the fact that it does not have programme personnel as part of its core staff. This presents challenges to the continuity and sustainability of key aspects of the work when the Regional Programme ends. This will be mitigated through the mentioned transition process. The work of the Caribbean Observatory on SRHR was overseen by a Steering Committee comprising mainly other civil society organisations working in key areas and representing vulnerable groups. These are the International Planned Parenthood Federation – Americas and the Caribbean Regional Office (IPPF-ACRO), Coalition against Domestic Violence, Caribbean Male Action Network (CARIMAN), Caribbean Forum for Liberation and Acceptance of Genders and Sexualities (CARIFLAGS), United Caribbean Trans Network (UC Trans) La Casita Hispanic Cultural Centre, Barbados Council for the Disabled, and the Caribbean Organisation of Indigenous Peoples (COIP). The Steering Committee also included UNFPA's Youth Advisory Group (YAG) with the United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA) and the European Union (EU) being observers. To provide greater focus on specific areas, two working groups of the Steering Committee – Data and Advocacy Working Groups were formed.

Other Regional and National CSOs (including CFPA engagement with others)

The CSO partnerships across the Programme forged spearheading key processes and activities to move closer to achieving set results. There are:

- 1. Improved analysis of quality, disaggregated and comparable data on SRHR and different forms of VAWG used in line with**

international standards to inform laws, policies, and programmes

■ In February 2022, a Systems Requirements Document (SRD) was developed with input from the IPPF-ACRO. The SRD presented the Observatory's design, geographical scope, functional requirements of the knowledge platform and identified the operational considerations for the Caribbean Observatory. This was the blueprint for the development of the database, with several options being explored, that would serve as the repository for the Observatory and virtual knowledge platform.

■ Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) were developed to guide and support organisations in sharing data, first as a pilot exercise and later for report generation and data export in June-July, and again in November as the Observatory underpinned by data sharing agreements and the use of data presenting, retrieval, and repository (information management) tools. This was achieved through the Indicator Working Group that was convened in April 2022. It comprised mainly civil society resource persons who work on GBV and SRHR issues to review indicators to underpin data collection, identify gaps and shortcomings and establish priorities.

■ The Caribbean now has one of the most updated and comprehensive stakeholder directories after more than 500 stakeholders were added to a directory consisting of organisations' focal points, their specific area of work or interest, and their contact information. Partners and stakeholders were mapped in 25 countries starting in May 2022 during the process of exploring the stakeholder landscape for potential partnerships to provide technical support and data to inform the work of the Observatory. Stakeholders included academics, statistical and planning offices, police and judicial services, advocates, and non-government organisations as well as government programmes and offices on gender, education, and health; family planning boards, organisations and healthcare workers, faith-based leaders and religious organisations.

The countries mapped were: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Curacao, Dominica, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Martinique, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Maarten, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and Turks and Caicos.

■ Institutions that housed knowledge platforms were engaged to provide and

exchange good practices regarding the establishment and functioning of the Caribbean Observatory. UNWomen was engaged as an entity that had a knowledge hub but other institutions that could assist with technical advice and support to the Observatory such as the St. George's University, Windward Islands Research and Education Foundation (WINDREF), as well as the Department of Public Health and Preventative Medicine of St George's University were engaged in February 2022.

■ Increased comprehensive engagements through one-on-one meetings were held in May 2022 with the Pan Caribbean Partnership Against HIV/AIDS (PANCAP), Caribbean Vulnerable Communities Coalition (CVC), Feminitt and UN Women. In September presentations were made to the Eastern Caribbean Alliance for Diversity and Equality (ECADE), and the Women and Gender Equality Commission of Guyana.

■ Buy-in obtained for partnership with the Observatory with special focus on data sharing agreements to feed the knowledge platform. Formal partnerships through Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) were established with six family planning associations (each in Belize, Curacao, Dominica, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, and Suriname), ECADE, and the Women and Gender Equality Commission of Guyana. These were secured after presentations were made to the Gender Affairs Unit of St Vincent and the Grenadines, as well as the Sexual Offences Unit of the St Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force to discuss potential partnerships between October and December 2022.

■ In 2022, nine partnership agreements were signed with the family planning associations, which are providing SRH clinic service statistics from Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Curacao, Dominica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Suriname; the Women and Gender Equality Commission (Guyana), the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Sexual Offences Unit of the Police Force, and the Ministry of National Mobilisation, Social Development, Local Government, Gender Affairs, Family Affairs, Housing and Informal Settlement in data sharing.

■ In June 2022, the data collection process commenced. Data were collected across seven countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Curaçao, Dominica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Suriname.

2. Increased quality engagement of civil society organisations (CSOs)

leading to greater empowerment to conduct evidence-based advocacy.

■ Five regional group sessions were facilitated in May 2022 with various civil society and governmental organisations working in different areas. These consultations were used to get feedback on selected indicators and to identify cross-national issues on GBV and SRHR, priorities, bottlenecks, and gaps to inform the Observatory’s advocacy plan. Presentations were also made at these meetings to introduce these stakeholders on the intent of the Observatory. These initial meetings were also geared towards laying the groundwork for fostering additional engagements and eventual empowerment to conduct evidence-based advocacy.

■ The Regional Programme has galvanised interest, momentum and action around networking, alliance building and movement strategizing around themes of common interest and building institutional capacity on advocacy and resource mobilization. As part of its engagement with Civil Society Organisations, an inaugural CSO retreat was convened August 7-13, 2022 in Montego Bay, Jamaica. Twenty-four CSO representatives from 10 Caribbean countries were selected via a set criteria by an independent panel and participated in the retreat. A participatory approach was used from the “Arts of Hosting” methodology and “Liberating Structures” to encourage participant exchanges viz-a-viz plenary sessions, breakout sessions, poster making and storytelling.

■ A new regional network has been established, the Caribbean Gender Alliance, as a result of the alliance building efforts. Following the CSO retreat held in Jamaica in August 2022, several Caribbean CSOs were inspired to continue the momentum.

The Alliance is a regional partnership of organisations working together to promote healthy gender relations across the region. The Gender Alliance has a mandate to implement gender transformative initiatives with women, men, girls and boys: support the implementation of Health and Family Life Education (HFLE) and similar curricula across the Caribbean; advocate for gender sensitive policies and practices; and design and implement sustainable campaigns that contribute to behaviour change which support healthy gender relations. The Regional Programme will continue supporting such mechanisms to strengthen accountability and influence at the regional level.

■ The Programme partnered with more than 38 CSOs in observance of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence to amplify the voices of the

women's movement in the Caribbean working to prevent and eliminate VAWG.

3. Strengthened policies, legislative and programmatic linkages between family violence and SRHR in the region

■ Evidence base generated through a desk review conducted in the first quarter to examine SRHR-related issues and priorities as well as legislation that needs to be advanced, the enabling environment around these with linkages to GBV in order to determine the programmes, policies and legislation that are in place. Commitments and obligations for the various human rights instruments were also explored as well as achievements and progress in responding to SRHR/GBV. The desk review was carried out on 14 countries: Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St Lucia, St Kitts and Nevis, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.

■ Coherence realised through an Advocacy Strategy drafted in 2022 to underpin the advocacy, communications and visibility efforts to help advance key SRHR/GBV issues with a preliminary plan for incremental roll-out. For the 16 Days of Activism to end violence against Women and Girls (November 25 – December 10), messages were developed around violence and femicide. Press releases and advocacy messages were also developed to respond to emerging issues including those pertaining to the repeal of discriminatory laws affecting members of the LGBTQI+ community.

■ For International Youth Day on August 12, a Webinar/Community Dialogue on “Intergenerational solidarity: Creating a world for all ages” was hosted. Present were members of youth advocacy movements (YAMs), youth ministries, civil society advocates, teachers, and faith-based organisations. The webinar focused on discussions and assessment of Health and Family Life Education (HFLE) in the region in the context of Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) and its linkage to SRHR and GBV. Advocacy experiences and good practices were also shared via a panel of young leaders from Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad.

■ An integrated SRHR/GBV interactive virtual Knowledge Platform comprising a website and supported by social media pages was launched on December 5 to underpin the work of the Caribbean Observatory. The website can be found at <https://caribbeansrhobservatory.com/>. It comprises communication outputs as well as groundwork content to pave the

way for comparative analyses and the monitoring and reporting on key benchmarks.

○) **European Union Delegation**

In 2022, the EU was invited to all and attended several Regional Steering Committee and Technical Advisory Committee meetings. They also attended many steering committees of the Caribbean Observatory on SRHR. The purpose of the Steering Committee is to provide technical/operational guidance to the CSO-led Secretariat and ensure that its mission and scope of work is in line with the Spotlight Initiative outcomes. The meetings commenced in April and were convened monthly for a period of time. The EU participated in the capacity of an Observer. The EU was a respondent to the Mid-Term Assessment as a key partner of the Regional Programme per the guidance. The Ambassador and senior EU Delegation officials were invited to speak at various events. For example, the EU gave remarks at the thematic dialogue on enhancing CSO engagement with the Regional and National Spotlight programmes.

○ **Cooperation with other (non-RUNO) UN Agencies**

The Regional Programme is cooperating with the ILO in the development of a Model Workplace Policy on addressing GBV. The Model Policy was developed by employer organisations and trade unions through the Caribbean Employers' Confederation and the Caribbean Congress of Labour in 2022 and will be launched in mid 2023. This collaboration involves approximately 120 representative organisations (60 EOs and 60 Trade Unions) from 15 Caribbean countries.

○ **Other Partners and Resource Mobilisation**

The Programme also engaged with partners from academia. These included the Institute of Gender and Development Studies, University of West Indies (UWI) to build the capacity of gender bureaus on women economic empowerment and VAWG/FV. Through this partnership, the Programme was able to leverage UWI's capabilities as an academic institution to support gender/women bureaus in the Caribbean to think critically about concepts of gender, empowerment and VAWG/FV as well as generate knowledge on Child Marriage and Early Unions in the Caribbean. In addition, the Programme partnered with the University of the West Indies (UWI), Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES) to develop a Massive Open Online Course on Gender Analysis of Prevalence and Administrative VAWG Data. The course outline was developed, students selected and facilitators were identified in 2022. The official launch will be in 2023.

Results

Capturing Broader Transformations Across Outcomes

UN agencies utilised their technical leverage in Police and Justice to conduct two complementary assessments that highlight the intersecting issues of VAWG/FV in the Police and Justice Sectors. The two assessments were on Citizen Security and VAWG/FV and coordination gaps between justice and policing departments regarding dealing with VAWG/FV cases. The two assessments are expected to lead to a Revised Common Standards for Police and Justice Regional Institutions to integrate gender and VAWG/FV that will provide a clear regional framework for member states for an effective justice process as well as adequate protection and prevention methods.

The Regional Programme continued to work on mainstreaming the Guidelines on the Integration of VAWG/FV in DRR/M in the Caribbean with CDEMA and spread the knowledge and skills across member states. UNDP supported CDEMA's gender team in attaining the endorsement of the Guidelines at the highest political level through CDEMA's Technical Advisory Committee and Council of Ministers. To sustain these gains, the Guidelines were translated into a Module on Gender and DRR in CDEMA's course on "Introduction to Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM)" and a complete Course on Gender, VAWG/VF and DRR. This ensured that VAWG/FV issues have been

Implementation of Participatory Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (P-MER)

The CSRRG Members have an improved understanding of their mandate as it relates to Participatory Monitoring for the Caribbean Regional Spotlight Initiative. This was achieved through a face-to-face training session which took place during the CSRRG 2022 Retreat and was facilitated by the SI Caribbean Regional programme Monitoring & Evaluation Officer. Twelve indicators from the "Count Me In" menu for monitoring spotlight processes and systems were selected for the Caribbean Regional Spotlight Programme. The CSRRG members will use these indicators to measure the success of the Programme as part of the CSO Scorecard.

endorsed at the highest level among member states and sustained at the technical level through educational content that can be accessed by practitioners working in DRR/M.

Capturing Change at Outcome Level

The Regional Spotlight Initiative focuses on 4 pillars of programming: Pillar 2 - working to ensure institutions are gender-responsive; Pillar 3 - establishing comprehensive and evidence based prevention programmes aimed at changing social norms and gender stereotypes; Pillar 5 - promoting the collection and use of quality, comparable data to inform public policy, advocacy, policy making, and delivery of complimentary services to improve prevention; and Pillar 6 - supporting autonomous women's movements to influence, and monitor policy and to ensure accountability. The key results for each of these Pillars realized for 2022 are captured below.

OUTCOME 2: Regional and Sub-regional Systems and Institutions Plan, Fund and deliver Evidence-based Programmes that Prevent and Respond to VAWG, including FV, including in Other Sectors

In 2022, the Spotlight Initiative Caribbean Regional programme strengthened the capacities of over 350 government officials, practitioners and other stakeholders on gender and VAWG/FV integration in their sectors, particularly, police, justice, Disaster Risk Reduction and Management practitioners and gender bureaus personnel. Following the successful completion of the Guidelines on the Integration of VAWG/FV in DRR/M in the Caribbean in 2021, capacity building on the use of this tool was undertaken in 2022.

Two pilot sessions with 80 participants total, including CDEMA staff and DRR experts, took place across Caribbean countries. Additionally, 63 participants from different areas related to gender and disaster management and reduction such as shelter Managers, DRR experts, staff of National Disaster Management Offices, and persons working in the Social Protection and Social Welfare fields, participated in a webinar titled "The Integration of Violence Against Women and Girls, including Family Violence Considerations in Disaster Risk Management in the Caribbean". Discussions included the intersecting vulnerabilities that women and communities face during and post disasters and ways to address these negative impacts through the tools produced under the Spotlight initiative Programme in the Caribbean.

Evidence was generated to inform a multi-sectoral response to VAWG/FV within the Justice and Police sectors, as well as in Citizen Security frameworks during the reporting period through two comprehensive assessments conducted. The first assessment, “Situation Analysis of Citizen Security in the Caribbean: A Spotlight on Gender-based Violence and Family Violence”, will be published in 2023. The report focuses on assessing existing CARICOM regional citizen security frameworks from a gender equality perspective, with a view to integrating the issue of violence against women and girls. The report’s approach primarily involved interviews with 17 stakeholders at national and regional level working in crime and security, gender, child protection, legal aid, and others from Guyana, Trinidad, Grenada, Jamaica, Barbados, and Antigua to provide insights on the situation as well as challenges facing the countries with citizen security aspects such as collecting data and application of law and policies on VAWG/FV as well as child protection. It includes an extensive desk review to complement and facilitate a probing analysis of relevant research reports, policy documents and legislation on gender-responsiveness of citizen security frameworks in the Caribbean. The report makes critical space for exploring the often-missed linkages between established perspectives on citizen security and the safety and security of the region’s women and girls.

The second assessment is a Situation Analysis to address the gaps in coordination between justice and policing departments regarding VAWG/FV cases and identifying ways on improving the delivery of efficient response services and prevent revictimization. In collaboration with the Crime and Security Unit, CARICOM Secretariat, a joint validation meeting was held in June 2022 to present the Situational Analysis outcomes with discussions among stakeholders to pave the way for the development of the Revision of Common Standards for Police and Justice Regional Institutions to integrate gender and VAWG/FV. The validation meeting was attended by 17 participants from police and justice, health, UN agencies, civil society organizations and others.

The Caribbean region is on the path to having regional specific standards tailored for the Caribbean context for Police and Justice based on international standards. A draft of the Common Standards for Police and Justice Regional Institutions to integrate gender and VAWG/FV was developed which will be accompanied by a regional roadmap to direct an updated and harmonized Standards on VAWG/FV prevention and response. The Common Standards also identify practical methods to improve documentation, reporting, and data analysis systems while ensuring

the protection of victims/survivors' data and identities; which is part of the rollout of the Essential Services Package for Women and Girls Subject to Violence. The Common Standards are planned to be piloted and adopted by CARICOM in 2023. Partnerships with the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) Academy for Law, and the Association of Caribbean Commissioners of Police (ACCP) were formed in 2022. Concept notes were developed jointly with the two partners and the activities planned to be implemented in 2023 includes initiating the expansion of Sexual Offense Courts in a selected Caribbean country, gender responsive adjudication for the Caribbean Judicial and legal personnel through training and capacity building and awareness-raising activities to engage young men.

In 2022, a compact of commitment was signed by standing members of the Essential Services Package Community of Practice (ESP CoP) giving place to the formal activation of the CoP. The CoP was officially launched and organised the first in person regional meeting from 24-25 May 2022 in Trinidad & Tobago. Additionally, key priorities and gaps were identified and agreed upon for the region. The rest of the year was dedicated to assessing the status of implementation of the ESP in all countries across the region. An official mailing list was created, where key information and virtual events invitations are constantly shared with members, as well as requests for inputs to the ESP regional assessment and the meeting report to inform the action plan of the ESP CoP.

There was also a strong momentum to develop regional education standards of essential services for women and girls and children subject to violence in the Caribbean including referral pathways to support survivors. Using the Essential Services Packages (ESP) framework led by CARICOM; this work will continue in 2023 and aims to identify the provision of support and essential services for survivors within the education sector for all women and girls and children who have experienced gender-based violence. Similarly, work is on-going on the identification and development of gender competencies for frontline workers involved in the prevention and response to VAWG/FV.

In collaboration with the Institute for Gender and Development Studies, the University of West Indies and following an analysis of capacity gaps of Gender/Women Bureaus; the institutional capacity of gender/women's bureaus across 8 Caribbean countries (Belize, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Barbados, Jamaica, Grenada, St. Lucia, and Haiti) were strengthened on the intersection between

a reduction in VAWG and women's economic empowerment, and to design and implement appropriate intervention. In total 120 government officials from the eight gender bureaus were trained; this included 96 women and 24 men. In addition, this series of workshops resulted in the development of Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) Initiatives Guide, and Training to Support National Gender/Women's Bureaus in Women's Economic Empowerment.

Finally, work continued on the revision and implementation of the CARICOM Regional Gender Equality Strategy 2022-2032, capacity building of parliamentarians on gender-responsive family violence and citizen security legislation, and capacity building of women entrepreneurs who are victims and survivors of GBV to implement their business plans with seed funding. In 2022, virtual and in-person consultations were held on the Gender Equality Strategy (2022 – 2032) with CARICOM member states highlighting the challenges facing women and sectors working on gender and response to violence against women and girls, economic empowerment, support to women living with disabilities and support to other vulnerable groups.

The Spotlight Initiative Caribbean Regional Programme, supported the development of gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) tools including a methodology for assessing national budgets, training and the development of a knowledge product. In addition, a Gender-Responsive Budgeting Manual for tracking resources for EVAWG within CARICOM countries was also developed.

This GRB tool is designed to standardise the analysis and visualization of data in the Assessment Reports related to “ Budget allocations for ending violence against women and girls (EVAWG)” in the CARICOM region. Six countries (Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago) have been targeted to implement the GRB tool. The purpose of which is to track expenditures for EVAWG in key governmental sectors (Health; Justice & Policing; Social Services; Other Services).

The tool is to be used in conjunction with UN Women's Manual for tracking and assessing budget allocations for addressing violence against women and girls (2022). A pilot project was undertaken with the Government of Grenada to complete an assessment of the national budget allocations to address VAWG across the social, health, police and justice sectors. An assessment report was produced by the

OUTCOME 3: Gender inequitable social norms, attitudes and behaviours change at community and individual levels to prevent violence against women and girls, including family violence

Following on from the 2021 development of M&E guidelines and tools to assess the impact of CSE through HFLE; 28 persons (24 Women and 4 Men) across 12 CARICOM member and associated states now have increased capacity to plan, organize, monitor, and evaluate CSE through HFLE in schools in the region after capacity building conducted in 2022. These tools and strengthened capacity will enable countries to focus on the indicators of most importance or relevance to their contexts, while ensuring consistent and standardised data collection and analysis so that CARICOM, the UN, and other partners can measure regional progress and compare data across countries.

Having successfully established the Caribbean Observatory on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) in 2021, the Caribbean Regional SI and the Caribbean Family Planning Affiliation (CFPA) launched a virtual Integrated SRHR/GBV Knowledge Platform during the reporting period to unify the wider social monitoring and advocacy efforts of the SRHR Observatory. The Knowledge platform comprises of an interactive website (<https://caribbeansrhobservatory.com/>) underpinned by an information management system, that allows for the collection, repository and representation of data on countries across the English and Dutch-speaking Caribbean, as well as being able to undertake comparative analyses on key SRHR/GBV issues. It employs the use of country profiles, indicators and knowledge products that serve as avenues to convey information on core benchmarks. This includes monitoring, advocating and reporting on gaps and advancements in programmes, policies and legislation as well as countries' human rights records, and the progress made with national/regional obligations and commitments.

In 2022, the regional program continued to work on Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE). As a result, eight CARICOM Member States now have strengthened CSE capacity in line with international standards through the training of 35 persons in Out-of-School CSE using international guidance contextualised to the Caribbean and a toolkit developed through Spotlight. A guidance note to address family violence prevention through gender transformative parenting strategies that includes components of co-responsibility and gender socialisation in the Caribbean was completed during the reporting

period. The guidance includes a situational analysis on VAC in the Caribbean in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic with a focus on early childhood; good/promising practices identified in countries implementing to reduce/prevent VAC with a particular focus on early childhood; and guidelines to address family violence prevention in ECD programmes in the Caribbean region.

Two online validation sessions were conducted that reached over 90 professionals from across the Caribbean involved in national and regional mechanisms governing ECD actions to address family violence prevention in the Caribbean. The study also identified promising practices of violence prevention interventions in four countries (Jamaica, Grenada, Guyana and Belize) related to positive parenting and family-friendly policies. The guidance note will be published in 2023 and will ensure a gender perspective into early childhood development programmes to inform and support policy development in the Caribbean. More specifically, the guidance note will link child development with a gender transformative approach to raise awareness on the importance of positive parenting and gender socialization as a key strategy to prevent violence in early childhood and exposure to family violence as well as improve the wellbeing for young people and their families across the Caribbean.

A Social Behavioural Change Communication (SBCC) strategy was developed in 2022 in collaboration with PCI Media for a cohesive and impactful regional effort to end family violence. Based on the strategy the #PlayYourPart campaign package with multimedia communication materials has nearly completed its design and production process. The package is informed by formative research (desk review and media landscape) and coalition building across the region in partnership with local creative teams (Barbados, Haiti, St Lucia). Thirteen countries participated in the development of the campaign branding and four production partners from across five countries will produce campaign communications materials.

The package has involved partners throughout the process through validation sessions or direct feedback. It includes a guidance document (to adapt resources to national contexts) with communication materials from the region including two six-episode radio dramas, an animation video, an original song/music video, two champions PSA videos, social media pack and a user guide for implementers (all available in English/French). The PSA Champions, for example, range from a young female firefighter in St. Lucia,

an Indo-Trinidadian Muslim student to a nurse supporting survivors of IPV in Antigua that align with the campaign messages. The SBCC package will be launched in 2023. Knowledge on gender stereotypes in media advertising was generated in 2022. This new research on gender-stereotyping in advertising uncovers insights around the scale of the issue. The study calls on advertisers and regulators to leverage the power of advertising to promote gender equality and prevent violence.

Two Key recommendations for marketing agencies and advertisers are:

1. Develop content that promotes positive messages that advances human rights, and challenges harmful stereotypes and normalised beliefs around VAWG.
2. Strengthen gender-sensitive quality testing and evaluation mechanisms of advertising content.

While recommendations for policy-makers and international organisations include:

1. Expand opportunities for adolescents to participate in their communities and in the processes that affect them.
2. Engage in advocacy with local advertising-standards associations to create or strengthen statutory guidelines.

The research provides a valuable baseline for monitoring progress and accountability. In partnership with the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media, over 28,000 people were reached with the findings of a new multi-country study addressing gender stereotyping in advertising and its links VAWG in the Caribbean. A total of 600 advertisements were sampled from Barbados, Jamaica, St. Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago based on criteria formulated with a diverse Technical Working Group.

Considerations were taken to ensure this sampling represents the region's diversity (based on the desk review and media landscape). Advertising assets were sourced by

the Media Institute of the Caribbean based in St Lucia. Advertisements were selected from the ten companies with the largest spending budgets in each country or the years 2019, 2020 and 2021. This final sample included 3,427 identified characters from 600 advertisements. The majority (70.3%) of reviewed advertisements come from the television, and while the study includes a considerable variation of sectors, several were more commonly represented, including banking and insurance (24.7%), food and drink (19.0%), and electronics and technology (14.5%).

OUTCOME 5: Quality, disaggregated and globally comparable data on different forms of VAWG and harmful practices, collected, analysed and used in line with international standards to inform laws, policies and programmes

There is progress towards the development of a standardised model KAP tool on social/gender norms and VAWG and training module as part of the regional compendium of VAWG tools. An assessment of available Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices (KAP) tools and a synthesis report on experiences of stakeholders across CARICOM in the use of KAP tools was completed in 2022. Target groups include representatives from relevant ministries including ministries of gender, social services, human development, families, education, national gender machineries, with a focus on statistical offices and systems; VAWG focal points in all CARICOM Member States, and members from joint programmes and CSOs. A broad cross-section of CARICOM Member States were represented in the consultative process; those countries included: Jamaica, St. Lucia, Guyana, Belize, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, and Trinidad and Tobago.

84% of participants (from both focus group discussions and those who completed the online survey) identified as female, and the remaining 16% identified as male. 18% of focus group and bilateral meeting participants self-identified as LGBTQI. The study will inform the development of a standardized model KAP tool on social/gender norms and VAWG and training module as part of the regional compendium of VAWG tools.

In collaboration with the Institute of Gender and Development Studies (IGDS) of the University of the West Indies, the research component (three major data sets) was completed. With support from an advisory committee (Girls not Bride, OAS, UNFPA, UN Women, CDB, youth activist) activities completed include three major sets of data across the six- country scope of the project (Guyana, Suriname, Haiti, Belize,

Trinidad and Tobago, Antigua and Barbuda). Specifically, mapping and measurement of existing quantitative and qualitative; and compilation of existing strategies and good practices. A light KAP tool was developed and implemented with ethics clearance on understanding perceptions in the Caribbean, the methodology and interview guidelines were developed, and CSO researchers in each country were trained.

This resulted in 60 Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) surveys and 48 Life History Interviews completed. A partner mapping was also completed to understand who is currently working on Child Marriage and Early Unions (CMEU) to strengthen a pan-Caribbean movement to end CMEU. The development of a consolidated and comprehensive regional report and policy tools using the major sets of data is currently underway and will be completed in 2023. An additional resource, UNICEF-led U-Report that captured 6890 young people on their perspectives on CMEU from across three countries of the region (Belize, Haiti, Trinidad and Tobago) will also be finalised in 2023.

The report and advocacy materials will support intergenerational dialogues with CSOs, youth networks, institutional partners, among others to define measurement parameters best suited for the Caribbean. A qualitative study on family violence and LGBT youth is under development. The literature review was finalized which laid the ground for initial interviews which will be continued in 2023. Noting the sensitivity of the topic, the original selection of countries is being reevaluated with the support of UNDP Country Offices.

The Re-programming of Knowledge Observatory into a partnership with the Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI) was approved and initiated; the official agreement will be signed in Q1 of 2023. The aim is to strengthen the link between the English-speaking and Eastern Caribbean and MESECVI to help promote the participation of these countries in the work of the Mechanism to implement the Convention, contribute to better technical support in those countries and support the response to the System of progress indicators for measuring the implementation of the Convention of Belém do Pará in this Fourth Round of Multilateral Evaluation. This will help to improve the quality, accuracy, and availability of data on violence against women and girls (VAWG) in the Caribbean and, by improving data presentation.

The Caribbean region is developing a sustainable way of building expertise in analysing

and utilising administrative data on VAWG. Specifically, in partnership with the University of the West Indies (UWI), Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES, progress has been made in establishing a degree programme on gender and/or social statistics, via a Massive Online Open Course (MOOC). The course is designed to address gender analysis of prevalence data produced to measure knowledge, attitudes and perceptions of violence against women and girls (VAWG); and administrative data produced on occurrences of VAWG particularly to track incidence and whether services provided are meeting minimum standards for service provision in CARICOM. In 2022, the course outline, evaluation criteria of course, modules, schedule of training were drafted. Following a call for applications which attracted 61 applicants, 30 students were selected as the first cohort using a set criterion. To ensure inclusivity and that no one is left behind, secondary education was the highest level required to allow for those without tertiary education but have experience or interest to partake in the course. The course will be launched in Q1 of 2023.

Notable progress has been made to conduct a multi-country study in Guyana, Grenada and Jamaica on economic costs of violence. Data collection for the Guyana leg of the study is completed. Data was collected from CSOs, judicial, health, social services, finance, and education agencies. The first draft of the Guyana report is being reviewed while data collection is ongoing for Grenada. The study, when completed, is intended to fill a key knowledge gap in CARICOM. Building on the Women's Health and Life Experiences Surveys conducted in five CARICOM countries (Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Suriname and Trinidad & Tobago) from 2016-2019, the study focuses on providing an estimate of the opportunity costs of IPV against women and girls for households.

More specifically, the study captures data on the annual direct costs for households related to incidents of IPV (e.g., costs of medical care – physical, sexual, mental; shelter accommodations; mediation and judicial resolution; replacement of property). The study also captures data on indirect costs (e.g., income loss due to missed work, loss of reproductive labour, children's health and children's school performance – such as missed days, failing or poor grades). The study will also develop macro-estimates for the national economy, service provision, and productivity loss.

During the reporting period 44 persons (34 Women, 10 men) from national and regional statistical offices across 13 CARICOM and OECS countries and three regional organisations

strengthened their capacities in VAWG data protection and anonymization. There were also efforts to support the development/strengthening and harmonization of regional standards and protocols on the protection and anonymization of VAWG data; and to add value to and strengthen the data systems within the Caribbean Regional Statistical System to more effectively anonymise and protect VAWG data in CARICOM and the OECS.

Similarly approximately 74 people from government agencies, gender bureaus, civil society organisations, and academia gained and increased understanding of the ethical and methodological considerations in collecting VAWG prevalence data, how the data can be used to support global policy commitments to eliminate VAWG, particularly those of the SDGs, and for evidence-based policy advocacy, and programming.

A qualitative analysis and research on experiences of violence of marginalised/“at risk” groups of women such as women with disabilities, young and adolescent women, women who have been pregnant, and girls who may suffer multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination was also completed during the period.

OUTCOME 6: Women’s rights groups, autonomous social movements and relevant CSOs, including those representing youth and groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalisation, more effectively influence and advance progress on GEWE and ending VAWG

In 2022, two mechanisms were utilised to facilitate multi-stakeholder dialogues among representatives of groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. Twenty-four Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) Representatives from 10 Caribbean countries attended a Regional CSO Retreat which was held in Montego Bay, Jamaica in August 2022. This space provided the opportunity for CSOs to network, build alliances and strategise for the CARICOM EAWG feminist movement. Using a participatory approach from the “Arts of Hosting” methodology and “Liberating Structures”, CSOs technical capacities were also strengthened in the areas of movement building, movement care and resource mobilisation. Another major output of the retreat was the formulation of a joint statement which was intended to pave the way for a Caribbean Feminist Charter. A similar mechanism was convened for the CSRRG, which resulted in the formulation of a joint work-plan of activities. Other mechanisms included an official in-person dialogue which was held within civil society with the participation/endorsement of Government, but no official dialogues have been held with government authorities.

Social Accountability is a form of civic engagement that builds accountability through the collective efforts of citizens and civil society organizations to hold public officials, service providers and governments to account for their obligations with responsive efforts. The social accountability mechanism is intended to support CSOs as they hold governments accountable for adoption, implementation and financing of selected national, regional, and global commitments and standards on gender equality and women's empowerment, in particular those related to GBV/HP and SRHR.

To support this intervention, Social Accountability tools and mechanisms were developed, and successfully piloted and validated with Civil Society Organizations in five (5) countries (Grenada, Barbados, Saint Lucia, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago). These tools (Community Score Cards and Community Score Cards Follow-up Mechanisms) assessed the availability and quality of services for survivors, secondary victims and perpetrators of Family Violence and Gender Based Violence. A total of 40 CSO actors participated in hands-on training on the use of the tools and the Pilot testing of social accountability mechanisms during the reporting period. State actors were also intricately involved in this process to support future/ongoing assessments.

A capacity building programme was launched in Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Grenada, and a regional series of webinars were completed, benefitting 5-10 CSOs per country during the reporting period.

The Caribbean Regional Programme launched a series of capacity-building learning cafes to equip CSOs with the knowledge and skills to prepare quality project proposals aligned to the UN Women Small Grant policies and procedures. In-person training sessions were held with CSO leaders in Suriname, Dominica, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Belize. A total of 85 representatives from over 40 CSOs participated in the multi-country exercise. Of this total, four were men and 81 were women. Participants were also provided with the opportunity to have clarified questions about potential projects they were desirous of submitting proposals under the current Call For Proposals. The sessions culminated with reflections and an evaluation.

Additionally, 13 small grant applications were received for the reporting period. Of this total, eight small grants applications are finalised/approved; eight first

disbursements have been made; and five new applications will undergo technical evaluations. These small grants are aimed at strengthening the capacities of women's rights groups and relevant CSOs representing groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization to design, implement, monitor and evaluate their own programmes on ending VAWG. There were several challenges encountered during the reporting period with attempts being made at mitigation. These are specified below:

Participants generally felt that every aspect of the session was relevant and important. Participants expressed the following sentiments:

A rather interactive/participatory, well-organised and exceptionally received content. Really invigorating/stimulating. One could have felt the enthusiasm, excitement...it was a welcome change. The Network members are re-energised to action. Our five-month training on addressing Family Violence anticipates 25 more activists, whistle blowers, mentors and training of trainers to duplicate/multiply our work @ community and national levels. You witnessed their interest/motivation.

Look out for the proposals!

...It was not only a session to learn about the grant. It was a day for us to thrash out soooo many serious issues we have going on as a society. Such a productive day.

THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING!

Rights Holders

In 2022, the SI Caribbean Regional programme reached an estimated 28,758 of rights holders/“beneficiaries” . The details are provided in the table below.

Indicative Numbers	Direct for 2022	Indirect for 2022	Comments/ Explanations
Women (18 years and above)	493	14 000	Direct - Capacity Building & Spotlight Events Indirect - Advertising
Girls (15-17 years)			
Men (18 and above)	286	14 000	Direct - Capacity Building & Spotlight Events Indirect - Advertising
Boys (15-17 years)			
Total	779	28 000	Direct - Capacity Building & Spotlight Events Indirect - Advertising

Challenges & Mitigating Measures

- There were delays in the activities implemented by regional partners. Despite these challenges, UN agencies provided the needed technical support to the regional partners through coordination meetings and follow-up as well as coordinating high-level meetings with leaders of these organisation to push implementation further.

- UNDP faced challenges in conducting interviews for the qualitative study on FV and LGBTQI youth in some of the countries originally included. As an alternative, UNDP is currently exploring including other countries in the study. As for Haiti, UNDP is conducting interviews with advocates and CSOs residing out of the country for Haiti so as not to compromise the safety and security of these respondents.

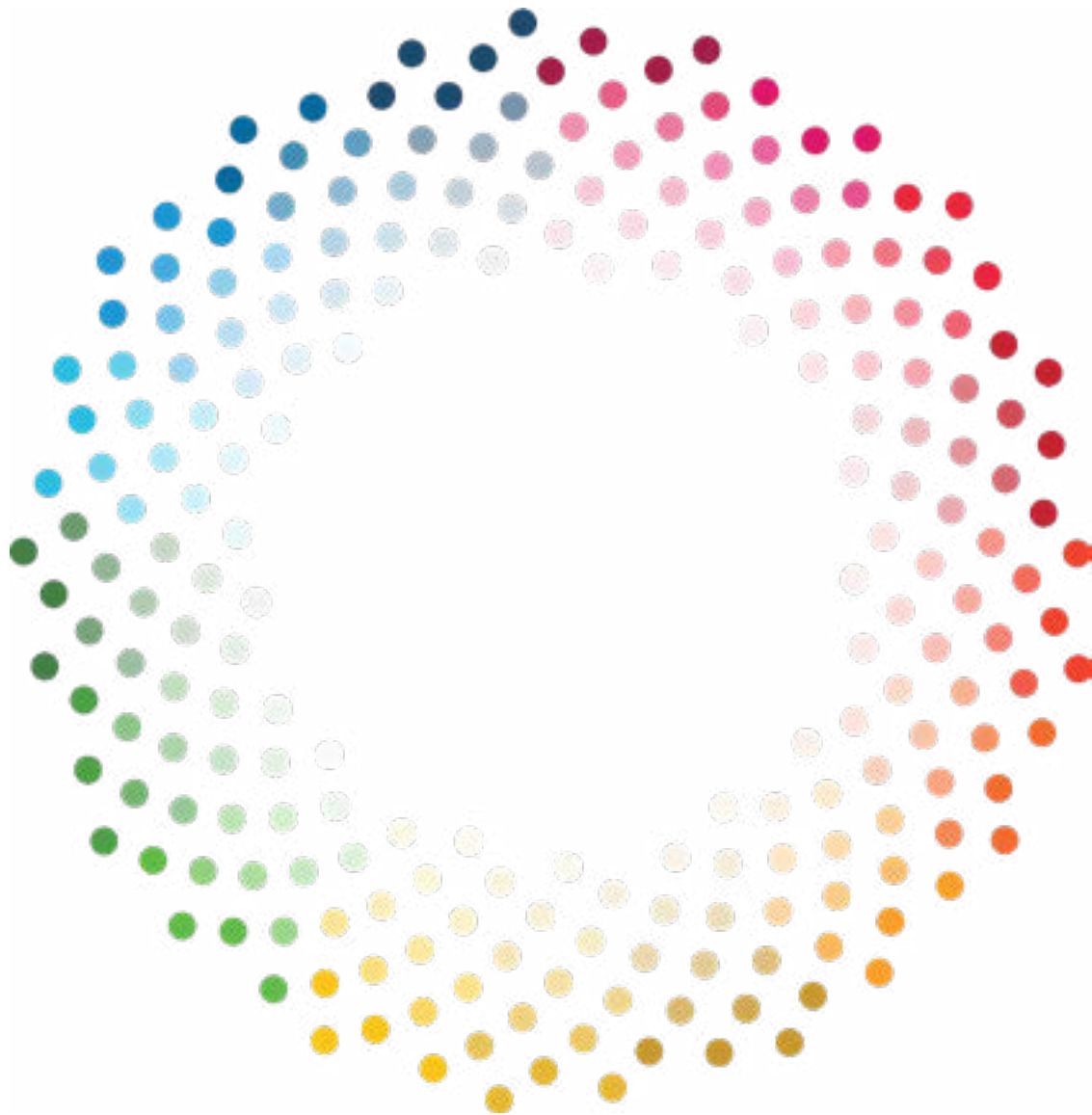
- The late disbursement of funds to CFPA contributed to the late onboarding of key personnel to work on the SRHR Observatory, which in turn pushed back the implementation of some groundwork activities. Since some of these processes are required to be completed only once, the likelihood of a similar delay recurring with the disbursement of additional funds is reduced.

- The underestimation of the importance of groundwork, and the time and effort needed for this in order to have data to inform social monitoring, advocacy, the content on the knowledge platform as well as the development of knowledge products. Repeated technical advice and assistance was provided to mitigate this stance.

- Some civil society partners have a preference to work within their inner circle, with whom they are familiar as well as with resources they know. However, this can be limiting and does not allow for comprehensive options to be explored. In relation to the technological infrastructure associated with the VKP of the SRHR Observatory, this approach caused significant delays and inefficiencies. Technical advice was put forward and eventually acknowledged for the importance of issuing open invitations to tenders to allow for exposure to different perspectives on the direction to take with the technology.

- Many civil society entities have a skeletal structure incorporating only operations staff as its core and no programme personnel. This results in the personnel necessary for projects being new hires, which does not bode well

for sustainability because once an initiative ends, the project team disbands. This presents challenges to the continuity and sustainability of key aspects of work especially in relation to an important initiative such as the SRHR Observatory when the Spotlight Initiative ends. This will be mitigated through a transition process. The below lessons were learned by the Spotlight Initiative Caribbean Regional during 2022.



Lesson Learned & New Opportunities

Lessons Learned

Programmatic/Operational Lessons Learned

- ◆ Having core programme staff working on signature initiatives are integral to continuity and sustainability of key work.
- ◆ Issuing open Invitations to Tender is important in getting different perspectives on the direction to take with technology, especially intricate digital platforms.
- ◆ Ample time needs to be dedicated to undertake important groundwork and CSOs need to be encouraged to extend themselves outside of their immediate network of partners.

Technical Lessons Learned

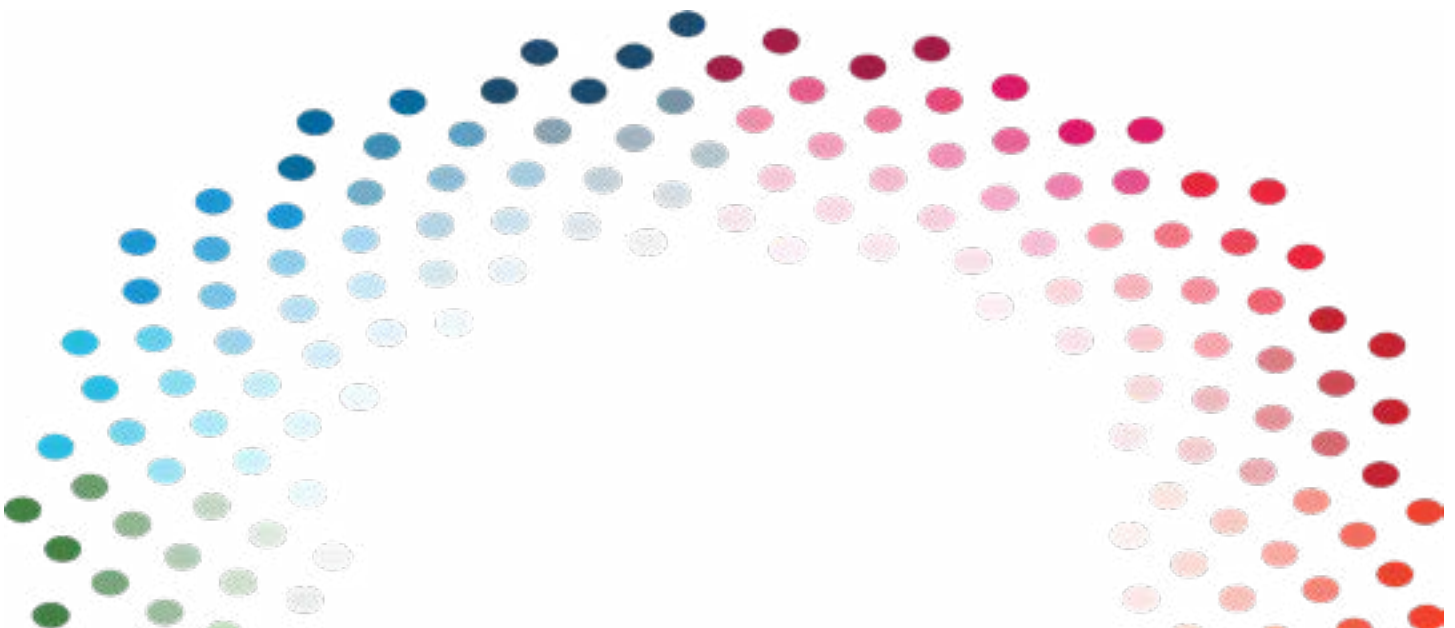
- ◆ When harnessed safely and thoughtfully, access to Information and Communication Technologies and digital spaces can add value to CSE delivery.
- ◆ The recent formative assessment of CSE in the Caribbean, observed a “generally enabling policy environment for sexuality education, as part of Health and Family Life Education” and “widespread acceptance of the need to have some level of Sexuality Education in schools.
- ◆ Developing frameworks, standard operating procedures and strategies at the beginning of the operationalisation of the Caribbean Observatory on SRHR is important to effective, efficient and guided implementation.
- ◆ Including stakeholders in the design of the ESP CoP increased the feeling of ownership.
- ◆ Adopting a humanitarian-development nexus approach will be crucial for partners and to ensure technical coherence across the region.
- ◆ Developing a capacity building framework for civil society organizations will allow for assessments of their needs and priority areas for capacity building to be done and can serve as a catalyst for developing and enhancing their technical capacities and skills to implement projects under the SI.

Innovative, Promising or Good Practices

The creation of a Massive Online Open Course on Gender Analysis with a focus on VAWG prevalence and administrative data, and the development of regionally (CARICOM) agreed Minimum Standards, Ethical Guidelines and Protocols for the management of VAWG administrative data which will be based on international guidelines respectively are two promising examples.

The MOOC is a sustainable way of strengthening the institutional capacity of the Caribbean Community's (CARICOM) regional pool of experts and broadening skill sets for the production, management, dissemination and utilisation of violence against women and girls (VAWG) prevalence and administrative data.

As a promising practice, the Caribbean region, for the first time, will have the opportunity to manage administrative data in an ethical, efficient, and transparent way using a standardised system. In addition, when completed and fully endorsed, the regionally (CARICOM) agreed Minimum Standards, Ethical Guidelines and Protocols for the management of VAWG administrative data, the Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) will not only complement these standards but will contribute to a reduction in the data deficits gaps in our region.



Communications & Visibility

Overview

The Regional Programme's communications and visibility plan continued to experience increased visibility within the region. The opening up of travel helped as partners could gather and interact face to face. This enhanced communication and facilitated more opportunities for documenting engagements using photography and videography while in the field for example. For example, the Programme could record footage for its campaign package leading to physical interactions within and across 13 countries. More than 10 face to face visibility events were held in 2022 and a number of articles published in the media giving coverage of the events by journalists who attended. In addition, there were several media interviews conducted by Spotlight Programme Implementers.

- ▶ In the Spotlight - Caribbean Newsletter remains a key flagship product of the Regional Programme. The first issue of the newsletter was published in July 2022, followed by the second issue in December and a Special Edition also in December 2022 in observance of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence.
- ▶ A two page summary of results was published mid-year to share with key stakeholders including Member States to demonstrate emerging results from the programme.
- ▶ Several videos were produced as part of capacity building, capturing voices of CSOs and also documenting regional guidance and resources generated by the Programme. This contributed to increasing awareness and visibility of the Programme. Sections that follow provide an overview of the main results.

Media and Visibility Events

▼ The Launch of Formative Assessment Report on CSE and HFLE Curriculum in the Caribbean was the first face-to-face visibility event held in March 2022. The launch was published in the media across the Eastern Caribbean and included official remarks from CARICOM Assistant Secretary-General Dr. Douglas Slater who spoke on behalf of CARICOM Secretary-General, Dr. Carla Barnett, and Head of Delegation of the European Union to Barbados, the Eastern Caribbean States, OECS and CARICOM/CARIFORUM, Ambassador Malgorzata Wasilewska. The launch was livestreamed on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=944717946245784>

▼ Launch of the Essential Service Package Community of Practice held in Trinidad and Tobago in May 2022 garnered coverage in the media in Trinidad, as well as in the OECS media outlets. <https://www.spotlightinitiative.org/press/caricom-unfpa-launch-network-improve-support-gbv-survivors>

▼ An Op-Ed by Alison Drayton, former Director and Representative, Sub-regional Office for the Caribbean, United Nations Population Fund - Ensuring Access to Essential Services for Survivors of Gender Based Violence <https://guyanachronicle.com/2022/05/19/op-ed-ensuring-access-to-essential-services-for-survivors-of-gender-based-violence-2/>

▼ The Spotlight Initiative Caribbean Regional programme management team visited St. Lucia and had the distinct pleasure of being hosted by a CSO Implementing Partner of the UNICEF, PCI Media Caribbean. 18 National consultations on the CARICOM Draft Gender Equality were held. <https://barbados.loopnews.com/content/first-regional-gender-equality-strategy-consultations-held-st-lucia-0>

▼ The Caribbean region now has a policy to address gender-based violence (GBV) in the workplace. <https://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/news/20220813/regional-gbv-workplace-policy-finalised-employer-and-labour-bodies>

▼ The Spotlight Initiative Caribbean Regional Programme observed the 2022 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence Campaign in Guyana where its major regional institution partner CARICOM Secretariat is headquartered. There were several face to face activities during the visit including the main event - the lighting of the CARICOM Secretariat building, which saw the Secretary-General, Dr. Carla Bennett delivering the feature address, and Yesim Oruç, Resident Coordinator - United Nations (UN) Guyana who gave remarks. <https://guyana.un.org/en/210376-caricom-secretariat-goes-orange-16-days-activism-against-gender-based-violence>

▼ The Launch of the Integrated SRHR/GBV Knowledge Platform of the Caribbean Observatory was held December 5.

Campaigns

In observance of the 2022 International Women’s Day, the Regional Programme collaborated with the Resident Coordinator’s Office for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean to produce a social media campaign that included stakeholders and partners.



Human Interest Stories

Below is a human-interest story generated by the Regional Programme.

GBV is a Men’s Issue - Newsletter Issue 2

<https://www.spotlightinitiative.org/publications/spotlight-caribbean>

Men and boys experience many forms of violence, but unfortunately discriminatory social structures perpetuate and maintain gender inequalities that feed VAWG.

Bennet Charles, Communications Specialist, PCI Media - Caribbean Region, the consulting firm that led the development of UNICEF’s SBCC.

“

When it comes to gender norms, Gender-based Violence and gender stereotyping, there's some sectors within our community, which I believe once the necessary sensitisation and awareness is brought, there can then be that sense of balance, diversity and unity through education, culture, sports, health, and the environment.

But it is important that adolescents and young people feel a sense of belonging and pride in their communities and this can be through the expansion of various positive community-based opportunities.

- Ashley Lashley, a Barbadian UNICEF Youth Advocate

Working with the UNICEF team on the Spotlight Initiative Caribbean Regional was an important partnership that demonstrated the power of collaboration in developing the various campaign strategies that are tailored to the unique cultural diversity of the Caribbean.

The Initiative's commitment, powered by the European Union, to work with local stakeholders and creatives to develop authentic campaign assets is a testament to its dedication to ensuring everyone recognises they too have a part to play. Workshops, trainings, consultations, meetings, field visits, etc., should all be used as opportunities to capture testimonials at all stages of programme implementation.

**- Bennet Charles, Communications Specialist,
PCI Media - Caribbean Region**

”

Photos



(Above), Caribbean CSOs and staff of UN Women at the closing of the inaugural Caribbean CSO Retreat, a Pillar 6 activity. (Photo Credit: Dorian Clarke/ UN Women)



(At left), Ambassador Malgorzata WASILEWSKA, Head of Delegation, European Union Delegation to Barbados, the Eastern Caribbean States, the OECS and CARICOM/CARIFORUM delivering remarks at the Launch of UNFPA's Formative Assessment report on CSE and HFLE Curriculum in the Caribbean, held on 7 March 2022 in Barbados. (Photo Credit: Belle Imagery/UNFPA)



UN Women Representative, Tonni Brodber (right), and Spotlight Initiative Caribbean Regional Communications Officer, Lisa Legall Belgrave (centre), and UWI Law Library Representative, Sheldene Greene at the Caribbean Association of Judicial Officers Conference last September. (Photo Credit: ES Productionz/UN Women)

Testimonials

Video

In a tripartite collaboration between UNDP, CDEMA and the UWI, a video was produced to showcase the Guidelines on the Integration of VAWG/FV in DRR/M in the Caribbean produced under Pillar 2. The partners have worked over the past year to develop the guidelines, build capacity of stakeholders to integrate Gender-based Violence and disaster risk management and recovery, and develop a comprehensive course on gender, violence against women and family violence and disaster risk management and recovery. The video is narrated by Sheniah Armstrong, Acting Deputy Director of the Department of Disaster Risk Management, in the British Virgin Islands.

The Caribbean Observatory on SRHR

LGBTQI+ persons face a range of unique challenges in relation to SRHR. Access to healthcare is one of the main challenges owing to healthcare providers being inadequately trained to provide nuanced services. Joel Simpson of Guyana's Society Against Sexual Orientation Discrimination shares his experiences in this regard and his hope for the future. <https://caribbeansrhobservatory.com/stigma-and-discrimination-affects-srhr-for-lgbtq-in-guyana/>

The Spotlight Caribbean Regional team visited St. Lucia in May 2022. The team took the message of eliminating violence against women and girls to the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States and also visited a number of media outlets.

This is a news clip of one the interviews with a local television station:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1A1KakXvjsQ-csbOfnubzarkVkBk9pDzA>

The Launch of Formative Assessment Report on CSE and HFLE Curriculum in the Caribbean was the first visibility event held in March 2022

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=944717946245784>

Sustainability

In 2022, the Programme continued to foreground sustainability during implementation as well as endeavored to ensure that the approaches, public goods developed, and any changes are transformative and outlive the Spotlight Programme. At an institutional level, efforts include strengthening of technical and coordination capacities of regional institutions and governments to ensure sustainability of results. In the coming year, advocacy will intensify to call on regional entities and Member States to have ownership and co-design the use of Gender Responsive Budgeting to sustain financing and capacity of Gender Bureaus, other key government ministries and national institutions to address FV and VAWG.

At the programmatic and interventions level, implementing partners are advocating for and supporting institutions to include Spotlight interventions in their plans and budgets going forward. For example, there is progress towards the embedding of VAWG modules in the curriculum of pre-service health responders such as nurses, doctors, pharmacists, and police. Once adopted, this will become the norm and will be one of Spotlight's legacies. The ESP CoP will provide greater access to a coordinated set of essential and quality multi-sectoral services for all women and girls who have experienced GBV. Engagements have begun for the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) to use the ESP as a benchmark when building two stop centers in St. Lucia and Grenada and support for continuation of the ESP CoP.

The Programme achievements will also be sustained through increasing CSOs' capacities in human, technical and financial competencies. In the coming year, this will be complemented by support for a resource mobilisation strategy to continue some of the work started by the Spotlight Initiative Regional Programme. This is because change takes time and it will be important to continue to support CSOs, for example, to consolidate and expand the gains made. The programme will ensure that all the regional public goods and resources generated from the entire programme are easily accessible by all stakeholders including documenting good practices to support implementation.

In order to ensure that this is done in an intentional and systematic manner, the regional programme will develop a Sustainability Plan in 2023 with clear roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders. This will entail consultations with regional institutions, civil society organisations including the CS RRG, EU, UN agencies

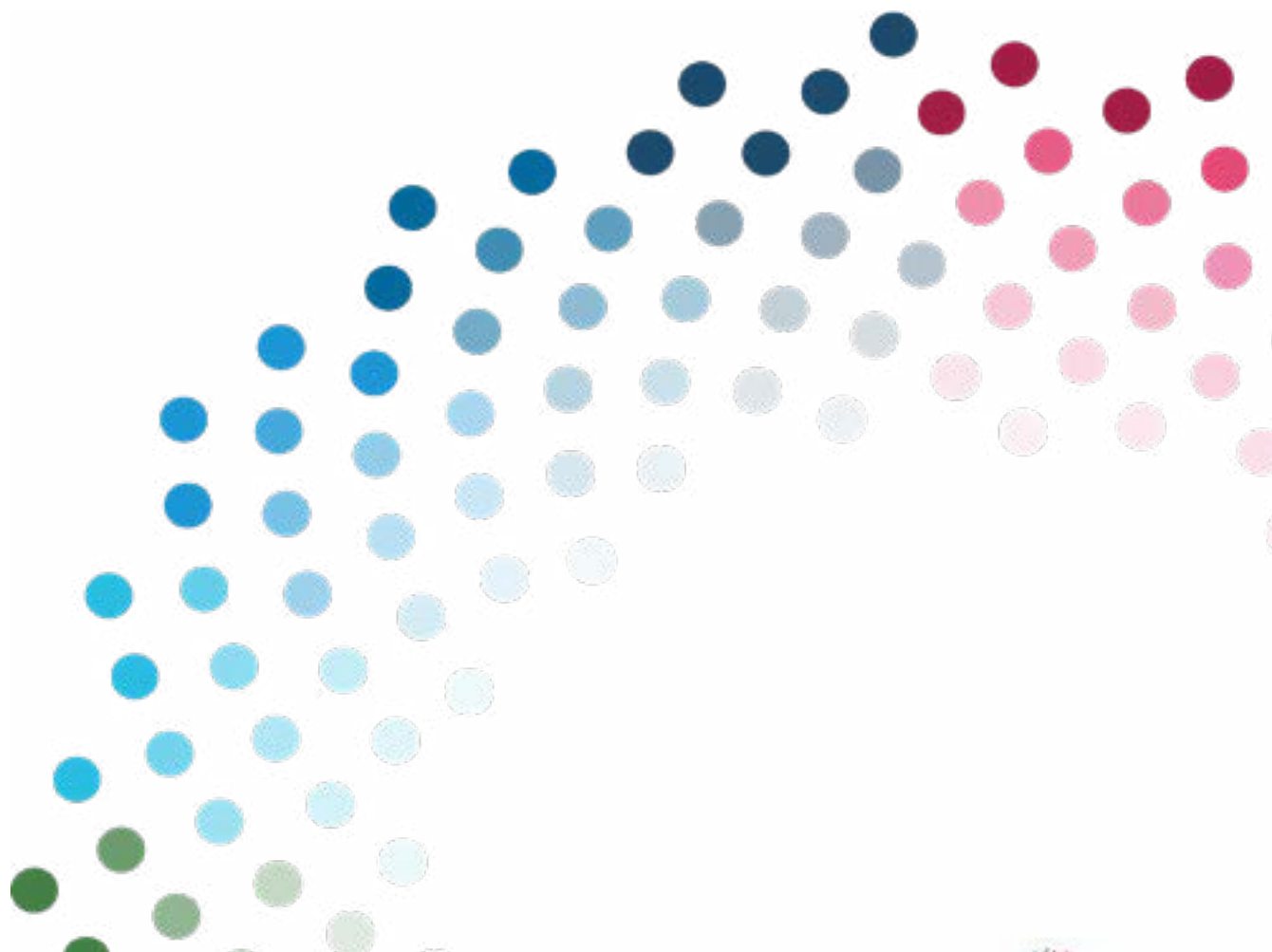
including associate agencies and rights holders as much as possible. This will increase regional ownership of the proposed actions. The EU will be consulted throughout the process through bilateral meetings with the UN as well as through engagements in the governance structures such as the Steering Committee and Technical Advisory Group. It is anticipated that the Programme will support partners in developing a post-Spotlight resource mobilisation strategy and hold a regional donor round table.

Sustainability of the Caribbean Observatory on SRHR

Partners who are part of Caribbean Observatory on SRHR have developed a draft transition strategy as part of its wider sustainability efforts. The ideas for the sustainability of the Caribbean Observatory on SRHR arose out of key informant interviews that were undertaken at the beginning of its conceptualisation. Stakeholders to be interviewed were mapped and a questionnaire developed to guide key informant interviews to garner initial feedback and input on how these actors perceived the role of the SRHR Observatory, issues it should deal with, and how it should function in order to be effective and sustainable. Interviews were subsequently undertaken with 21 key stakeholders from the following groups: Spotlight regional team; UNFPA's Sub-Regional Office of the Caribbean (SROC); CSOs; academia; inter-governmental organisations; potential end-users; professional associations.

As part of the key informant interviews, it was reported that embedding the Observatory within certain structures as well as aligning it with learning institutions could be considered to ensure its sustainability while preserving its independence. The programme's contributions will therefore be sustained beyond the Spotlight Initiative Caribbean Regional through a transition process whereby the functions of the Observatory will be embedded into a larger structure than what is currently obtained; one that can continue the advocacy efforts seamlessly and with minimal effort, while maintaining the platform's independence. The virtual Integrated SRHR/GBV Knowledge Platform is also key to the sustainability efforts as its information and knowledge products can be easily accessed and utilised by key stakeholders. It is expected that this larger structure likewise has a regional scope and is already positioned to do integrated SRHR/GBV advocacy work and has core programmatic staff that can update the knowledge platform periodically as well as oversee the development of additional knowledge products and spearhead advocacy and communication efforts around their themes.

By the time Spotlight transitions, the programme would have strengthened the capacity of CSOs to utilise evidence-based advocacy materials to inform policy dialogue with and lobby parliamentarians to effect legislative and policy reform around advancing key integrated SRHR/GBV issues. The resource mobilisation efforts underpinning the sustainability of the work of the Observatory are tied to the advocacy, communication and visibility work to be ramped up in Phase 2; when the work of the Observatory is on full display and achievements are seen, it is easier to achieve buy-in from potential and diverse partners, not just for funding but also for continuous technical support, knowledge exchange and the contribution of other resources. This has been integrated into the Advocacy Plan for roll-out with objectives and activities strategically and explicitly embedded around forging partnerships for sustainability.



Next Steps

In 2023, the Regional Programme will prioritise the following strategic actions;

- ▶ Integration of Spotlight Phase II activities into existing work if approved and ensure that steps are taken to redouble delivery efforts.
- ▶ Hold launches, implement pilot projects and use of several regional tools and guidelines developed in 2023.
- ▶ Intensify programme communications and visibility efforts to increase awareness of regional public goods and resources developed, especially among non-Spotlight CARICOM and OECS Member States. The programme will piggy-back on existing face to face activities where possible.
- ▶ Establishment of a Programme closure working group and workplan since that will be the final year of implementing the Programme.
- ▶ A sustainability strategy will be developed and it is aimed that this will be adopted by the 3rd quarter of 2023.
- ▶ Develop a resource mobilisation strategy for post-Spotlight and host donor round table with key donors.

The Caribbean Observatory on SRHR

Over the next six months, social monitoring will be more targeted, data collection and analyses will be intensified and used to inform advocacy for strengthened programmes, policy and legislation; evidence-based advocacy-materials will be developed and launched; and civil society's capacity will be strengthened to utilise these evidence-based materials in their work.