



**Spotlight
Initiative**
*To eliminate violence
against women and girls*

Spotlight Programme in Tajikistan (SPT)

Annual Narrative Programme Report

01 January 2022 – 31 December 2022

Initiated by the European Union and the United Nations:



Programme Title & Programme Number

Programme Title: Spotlight Initiative in Tajikistan
MPTF Office Project Reference Number¹:
00119462

Recipient Organisation(s)

UN Women
UNDP
UNFPA
UNICEF

Programme Cost (US\$)

Total Phase I budget, and Phase II budget as per the Spotlight CPD/RPD: 7,915,376 USD

Phase I + Phase II Spotlight funding: 7,000,000 USD

Agency Contribution: 915,376 USD

Spotlight Funding and Agency Contribution by Agency:

Name of RUNO	Spotlight Phase I + II, (USD)	UN Agency Contributions (USD)
UNDP	1,881,924	301,765
UNFPA	1,723,528	247,362
UNICEF	1,588,453	335,187
UN WOMEN	1,806,095	31,062
TOTAL:	7,000,000	915,376

Priority Regions/Areas/Localities for the Programme

Soghd (Isfara and Bobojon Ghafurov), Khatlon (Vose and Yovon), Districts of Republican Subordination (Rudaki and Gissar) and Dushanbe (Shohmansur, Somoni, Sino and Firdavsi).

Key Partners

Government: Committee on Women and Family Affairs; Ministries of Health and Social Protection of Population (including Republican Center for Forensic Medical Examination), Justice, Internal Affairs, and Education and Science; Committee on Religious Affairs, Regulation of Traditions, Celebrations and Ceremonies; Agency of Statistics; Supreme Court; Union of Advocates; Attorney General's Office; Office of Ombudsman.

CSOs: women's rights organizations and networks; grass roots and women's community groups; organizations for persons with disabilities; religious associations; human rights organizations; youth centres; organizations working on gender equality; media workers; sport schools; research groups.

Programme Start and End Dates

Start Date:
01.01.2020

End Date:
31.12.2022

Report Submitted By: Mr. Adham Mussalam,
United Nations Resident Coordinator a.i. in
Tajikistan

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](#)

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	3
Acronym List	4
Executive Summary	6
Key Results	7
Contextual Shifts and Implementation Status	10
Implementation Progress by Outcome Area.	12
Programme Governance and Coordination	13
Programme Partnerships	18
Results	22
Challenges and Mitigating Measures.	39
Lessons Learned and New Opportunities	40
Innovative, Promising or Good Practices	42
Communications and Visibility	43
Sustainability.	62
Next Steps	63
Annexes	67

Acronym List

BCC	Behaviour Change Communication
CAE	Centers for Additional Education
CoWFA	Committee on Women and Family Affairs under the Government of RT
CRA	Committee of Religious Affairs and Regulations of Traditions and Rituals under the Government of RT
CSRG	Civil Society Reference Group
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DV	Domestic Violence
EU	European Union
EUD	European Union Delegation in Tajikistan
EVAWG	Ending Violence Against Women and Girls
GALS	Gender Action Learning System
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
HP	Harmful Practices
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
IFIs	International Financial Institutions
IGG	Inter-governmental Gender Group
IPs	Implementing Partners
KABP	Knowledge, Attitude, Behavior and Practice
KM	Knowledge Management
LNOB	Leaving No One Behind
MoES	Ministry of Education and Science of RT
MoHSPP	Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population of RT
MoIA	Ministry of Internal Affairs of RT
MoJ	Ministry of Justice of RT
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRL	Muslim Religious Leaders
MSCG	Multi-Sectoral Coordination Group
NSC	National Steering Committee
PDV	Prevention of Domestic Violence

- PME** Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation
- PSS** Psycho-social Support
- RC** Resident Coordinator
- RUNOs** Recipient UN Organizations
- SGBV** Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
- SPT** Spotlight Programme for Tajikistan
- VAWG** Violence against Women and Girls
- VSR** Victim Support Rooms
- WRO** Women's Rights Organizations

Executive Summary

The Spotlight Programme in Tajikistan (SPT) was successfully implemented in 2022 jointly with government counterparts and civil society organizations (CSOs). Most of the activities planned for the remaining of Phase I and the beginning of Phase II were effectively and efficiently implemented.

In 2022, the SPT benefited from strategic level advice, under the leadership of the United Nations Resident Coordinator, who has successfully steered the activities of the SPT. The monthly coordination meeting, chaired by the Resident Coordinator and attended by the heads of the recipient United Nations organisations (RUNOs), continued during the reporting period and proved to be very effective. Supported by the Coordination Unit, the four RUNOs jointly collaborated in the spirit of working and delivering as One UN.

The engagement and partnership with the European Union Delegation (EUD) has further improved. The line of communication established with the EUD at both senior and technical levels ensured the uninterrupted flow of information through the provision of monthly updates on programme and communication plans. The SPT briefed the newly appointed EU Ambassador on programme achievements and plans and benefited from the participation of the EU Ambassador at a number of high-level programmatic and visibility events.

Partnership with the Civil Society Reference Group (CSRG) was further enhanced in 2022. The CSRG, as a key partner, continued their efforts advocating and bringing the voices of the right holders to the attention of the government, development partners and donors. During the reporting year, a new Chair and co-Chair were selected in October 2022. The CSRG advised the SPT team on key issues, suggested corrective strategies and provided substantial support to the SPT during Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation (PME) exercises, ensuring no one is left behind. They have also been very critical during the Phase II proposal development process and Mid-term Assessment.

Close partnership with the SPT national government counterpart, the Committee on Women and Family Affairs (CoWFA), was significant. The engagement of CoWFA was instrumental in the acceleration of programme delivery, ensuring uninterrupted implementation of the programme and engagement of government counterparts in different interventions. CoWFA was supportive, jointly with the SPT team, in the organization of several key high-level programmatic and communication events, ensuring the participation of high-level government officials. Its support was also critical in getting the Phase II approval by the government in the shortest period of time.

The proposal for SPT Phase II was completed in 2022 following a participatory development process. The proposal was built largely on activities implemented within Phase I. A consultative approach was applied during the design of Phase II. It involved all relevant stakeholders from the government, Civil Society National or Regional Reference Group (CSRG), EU, RUNOs and other development partners. The CSRG members represented the voices of the rights holders in the development of Phase II. Representatives of CSOs specialized in working with different types of marginalized groups were also consulted, in line with the principles of leaving no one behind. CoWFA, jointly with the SPT team, organized a joint validation workshop, where the Phase II proposal was discussed and approved by all partners.

In 2022, the programme conducted a Mid-term Assessment (MTA) by an external party, directly hired and managed by the Spotlight Initiative Secretariat, as part of the contractual obligation with

the EU. The purpose of the assessment was to assess the progress and performance of the SPT as it was reaching the end of Phase I. Despite the delay in the programme start and its impact on the programme implementation, the findings of the MTA report are mostly positive. Out of 13 criteria against which the SPT was assessed, 10 criteria were rated good or very good and only 3 rated as needing further improvement. The recommendations were incorporated in the design of the Phase II proposal. In addition, the SPT drafted a MTA Management Response Plan, which will address the recommendations and will be further populated in 2023. The final MTA report for Tajikistan was approved by the Global Operational Steering Committee in October 2022.

The SPT has no doubt been successful both in terms of programme interventions as well as promoting inter-agency collaboration working as One UN, as part of United Nations development reform. During the Global Learning Symposium in September 2022 in Cancun, Mexico, programmes were recognized for their achievements in promoting the key principles and objectives of the Spotlight Initiative and personnel achievements within the programme. Ms. Diana Ismailova, RUNO staff member, received an Achievement Award for her efforts in contributing to establishing close links with the Regional Spotlight Programme and Regional Civil Society networks and alliances. The SPT was also among the five top programmes nominated for two awards - Fortitude and Leave No One Behind, which is a great achievement given the late start, delays in the implementation and issues resulting from the changing context in which the programme operates.

Key Results

■ Outcome I: Laws and Policies:

- **Review and Analysis of the Legislation and Policies** of Tajikistan affecting Sexual and Gender-based Violence Against Women and Girls (SGBV) with a focus on their alignment with International standards in five sectors (justice, security, health, education and labour) is finalized and recommendations were elaborated based on the findings of the analysis and promoted during the high-level National Conference on Legislation Review in June 2023;
- **Evidence-based recommendations** from the above analysis of existing national policies on GBV and international standards are provided were communicated to the governmental subgroup under the CoWFA on Improvement of Legal Acts on the Elimination of Gender Stereotypes;
- **Six District Development Programme** were advanced with priority prevention and response measures to combat SGBV at district levels;
- **Four public consultations** in Dushanbe, Khatlon, Sughd and District of Republican Subordination measured the progress of the current National Action Plan and the State programme for the Prevention of Domestic Violence. Recommendations on key analysis, gaps, suggestions were submitted to the decision-making authorities;
- **Some 500 state officials and CSO representatives were sensitized** on legislative and policy development processes, including both the executive and legislative branch, on gender equality and the prevention of and response to violence.

■ Outcome II: Institutions:

- Five ministries and state agencies elaborated and adopted **internal bylaws** on receiving

and addressing complaints coming from children, including on SGBV issues;

- A **working group** was established under the Ombudsman's Office to remove legislative barriers for children to appeal to state institutions directly;
- **CoWFA adopted a Gender Mainstreaming Strategy** to increase the number of women in decision-making positions in state institutions¹ who are competent in the prevention of violence against women and girls for the period up to 2030;
- **Gender-sensitive education programmes** for violence-prosecuting institutions have been adopted and institutionalized through the Training Centre of the Supreme Court, Ministries of Justice and Internal Affairs/Academy. Four examples include: programme empowerment of women in the security sector and Women Police Inspectors to prevent and respond to SGBV: Guideline on increasing gender sensitivity in the security sector; Gender-sensitive curriculum for judiciary sector officials, and Methodological guide for state lawyers on provision of legal assistance;
- **Multisectoral cooperation** in addressing violence against women and girls (VAWG) was strengthened by facilitating national, regional and district round tables and exchange visits, e.g., a regional multisectoral coordination group and a knowledge exchange study tour to Uzbekistan;
- A **strategy for cooperation** and contribution with the Committee on Religious Affairs and Regulations of Traditions, Celebrations and Ceremonies on the prevention of domestic violence was developed and approved;
- Capacity was improved for 270 **male religious leaders** to prevent SGBV and to incorporate tools to end domestic violence into their religious community work;
- **Legal representation** during investigation and court cases was provided to support 12 children (9 girls and 3 boys) aged 4 to 15 years who were survivors of sexual crimes.

■ Outcome III: Prevention:

- **Knowledge** on SGBV/Violence Against Children (VAC), on how to prevent and respond to potential cases, as well as how and who to approach with complaints was gained by 17,796 local community members, teachers, children and parents (1,578 female, 456 male, 8,381 girls and 7,381 boys);
- **Complaint mechanisms** on VAC/SGBV have been established and are functional in 45 schools in target districts, which are accessible to 94,888 people (3,062 female, 954 male, 44,448 girls and 46,424 boys);
- **Guidelines for Journalists** were developed on gender-sensitive media reporting on SGBV cases. In related results, 106 representatives (49 women) of mass media strengthened their understanding of gender sensitivity, survivor-centred approaches and the use of gender-sensitive language. Also, 43 best gender-sensitive and survivor-centred media products were published on the websites local television channels, social media and newspapers with about 300,000 subscribers;
- The existing **Healthy Lifestyle Curriculum** for grades 10–11 was updated and approved by the Ministry of Education and Science with the inclusion of issues related to GBV/SGBV. 90 teachers from the SPT target districts' schools increased their knowledge on

¹ Supreme Court, Ministry of Justice, Ministry for Internal Affairs, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Attorney Office, Ombudsman

the updated curriculum as a result of the extended Training of Trainers;

- Violence prevention skills, income-generating methods and transformative change of attitude towards VAWG gained during **Gender Action Learning System (GALS) trainings** were utilized by 1,050 community members;
- A total of 7,529 (4,527 women) community members including local activists, youth, people with disabilities, women living with HIV, and local government representatives **increased awareness on gender-equitable norms** and SGBV prevention and protection services;
- 36 communities adopted **community mobilization action plans** with involvement of local activists, young women and men, women and men with disabilities, women living with HIV and local governments. The plans were implemented in all six project target areas;
- **Social media competitions** supported by SPT reached more than 1 million people with participation of influencers, e.g., “Healthy Family” and “We Stand for Gender Equality”. Participants submitted more than 52 videos challenging traditional social and gender norms and promoting positive masculinity and healthy lifestyle/sexual and reproductive health.

■ Outcome IV: Services:

- **Psychological and legal support** was provided to 124 women with different forms of disabilities, representing 20.2 per cent of those who sought help. Help was sought by 611 citizens subjected to violence, including 563 women (92.1 per cent) and 48 girls under the age of 18 (7.9 per cent) as well as three men;
- The staff of seven **Medical Forensic Expertise Departments** and six CSOs have applied the new knowledge they have gained during trainings in their daily work on procedures to address the special needs of women and girls with disabilities during SGBV investigation;
- **Capacity development** to prevent, identify, assess and respond to cases of violence against children was provided to 72 local service providers (58 women and 14 men). Another 70 caregivers (53 women and 17 men) enhanced their knowledge on how to provide care and support children in a safe and protective family environment;
- Knowledge, **skills and business economic opportunities** were expanded for 126 women and girls who are survivors of violence, and 20 survivors received mini-grants to run their own businesses; 57 women and girls affected by SGBV, including women with disabilities and women with disabled children were employed (new jobs) from the same region;
- Management of **the Hotline 1313 system** was handed over from CSOs to CoWFA to ensure sustainability. The hotline provided quality legal and psychological counselling to 2,708 SGBV survivors through phone and in-person consultations;
- A total of 600 women (11 girls) subjected to SGBV received **free legal primary and secondary counselling**;
- Knowledge on identification of GBV/SGBV cases, national legislation and rights of SGBV survivors, provision of quality medical and psychological services and referral mechanisms was increased for 135 **health professionals**;

- Free **professional counselling on family planning** and reproductive health was provided via the Mobile Health Fairs to 2,100 women and girls of reproductive age. Topics included prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections, contraceptives and pre-conception counselling and management, cervical cancer prevention and gender-based/domestic violence;
- Quality health, psychological and referral services were provided to 48 female survivors of GBV at the **Victim Support Rooms** established under Ministry of Health in SPT target districts.

■ Outcome 5: Data:

- 10 targeted CSOs and Women's Crisis Centres from the six SPT target districts dealing with SGBV cases have improved their skills and technical capacity in **harmonized case registration** through specially tailored training, testing and use of the newly developed e-information system for case registration;
- A unified **technical strategy for the implementation of the e-system** with recommendations on improvements to ensure good practices was developed, based on the technical, and functional requirements in cooperation with the national consultant and the members of the multisectoral technical working group. The strategy also includes a cost assessment for the e-system creation/adaptation.

■ Outcome 6: CSOs, Women's Movement:

- Os representing diverse beneficiaries and vulnerable groups joined the **new network** "Life Without Violence". The Memorandum of Understanding and CSO Strategy aims to lead to transformative behaviour and attitude change around VAWG;
- 10 CSOs contributed to addressing SGBV by focusing on **women with disabilities**, children, women living with HIV and women and girls from low-income communities. The CSOs also engaged formal and informal community influencers through received micro-grants;
- Knowledge was improved for 100 women with disabilities in Yovon, Rudaki and Vose on where to receive help in case of violence and on the rights of people with disabilities through five **training sessions for women with disabilities**;
- **Mini-projects implemented within the CSO Strategy** empowered 1,100 citizens of target communities to challenge negative social norms and harmful practices;
- 155 CSO representatives working with women living with disabilities, women living with HIV and women from low-income communities participated in **capacity development on key topics** such as the Project Cycle, Monitoring and Evaluation, and Fundraising, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), human rights principles and reporting procedures.

Contextual Shifts and Implementation Status

The Lower Chamber (Majlisi Namoyandagon) of Parliament adopted the Law on Equality and Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination (**Law on Discrimination**), which came into force on 22 July 2022. The Law is a great achievement for the country in the field of human rights protection. The

Law on Discrimination was developed as part of the National Action Plan for implementing the recommendations of the UN Human Rights Council member states in accordance with the Universal Periodic Review (second cycle) procedure for 2017–2020. The aim was to develop a separate law for the comprehensive fight against discrimination and to improve other laws. The Law on Discrimination defines the organizational and legal framework for the implementation of equal rights and opportunities for everyone in Tajikistan, prevention, regulation and establishment of effective protection against any forms of discrimination.

For the first time, the bill introduces new concepts such as: discrimination (Article 1), direct and indirect discrimination (Article 5), sexual harassment (Article 6), segregation or the forced separation of people into racial, ethnic or other groups in everyday life (Article 8) and protection from victimization (a social process in which a person becomes a victim of a crime (Article 10) and others.

In October 2022, the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights published its findings on Tajikistan. The Committee considered the fourth periodic report of Tajikistan at its 45th and 46th meetings, held on 5 October 2022, and adopted the present concluding observations at its 60th meeting, held on 14 October 2022. The Committee welcomed the adoption of the Act on Equality and Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination, which came into force on 22 July 2022.

Although this Law prohibits discrimination based on “other circumstances”, the Committee expressed concern about its ineffective implementation when it comes to discrimination not expressly included in the Law, such as discrimination based on criminal records or on sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression (Article 2). The Committee recognized the State party’s efforts to address gender-based violence, particularly domestic violence; however, the Committee remains concerned that various forms of gender-based violence against women, including domestic violence, are still prevalent in the country. The Committee expressed concern about impunity, protection gaps in legislation, weakness in the criminal justice system and the failure of the authorities to address the situation in a systematic manner (Article 3).

The Committee recommended the State party to: (a) adopt comprehensive legislation to criminalize all forms of gender-based violence, including domestic violence, marital rape and sexual assault within and outside marriage; (b) ensure that all reports of gender-based violence against women are investigated and that those responsible are prosecuted and punished; (c) provide the necessary training and capacity-building programmes to law enforcement officials and run awareness-raising campaigns for the general public; and (d) ensure that victims have access to all the services necessary, such as shelters, medical and psychosocial care, legal assistance and socioeconomic support.

In July 2022, the Parliament of the Republic of Tajikistan, following a number of resonating cases of sexual violence against children (especially girls in the period 2020–2022), adopted several amendments to the existing Criminal Code that toughen punishment on sexual abuse/violence against children. At the same time, the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan is continuing its work on the development of the new draft Criminal Code. **The introduced changes are the result of joint advocacy work by civil society, local activists and the Spotlight team** that reflects state acknowledgement of the existence of the problem and demonstration of its zero tolerance towards SGBV and its commitment to protect children, especially girls, from SGBV. With the adoption of the new changes, SGBV prevention work is taken to a new higher level in the country as a priority issue, which will enhance further implementation of the SPT.

In February 2022, the start of the war in Ukraine and international sanctions on the Russian Federa-

tion negatively impacted the economic situation in Tajikistan. Remittances from Russia account for 30 per cent of Tajikistan's gross domestic product and the economic shock was felt acutely by the women and families of labour migrants living in Tajikistan. The economic rehabilitation phase has longer-term effects on women and girls. The response therefore requires a timely gender-specific support policy.

A series of sporadic border clashes resumed between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Although the border conflict was concluded with a peace deal in September 2022, the security situation remains unpredictable. **The conflict has affected the work of the SPT in Isfara District, and nearby territories of B. Gafurov District**, two of the six target districts, and most activities were delayed subject to the security situation. While the SPT had no full access to the conflict-affected territories during the most part of the reporting period, the programme will intensify its work in those areas in the next reporting period.

The UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) is a joint document setting out the national development priorities between the Government of Tajikistan and the UN in Tajikistan for the period of 2023–2026. The UNSDCF was signed by the Prime Minister of Tajikistan H.E. Mr. Kokhir Rasulzoda and the UN Resident Coordinator in Tajikistan Ms. Sezin Sinanoglu, in the presence of the UN Deputy Secretary-General Ms. Amina Mohammad.

Deputy Secretary-General Mohammad met with the SPT key partners and beneficiaries from different Spotlight interventions during her visit to Tajikistan to attend the Water Conference hosted by the Government of Tajikistan. She participated in a field visit to one of the SPT target districts of Rudaki, District of Republican Subordination, where she visited a Mobile Health Fair that was designed and launched in partnership with SPT and the Ministry of Health and Social Protection and the Committee of Women and Family Affairs. The DSG directly interacted with medical staff and women beneficiaries. At the meeting with beneficiaries and implementing partners (IPs) of different Spotlight interventions. She also met with some activists who took part in the School of Gender Activists, local community leaders, leaders of small women-led NGOs and journalists and bloggers discussing the impact the SPT had on them and their communities, their work and the ongoing challenges faced by communities and CSOs in ending violence against women and girls (EVAWG).

Implementation Progress by Outcome Area

Spotlight Initiative – Outcome areas	Implementation progress as of 31 Dec 2022*
Outcome 1: Legal and Policy Framework	81.81%
Outcome 2: Institutions	85.38%
Outcome 3: Prevention and Norm Change	105.55%
Outcome 4: Quality Services	95.83%
Outcome 5: Data	18.65%
Outcome 6: Women's Movement	90.37%
TOTAL	88.86%

**For the purpose of this report, only the percentage of expenditure from the programme start to 31 December 2022, against the budget for each outcome, from Phase I budget are presented.*

Programme Governance and Coordination

a) Civil Society Reference Group (CSRG)

The composition and structure of the National Steering Committee (NSC) for the reporting period remained unchanged. Details on the composition, role and responsibilities of the NSC can be accessed [here](#).

The second NSC meeting was held on 5 August 2022. Participants included NSC members, members of the Civil Society Reference Group and representatives of other relevant line ministries, including the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Labour, Committee of Religion, Regulation of Traditions, Celebration and Ceremonies, Committee of Youth, Agency of Statistics, Supreme Court and Ombudsman Office, as well as UN agencies.

As the highest governance structure of the SPT, the NSC, during the reporting period, provided strategic leadership and oversight to the programme by approving the annual report for 2021, the Phase II proposal and annual work plan. Once the annual work plan was approved, most of the work was done at the technical level of the line ministries, the UN, and the EU. The SPT has closely worked with CoWFA, as the Chair of NSC to enable uninterrupted programme implementation.

The NSC meeting opened with welcoming and introductory remarks by the Chair of CoWFA, the UN Resident Coordinator and EU Ambassador, followed by brief presentations on the 2021 annual report, Phase II proposal and the Annual Work Plan 2022-2023. NSC members approved Phase II of Spotlight Programme in Tajikistan and the Annual Work Plan 2022–2023.



Photo 1: Second National Steering Committee Meeting, 5 August 2022

The meeting was productive and lively. The EU Ambassador thanked all for a very constructive and lively discussion, stating that she appreciated the open and constructive discussion. During the discussions, there were also a number of suggestions made by the Chair of CoWFA, the Resident Coordinator and the EU Ambassador for effective implementation of the programme. Both the Resident Coordinator and the EU Ambassador called on the government to take a more prominent role, ensuring ownership of the programme moving forward. They urged the government, jointly with the SPT team, to start looking into the programme's sustainability and resource mobilization, including allocating resources from the national budget to sustain some of the successful interventions. Detailed minutes with key recommendations of the second National Steering Committee meeting and list of participants are available [here](#).

This was the last NSC meeting of the EU Ambassador. The Chair of the NSC, the Resident Coordinator and Chair of the CSRG, on behalf of the Spotlight Initiative team, expressed deep gratitude to the EU Ambassador for her personal contribution to the approval and successful implementation of the Spotlight Initiative and her efforts and support from the start and throughout the implementation of the Spotlight Initiative in the Republic of Tajikistan.

b) Civil Society Reference Group (CSRG)

The SPT team continued its close engagement with the permanent CSRG. During the reporting year, the composition and number of CSRG remained the same. The permanent CSRG is composed of 10 people: nine women and one man, all with extensive experience in gender equality in general and ending VAWG in particular. See the short briefs on [the members of the Civil Society Reference Group of Tajikistan and their areas of expertise](#).

National geographic balance is maintained on the CSRG, with at least one representative from each of the SPT target districts. The group also represents the right holders in the CSRG and strictly adheres to the Leave No One Behind (LNOB) principle and unites representatives of women's rights movement, youth networks, advocates and leaders of marginalized groups, representatives of disability rights groups, grass roots organizations, and men and boys working on gender equality and ending VAWG.

CSRG engagement with the RUNOs and with the programme significantly improved during the reporting period. CSRG members appreciated the close engagement and praised their collaboration and partnership with the SPT and overall with the UN. A dedicated budget was allocated to support the CSRG operations and work plan implementation in 2022. The cost mainly covered monitoring visits to project sites, translation services, access to Internet services, purchase of stationery for group members, and to support design and printing services for CSRG products.

During the design process of the Phase II proposal, the RUNOs reached out to the CSRG both formally and informally and sought their input and recommendations for Phase II. Several recommendations were then incorporated into the Phase II proposal, while others that suggested new activities and geographic locations were not considered, given the short period of implementation for Phase II and lengthy consultation and approval processes on the Government side. The CSRG also attended the verification workshop for Phase II, organized in April, jointly with the relevant Government line ministries, RUNOs, IPs, EU and RUNOs.

In 2022, the CSRG was very actively engaged beyond the SPT level: advising the Spotlight Initiative; advocating with the government and other CSOs on reaching all women and girls, including

those who face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination; and partnering with the RUNOs for realization of the programme objectives. The group also strengthened a connection at the regional level, through the Regional Spotlight Programme, representing Tajikistan in the CSOs network. The CSRG also contributed technically to drafting of the terms of reference (ToR) for creating a Regional Alliance that envisions bringing together governments, parliamentarians, CSOs, academia, media, youth, development partners, donors and the UN to share the common goal of eliminating VAWG.

CSRG participation in local and international meetings and events online and offline is also to be commended. CSRG members shared their experience in engaging with the country programme, reflecting on lessons learned and suggesting key recommendations to consider for future joint programmes. The CSRG members also attended local and regional meetings as experts, providing expert opinions on topics relevant to VAWG, GBV/SGBV etc. One of the CSRG members also attended the Regional Spotlight Programme PME meeting as an expert and shared the do-s and don't-s on participatory monitoring and evaluation.

The SPT continued sharing the quarterly Calendar of Events with relevant government line ministries, CSRG and the EU to encourage participation in programmatic and communication activities. CSRG members attended key events for programme and communication and provided inputs and shared expertise.

As reported in 2021, four members of the CSRG (Azimjon Saifiddinov, Larisa Aleksandrova, Nargis Kasymova and Iroda Babadjanova) were selected as members of PME, representing the rights holders. At the second meeting of the CSRG, which took place on 29 January, the timeline for the PME monitoring visits was discussed and agreed upon. The monitoring visits took place from February to June, and as a result a narrative report with key lessons learned and recommendations was submitted to the SPT. More details on the monitoring visits by the CSRG are provided under the PME section.

The CSRG members actively participated in online and offline interviews with the mid-term assessment, providing feedback on their engagement and partnerships with the SPT. As per the MTA findings, a good feedback mechanism was established by the SPT and views of CSRG were often considered when promoting the interests of less-protected groups. Selection and work of the CSRG in the SPT is exemplary: it adheres to the LNOB principle with representatives from different geographical areas, women's rights organizations, youth networks, advocates and leaders of marginalized groups (such as people with HIV), disabilities' rights groups, men and boys working on changing gender-based stereotypes and on EVAWG. As per MTA, most stakeholders estimated that the CSRG is involved to a great extent in implementation and monitoring of the programme. Many CSRG members were consulted on specific aspects of their expertise: rights of women with disabilities, abandoned migrants' wives, prevention of sexual violence against children and inter-sectoral cooperation.

The CSRG will continue its role within the network of "Life Without Violence". Similar structures have been created within other joint programmes and some of the members of this group are also members of those advisory groups. The CSRG welcomed the structure and composition of this group and encouraged memberships of more male colleagues.

During the reporting period, the CSRG have also reviewed and commented on a number of programmatic and communication related products. They have actively participated and commented

on the Behaviour Change Communication Strategy, which was adopted by CoWFA. The group reviewed implementation of the Action Plan for the State Programme of the Republic of Tajikistan on the Prevention of Domestic Violence for 2014–2023, reviewing the achievements, identifying gaps and highlighting recommendations that need to be addressed in the new Plan. In preparation of the Alternative Report on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the recommendations of the UN Committee on CEDAW, the CSRG organized a number of meetings and discussions of the current situation with both the public and the state sectors. To a lesser extent, the CSRG members were producing their own materials; however, in the next reporting cycle, it is anticipated that the CSRG members will develop brief policy notes in their areas of work.

Several other working meetings were facilitated and organized during the reporting period. At the CSRG's meeting 21 April 2022, the group's Work Plan for 2022 was adopted, and a brief overview was presented of the adopted Laws, Strategies and State Programmes in the field of gender policy in 2021. On 12 October 2022, a coordination meeting of the RUNOs and members of the CSRG was held, which included discussion of the activities of the CSRG, gaps and achievements. A new Chair (Guljahon Bobosadykova) and co-chair (Shahlo Abdunabizoda) were elected by voting of members of the CSRG for the period of October 2022 to October 2023.

During the international campaign on 16 Days of Activism against GBV, members of the CSRG interacted with UN agencies, state and public organizations to conduct a large-scale information campaign. Members of the CSRG took part in preparing and holding of a number of informational campaigns, round table discussions and engagement with youth activists in target districts and Dushanbe.

c) Inter-Agency Coordination, Technical Committees and Other Governance Mechanisms

The SPT continued its close engagement with the UN Gender Thematic Group, the entity that brings together UN organizations, international and national NGOs and National Women's Machinery, a key inter-agency coordination mechanism on gender equality. The SPT used this platform to leverage the programme, and updated members on key results and services it is providing to key line ministries, service providers and communities at large. The SPT also used these forums to disseminate information on the knowledge products that are developed within the programme for the use of other stakeholders in their target areas.

The SPT also played a key role in coordinating planned communication and visibility activities with the wider group of the UN Gender Thematic Group at country level during International Women's Day and the global campaign on 16 Days of Activism against GBV. Several high-level events were organized with participation of the relevant line ministries, EU, CSRG, RUNOs, CSOs and development partners. More details on this are provided under the Communication and Visibility section of this report.

The SPT team contributed substantially to discussions during the drafting and finalization process of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF). RUNOs ensured that gender equality and women's empowerment is well reflected in the cooperation framework. Several graduates from the School of Gender Activists were also engaged in lobbying related recommendations on mandatory components on intersecting forms of discrimination against women, girls

and vulnerable groups are considered by the UNSDCF.

Women and girls, as beneficiaries of UN programmes, including SPT, will be empowered as part of the new UNSDCF for the period 2023–2026. In the UNSDCF, women’s empowerment and elimination of violence against women components are placed under Outcome 4: People-centred governance and rule of law. That is a positive sign, as this outcome focuses on a wider number of sectors to which all agencies and state bodies will contribute.

In addition, the RUNOs have established a well-functioning technical SPT team that taps into the different RUNOs’ areas of expertise where possible, instead of engaging external consultancy services. The SPT has set up a strategic and technical level mechanism that has been successful in overseeing and coordinating the programme implementation.

Regular monthly Coordination meetings are chaired by the Resident Coordinator and attended by the four Heads of RUNOs, technical focal points, M&E and Communication Task Force members, and the Coordination Unit. Engagement at this high level is to ensure that the Resident Coordinator and Heads of RUNOs are up-to-date on programme progress and provide the team guidance on issues pertaining to strategic-level decisions. It also ensures agencies coordinate their work and demonstrate commitment to the implementation of the programme. This strategic set up is well aligned with the UN Development System reform, as all UN agencies are under the overall coordination of the Resident Coordinator. The Resident Coordinator effectively steers and oversees the action, which was also highly rated by respondents during the mid-term assessment (92 per cent). The engagement and support of the Heads of RUNOs to the SPT was also assessed as high (87 per cent).

Bi-weekly technical meetings, bringing together the RUNOs technical focal points, Coordination Unit, Resident Coordinator’s Office and Communication officer, address most of the programmatic issues and solutions. The Coordination Unit also updates the team on the latest developments and key areas of focus, solicits ideas for joint interventions, and follows-up on any action points raised during the Coordination meeting. Coordination and cooperation between the RUNOs, the Coordination Unit and the Resident Coordinator’s Office is very productive and strong, which was also rated as very good (82 per cent) by respondents during the mid-term assessment. This very productive collaboration is described by the RUNOs as a motivating factor.

Finally, as in previous years, the SPT team continued the new way of working under the UN Reform. The team coordinated across RUNOs to produce a joint annual work plan implemented via a “One UN interface”. The RC-led team engaged with existing and prospective partners at a strategic level, while the SPT Coordinator engaged at a technical level. This approach ensured that partners collaborate with the Spotlight Initiative as opposed to individual RUNOs, thereby facilitating coherence and collaboration in programming, furthering inter-agency coordination, and better supporting the visibility of the Spotlight Initiative.

d) Use of UN Reform Inter-Agency Tools

For operational efficiency, the RUNOs continued relying on each other given the accelerated way of delivering the programme in 2022. This included piggybacking on Long-term Agreements (LTAs) of agencies, which saved time and energy in selecting reliable service providers.

Also, while selecting a CSO for implementation of the SPT activities, RUNOs considered micro-as-

assessments conducted by other UN Agencies as per UN Reform inter-agency-tools along with Partner Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) capacity assessments. For example, in response to the Calls for Proposals, a high number of project proposals from national and local CSOs were received. As part of the CSOs evaluation process, the related RUNO conducts several types of evaluations, including technical and financial evaluation of the project proposals and risk-based capacity assessment of the organization itself (i.e. risks related to the capacity of Responsible Partners, such as technical, governance, financial and administrative). In cases where the CSO had passed such an assessment conducted by another UN Agency in the past 5 years, and the result was “low” risk rate, this risk-based capacity assessment report can be used by the hiring UN Agency to ease and speed-up the partner contracting process. The SPT considered these micro-assessments, which substantially saved time around CSO contracting procedures.

The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) PSEA Task Force is working on the Standard Operating Procedure on Community-based Complaint Mechanisms on PSEA. However, it should be noted that the outcomes of the work of the SPT set the baseline, including established partnerships in the district-level referral pathway to strengthen services for SGBV survivors, hotline and school complaint mechanisms. These mechanisms can also be leveraged to establish community-based mechanisms on PSEA.

In 2022, the SPT improved coordination and collaboration with the Regional Spotlight Programme. The programme held a retreat from 31 May to 1 June 2022 to take stock of the accomplishments achieved during Phase I and identify strategic priorities for Phase II. During the retreat, participants focused on regional challenges and solutions, ensuring synergies between Spotlight Initiative proposals of Phase II and Spotlight Country Programmes in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. Several suggestions were made towards better leveraging the comparative advantage of countries in terms of legislation, data and working with the CSOs. The SPT also emphasized the need to focus more on strategic-level issues of the region. The SPT team shared their experience and lessons learned from the PME exercise. They also shared a list of knowledge management products that could be used as a resource by the regional team.

The Agora online training platform containing modules and source files of the course on PSEA as well as materials on gender and SGBV continued to be a valuable tool for all, including RUNOs and non-Spotlight UN Agencies, for capacity development purposes.

Programme Partnerships

a) Government

The SPT continues to engage with the highest level of government, the office of the Deputy Prime Minister through the CoWFA during the reporting period. The Deputy Prime Minister had strategic level engagement in the SPT, reviewing the 2021 SPT annual report, attending the National Conference on Legislation and approving the Phase II proposal on behalf of the Government. The SPT continued its regular contacts with the senior management and technical staff of CoWFA, as the designated National Coordinator for implementation of the Spotlight joint programme, and other key government agencies.

The SPT has also established cooperation with the Executive Office of the President’s Legal Department to review current legislation related to SGBV/VAC to enable children, especially girls; to

report directly to state institutions without age limitation; to oblige public institutions to consider those appeals coming from girls and boys as a matter of priority; and to fully ban corporal punishment. Establishment of the new partnership moves programme implementation as well as advocacy for SGBV survivors and sensitization of policymakers to a new, higher level.

On 22 April, CoWFA, jointly with the SPT, conducted the Phase II verification workshop at CoWFA, where relevant line ministries, CSRG members, RUNO technical staff and EU representatives were in attendance. The SPT team made the presentation of the key outlines of the proposal, working modalities and planned interventions during Phase II. Participants engaged in a very constructive discussion and a number of suggestions and recommendations were made. Where relevant and feasible, the suggestions were incorporated into the Phase II proposal.

On 25 November, a joint visit to the SPT target district Yovon was organized at the suggestion of the UN RC and support of the Chair of CoWFA. The joint visit brought together the chair of the CoWFA, UN RC, EU Ambassador, Chair of the CSRG, heads of the RUNOs, technical staff of relevant line ministries and RUNOs, and members of the CSRG from Dushanbe. They were received and accompanied by the Governor of the Yovon District and head of CoWFA Department in Yovon. During the joint visit, the delegation visited a number of programmatic sites and met with the beneficiaries of different SPT interventions.

During the reporting period, the SPT with the support of CoWFA organized round table workshops in three out of six SPT target districts: Yovon, Gissar and Rudaki. The objective was to further foster national ownership, and better ensure the sustainability of the programme's contributions beyond the programme's duration, as one of the MTA recommendations. The list of participants, workshop presentation and dissemination materials can be accessed [here](#). The round table workshop participants were from among the local and national level line ministries, CSRG, IPs, beneficiaries and RUNO staff. During the workshops, the SPT team made a presentation on the Theory of Change of the programme (as per the MTA recommendation), achieved results and past and future interventions. Also, during the workshop, it was ensured that all are aware of the Victim Support Rooms, and the referral mechanism pathways developed within the programme. The presented information was well received by participants, and participants engaged in constructive discussions. In 2023, the SPT will organize similar round table workshops in the remaining three districts.

b) Civil Society

The SPT team continued engagement with the CSOs identified in the previous reporting cycle and also initiated new processes of engagement with new CSOs (for more details, see Annex C on CSO Engagement). From the start of the programme, the SPT has engaged **20 CSOs** as IPs in total. Out of the 20 CSOs, 15 are women-led and/or women's rights organizations. There are 18 existing partners and two new partners. One is international, one is regional and 17 are national level partners. There is one from the grass roots level. The CSOs are working under Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6.

During the reporting period the SPT has continued working with the IPs selected in 2020 and 2021 as well as selected new IPs in 2022. Most of the CSOs have previous positive working experience with multiple UN agencies. The IPs were selected based on their proven experience on different objectives of the SPT, including but not limited to developing service providers' capacity on alternative family care with a focus on violence-free, safe and protective family environments. Additional objectives included psychological support to SGBV survivors, work with young people especially girls, work with women and girls, work with people living with disabilities and HIV, as well as work

with mothers-in-laws and daughters-in-law and community influencers.

As a continuation of previous years good practices, the SPT has worked with the PO Legal Initiative, a women-led organization, that has extensive experience on the provision of legal aid to children, especially girl survivors of sexual violence, as well as policy advocacy based on the analysis of cases on sexual violence. This led to amendments to the Criminal Code during the reporting period and opened discussion with the policymakers on amending other legislative pieces to provide a better enabling environment for children to appeal directly to state institutions.

The SPT worked with local CSO Hayot dar Oila to build the capacity of the service providers and caregivers to support families. This involved close consultation and cooperation with the Local Commission on Child Rights and service providers at the local level to sustain support children and their caregivers.

The SPT partnered with local PO AFIF (health and social portfolio) as a new partner in 2022 and its local partner, the PO Association of Women with Disabilities or “Ishtirok”. The work focused on the issues of improvement of access of services for women and girls with different types of disability, training, capacity building, and equipping medical forensic services and relevant women’s CSOs. During this partnership, the SPT made available a guide (memo) developed by PO AFIF and PO Ishtirok for CSOs, Women’s Crisis Centres, and Medical Forensic Expertise on rendering services to women and girls living with disability in case of VAW investigation. The guide served as a contribution to implementation of a Disability Policy by the UNCT of Tajikistan. The information was also shared with the UNCT Disability Advisor in the specially tailored UN Agencies’ survey, and with United Nations Gender Theme Groups (UN GTG) and other networks.

No considerable challenges or obstacles were faced in partnering with CSOs during the reporting period, and any question raised as an issue was dealt with through dialogue and engagement of all relevant actors.

c) European Union Delegation

The SPT continued its strategic and technical level partnerships and engagement with the EU delegation in 2022. It also strengthened the ongoing consultation and collaboration established with the EU during the previous years of the programme. At all levels, the SPT has established formal and informal opportunities for coordination and exchange of information to ensure that both partners remain on the same page so that they develop joint strategies during their interactions with national stakeholders.

A new focal point for the Spotlight in the EU delegation was assigned. The SPT Coordinator had a number of meetings with the newly appointed focal point for Spotlight to discuss the programme objective, key results and planned activities for the remainder of the programme lifespan, the annual work plan and planned communication and visibility events. The SPT Coordinator, in addition to a very close engagement with the EU focal point for the Spotlight Initiative, provided regular programmatic and communications updates to the EUD colleagues including the Deputy Ambassador and Head of Cooperation, the latter attending the high-level National Conference on Legislation Review on behalf of the EUD. This National Conference was organized within Outcome I of the programme and was attended by highest government officials, including the Deputy Prime Minister, several cabinet ministers and deputy ministers from all of the 16 relevant line ministries and entities with which the SPT works directly.

The EU focal point for Spotlight and a number of other EUD colleagues have been closely engaged in the review process of the Phase II proposal development. Feedback and suggestions were well reflected in the proposal and communicated with the relevant RUNO colleagues and Spotlight Initiative Secretariat. The final proposal was endorsed by the EUD before submitting to the government.

During the reporting period, the SPT also organized a number of social media campaigns promoting social behaviour change among youth and general population. The EUD focal point was part of the selection committee for selecting best video messages reflecting positive parenting and promotion of Healthy Family and Healthy Society and challenging gender-based stereotypes in the communities.

The EUD colleagues have been very supportive and effective in organizing a meeting for the SPT Coordinator jointly with a RUNO representative to meet with the newly appointed EU Ambassador to Tajikistan. The SPT Coordinator provided an overall briefing on the SPT in Tajikistan, its strategic goal at country level, objective of the initiative, achieved results so far and planned activities within Phase II of the programme. The SPT Coordinator also invited the Ambassador to attend a number of programmatic and communication interventions planned within the 16 Days of Activism against GBV campaign and the joint visit to one of the SPT target districts Yovon, outside the capital city.

The EU Ambassador attended the launch of the global campaign on 16 Days of Activism against GBV along with the UN RC, Chair of the CoWFA, Governor of Yovon district, and heads of the RUNOs and technical staff from the relevant line ministries, UN agencies and CSRG. During his speech, the EU Ambassador emphasized the importance of the Spotlight Initiative for the EU, and the special attention EU gives to gender equality and women's empowerment and elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls.

The EU Ambassador also attended the race marathon on RunForHer, Innovation Labs, a round table workshop for all SPT stakeholders, a meeting the SDG-5 ambassadors, and all the interventions organized within the SPT. During an event at the EUD dedicated to the commemoration of the 16 Days of Activism campaign, the EU Ambassador, as a token of appreciation and achievement of the SPT, presented the Spotlight Achievement Award to one of the RUNO staff, who won this award at the Global Learning Symposium in Mexico.

The SPT Communications and Visibility Task Force continued its close coordination with the communications team at the EUD during the reporting period. It agreed on key visibility events to be organized during the global campaign 16 Days of Activism against GBV, and a number of high-level events, including the second National Steering Committee meeting, the National Conference and visibility events. The SPT also continued providing an updated monthly calendar of events to EUD colleagues for their information and participation where relevant.

d) Other Partners and Resource Mobilization

During the reporting period, the SPT partnered with an international NGO, ACTED, that is also implementing a similar project on eliminating violence against women at the regional level. Part of the ACTED programme envisions the creation of a Regional CSOs Network working on issues of gender-based violence and EVAWG and to develop training modules for providing capacity building to government stakeholders. The SPT advised that a CSO network is already established within the Regional Spotlight Programme and encouraged ACTED to join the partnership with the region-

al programme and tap into their resources for sustaining this network after the end of Spotlight, instead of creating another CSO network. The SPT Coordinator introduced the ACTED representative to the Regional Spotlight Programme, after which two ACTED representatives attended the CSO forum organized by the Regional Spotlight Programme in Kazakhstan. In addition, the SPT shared the modules for enhancing capacity of government stakeholders to be used within ACTED interventions with due credit given to the Spotlight Initiative.

The SPT Coordinator, jointly with RUNOs, reached out to number of traditional donors such as USAID, the Swiss Development Cooperation, EU as well as International Financial Institutions such as the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The aim was to demonstrate the wealth of experience, knowledge and products and the comparative advantage of the UN working in a unified way. This showed the intent to further generate knowledge and resources and expand on the knowledge management products, information and systems that have been developed within the lifespan of the programme. Although no firm commitments were made, the World Bank has shown interest in promoting some of the results achieved within the programme to the government for sustainability and continuation. The World Bank gender focal point began a closer consultation with the SPT on gender equality and EVAWG issues.

Results

Capturing Broader Transformations Across Outcomes

The 2022 programme implementation demonstrated better results when grass roots and national-level activities are linked and closely coordinated. For instance, at the national level under Pillar II, the programme was working to establish sound complaint mechanisms under the ministries and agencies to prevent and address SGBV among children and women. At the same time, the programme was working at the grass root level with schools and local communities to establish working/practical complaint mechanisms and to raise awareness of the wider population as well as school children. While the first activity set a legal basis and supported sustainability of the complaint mechanisms via meeting the needs of the population, the second activity provided practical guidance and evidence of what was working well and what shall be changed. Thus, activities taken under the Pillar II supported and reinforcing activities under the Pillar III. Based on the piloting of the complaint mechanisms and sensitization of population on SGBV/VAC, issues at the grass roots level have been reviewed by the national authorities. Internal protocols have been adjusted and sent back to the grass roots level for full scalability of those complaint mechanisms.

The programme has revealed numerous gaps in the current legislation, as noted while setting up complaint mechanisms under six ministries² and agencies and while monitoring and provision of support to victims of sexual violence (to children under age 12). The gaps pertain to children reporting directly to state institutions, and a full ban on corporate punishment that impedes effective complaint mechanisms and protection of SGBV survivors. These gaps were collected and addressed to RUNOs working under the Pillar I of the programme on policy changes to ensure they are covered in the legislation review and key recommendations are made for government action.

A number of CSOs that were selected under different Pillars of the programme participated in training under Pillar VI on gender issues. This has substantially developed the capacity of IPs and

² Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Ministry of Labour, Migration and Employment of Population, Committee on Women and Family Affairs, Ombudsman Office

strengthened the results, as they are using their knowledge while implementing activities under other Pillars. Under Pillar IV, legal services have been provided to survivors of sexual violence, especially girls and boys under the age of 15. Analysis of those cases was conducted during the last reporting period. This analysis has served as an advocacy tool to promote a better protective environment for children and introduction of amendments to the legislation under Pillar I.

The working attitude towards eliminating VAWG is intersectoral and thus inter-connected. Therefore, efforts should continue to be intersectoral to effect the desired transformative change. The achievements under Pillar 3 and 4 would not be successful and maintained should the institutions, capacitated within Pillar 2, not push for amendments to be made to the laws, policies and legislation identified within Pillar 1. The women's movement and CSOs will be restricted in their work until the relevant amendments are approved and a more conducive environment is created for survivor-centred service delivery, relying on evidence-based data collected under Pillar V.

Reporting on the implementation of Participatory Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER)

The SPT established the PME working group consisting of eight people (four CSRG and four CoWFA members) at the end of 2021. In early 2022, the SPT organized a one-day training where the PME members focused on basic M&E skills sets; reviewed the PME guidance, programme document, programme results framework and calendar of events; and agreed on tools and modalities to be used during the monitoring visits. It also provided refresher sessions on what is M&E and what is its role in project management, and determined those short-term benefits that the programme activities should yield and what data should be collected from the field to ensure that the activities yield desired effects. The list of participants, agenda and training material are available [here](#).

Considering that PME looks at results at output, outcome and impact levels, monitoring visits to the field are not restricted to tracking implementation but also highlight the short-term higher-level results and benefits that direct beneficiaries/right holders gain from the implemented activities. Taking into consideration the specific conditions under which the SPT was implemented in the context of Tajikistan, it was agreed the PME working group would focus on higher-level results that activities yield and what are the positive changes made in the lives of the right holders. Since attracting the right holders to the PME working group was very complicated due to technical and logistical issues, it was agreed that the members of the PME working group, those from the CSRG will act as representatives of the right holders. The CSRG is in constant contact with groups/right holders they are representing and protect their interests throughout their participation in SPT interventions. Members from the CoWFA represent the government.

During the reporting period, the PME working group held several joint meetings with the involvement of RUNO Technical Focal Points. Key activities for monitoring visits were selected, including programme interventions conducted for different target groups such as government, CSOs and communities. Overall, 12 activities were selected to conduct PME.

First, the PME working group conducted a desk review and analysed all relevant knowledge products and materials for each selected key activity. The methodology including questions for each activity were developed. Analyses of each activity, methodology and questions are available [here](#).

The field visit was conducted during April-June. For more efficiency, the PME members were divided into three groups based on location, i.e. Sugd, Khatlon and Dushanbe/Districts of Republican Subordinates combined.

The template of the PME report was shared with all PME members in advance. By August, all three PME groups had submitted their reports from the field visits. The template of PME report and submitted report of PME members are available [here](#).

The report highlights some of the key findings, lessons learned and recommendations for the next stage. This kind of participatory monitoring was conducted for the first time in Tajikistan, so there was no cut-and-paste approach to this exercise and the team managed their own way and navigated as they moved ahead. Challenges associated with this exercise are covered in the Challenges and Mitigation section and the lessons learned are covered in more detail under the section on Lessons Learned and New Opportunities.

When the findings of the PME report were presented during the Coordination meeting held on 27 July 2022, the UN Resident Coordinator stated: “Thank you for presenting the findings of the PME report. It is an important exercise even if it didn’t come out perfectly. I really like the idea of PME, and I would suggest we consider using the same approach within the framework of other joint programmes. It would also be useful to use within the UNCT-CSOs engagement strategy as one way of working exercise.”

Capturing Change at Outcome Level

Outcome 1: Legal and Policy Framework

The SPT provided recommendations based on the findings of the analysis of the legislation and policies of Tajikistan affecting SGBV and their alignment with international standards. These recommendations were promoted at the **National Conference on Legislation Review held on 23 June**. The SPT discussed with members of the government working group the improvement of legal acts on elimination of gender stereotypes, protection of women’s rights and prevention of domestic violence under the Executive Office of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan. Additionally, the drafting of evidence-based amendments for identified priority legislations, policies and procedures related to SGBV (with a focus on criminalization of domestic violence), in line with international standards was discussed. This work will be continued in 2023.

Policymakers were provided with evidence-based information, data and facts that had been obtained and analysed during the review of the National Action Plan for the implementation of the State Programme for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (PDV) for 2014–2023. The SPT experts facilitated **four public consultations** held in Dushanbe, Khatlon and Sughd regions and DRS to measure the progress achieved by stakeholders in implementation of the current National Adaptation Plan (NAP) on PDV, and what are the remaining challenges.

As a result of the consultations, the **opinions of 128 specialists** were taken into consideration. The specialists were from line ministries and entities, local governments, the legislative and judicial arms of the government including public prosecutors and attorneys, gender focal points in the

national law enforcement agencies, the government coordination body, CSOs and Women's Crisis Centres. Based on the analysis, a report was made available for stakeholders, UN GTG and implementers of the law on the prevention of domestic violence that outlined achievements, results and recommendation for key areas that require improvement.

The report will serve as a **basis for drafting the new comprehensive NAP and state programme** on prevention and response to all forms of violence against women and girls in 2023. The report includes key achievements and gaps to be bridged in terms of implementing events and activities; capacity of the implementers of the law on violence prevention and response; dissemination of information on the law and the state programme; and the role of the communities. The report also provides recommendations for different clusters of stakeholders for improving the implementation of the NAP and for further development of the new NAP beyond 2023.

The SPT provided a unique opportunity for CSOs to support target districts in organizing the District Development Programmes planning process, integrating SGBV priorities, taking into account the needs of women and girls using an intersectoral approach in the context of an ecological model. Through local CSOs, the SPT supported the district-level technical working groups on development/improvement of the socioeconomic development programmes.

Orientation meetings took place with the heads of local executive public authorities of target districts to organize and agree on the process of developing District Development Plans (DDPs), considering the integration of the priorities of the SGBV. This led to renewed composition of the members of the technical working groups. **Public hearings** were organized to discuss draft DDPs in six target districts, with **224 representatives of the local population** (63 per cent women). The main beneficiaries, including men and women, youth, people with disabilities, women living with HIV, representatives of the local executive government authorities and representatives of civil society and the private sector, contributed in every possible way to the discussions of the public hearing. They actively participated and provided constructive proposals regarding the DDP projects. The bulk of the beneficiaries who participated in public hearings were women, aged 25 to 50 years. As a result, **all six DDPs advanced with gender equality indicators** and priority SGBV prevention and response measures were approved by the local parliaments and are being implemented.

Outcome 2: Institutions

One of the main priorities for the SPT was to strengthen action-oriented institutional accountability and implement an integrated approach that is rights-based, participatory, people-centred, transformative and results-based. The SPT promoted multisectoral, participatory and coordinated work covering all key actors from the executive branch of government, representatives of the local governments, ministries and national and subnational CSOs. This approach was realized by supporting the work of the national, regional and district multisectoral cooperation groups in addressing VAWG issues. The round tables held in Dushanbe, Khujand, B. Ghafurov and Isfara districts provided the multisectoral groups with a platform for exchange of knowledge and progress on SGBV issues, development and implementation of joint work plans as well as coordination of efforts in incorporating VAWG issues into their plans, policies, budgets and activities.

The SPT continued supporting the capacity building of the members of the multisectoral coordination group. It conducted high-level advocacy on institutionalization of this mechanism through facilitating exchange visits with the existing Khatlon regional multisectoral coordination group with participation of the Deputy Chair of Khatlon region. The SPT also conducted a knowledge exchange

study tour for **16 representatives** of the health sector, social protection and law enforcement agencies, the parliament, Office of the President and CoWFA as well as CSRG and CSO representatives. The objective of the study tour was to promote a multi-agency approach to assist survivors of GBV, introduce standard operating procedures and provide short and long-term support for the rehabilitation of survivors of GBV. The study tour provided an opportunity to learn from the experience of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan in creating a system of multisectoral response and prevention of GBV against women and girls, as well as ensuring psychological and social well-being, and access to services for the rehabilitation of survivors of violence. The agenda of the tour included visits to the state-funded shelter for survivors of GBV in Tashkent and NGO-run shelters in Samarkand as well as joint meetings and discussions with key GBV actors, including state agencies and ministries, local authorities and representatives of CSOs.

To build the capacity of Muslim religious leaders on VAWG/SGBV issues, the training module on Islam and Gender was adapted by the Committee of Religious Affairs and Regulations of Traditions, Celebrations and Ceremonies under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan (CRA) with the support of the SPT. **Religious leaders (270 men)** participated in training based on a comprehensive training module for high-level religious officials (province and district Imam khatibs), and a simplified training module for rural religious leaders of community mosques. The modules supported the efforts of religious leaders to incorporate tools to end domestic violence in their religious community work. Eight “Friday Prayer” sessions across all mosques in the country were devoted to the topic of prevention of domestic violence.

The CRA developed and approved an internal **Strategy on cooperation and contribution of the CRA in the prevention of domestic violence**. The strategy was based on the results of the joint work implemented with the SPT since 2020. It outlines the existing legislative framework, challenges and gaps in addressing harmful social norms, and the role of the CRA and religious leaders in prevention of domestic violence. It should be noted that CRA is not indicated as one of the government agencies responsible for implementation of the law on PDV and developing such a strategy was a big step for the institution to create and sustain changes to address VAWG.

Under the auspices of the Commissioner on Children Rights, a **state working group** was established comprised of six ministries and agencies, with the goal to develop complaint mechanisms for children, especially girls who are survivors of SGBV. The working group members, with active participation of CSOs, have elaborated draft complaint mechanisms for their respective ministries, ensuring that these mechanisms are linked to each other. As a result, relevant state institutions have adopted those mechanisms and ensured that all their subordinates are duly informed and use internal protocols.

In 2022, the SPT provided legal support to **12 children (9 girls, 3 boys) survivors of sexual crimes** via legal representation during the investigation and court cases. The ages of the SGBV survivors ranged from 4 to 15 years old. Out of 12 cases, 11 had the perpetrators identified and brought to justice and sentenced to different terms as per the Criminal Code provisions. In one case, the investigation process is ongoing and the SPT is providing legal support and closely monitoring the case. As reported in 2021, based on the cases, the programme has monitored to what extent current legislation is implemented to protect and respond to child abuse, especially sexual abuse. It issued a monitoring report and proposed recommendations on the best ways to ensure rights of SGBV survivors. In 2022, this report served as a tool for advocacy and was presented to the stakeholders. As a result, several amendments to the Criminal Code were introduced in 2022 that protect children

and women survivors of sexual violence from perpetrators. For instance, persons sentenced for committing sexual crimes are permanently banned from working with children (e.g. as a teacher, providers of additional training for children, or anything that envisages interaction with children).

In 2022 the SPT, jointly with CoWFA, tried to ensure that the local authorities and public service providers of target districts are knowledgeable about the integrated response mechanism. The localized referral mechanisms to respond to violence against women and girls are being used by local authorities, state service providers, duty bearers, UN GTG members, national partners, experts and CSOs. The SPT and CoWFA developed visual materials that depict pathways for engaged actors and service providers, including in the context of COVID-19. Some of the material is intended for a wider audience, and the CSOs actively disseminated this material during campaigns for help and protection-seeking behaviour change of the population. The CoWFA also recognized the role of the SPT in capacity building of state and non-government service providers in establishing the referral mechanism as well as its effectiveness. At the annual summit of CoWFA employees, the Chair, during her speech, **committed its Departments/Units across the country to develop a referral mechanism in the areas outside of the SPT coverage.**

As reported during the previous cycle, the SPT interventions and collaborative work resulted in preparing a Gender Mainstreaming Strategy for CoWFA and key line ministries including the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Internal Affairs and the judiciary system. The strategy is expected to promote increased access of women to decision-making positions in state institutions and prepare them to increase their competency on the prevention of VAWG, for the period up to 2030. In 2022, the Gender Mainstreaming Strategy and its Action Plan for the period up to 2030 were finalized and adopted by CoWFA.

The SPT conducted a review of the international best practices on inclusion of SGBV into sectoral programmes and internal documents of key stakeholders (i.e. Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Internal Affairs, including police and judiciary). As a result, the **Programme on Empowerment of women in the security sector** and Women Police Inspectors to prevent and respond to SGBV as well as Guidelines on increasing the gender sensitivity of government officials from the security sector were adopted and institutionalized by the Academy of Ministry of Internal Affairs. **Training programmes** on increasing gender sensitivity and prevention of domestic violence for employees of the judiciary sector were adopted and institutionalized by the training centres of the Supreme Court and Ministry of Justice. Moreover, a **methodological guide** for state lawyers on provision of legal assistance was adopted and institutionalized by the Ministry of Justice.

The SPT continued to provide capacity building and sensitization trainings, reaching 421 representatives of law enforcement, judiciary and justice sector. Another 259 representatives of the legislative and executive authorities, including CSOs, improved their knowledge on the legislative and policy development processes on gender equality and response to violence. In addition, 91 parliamentarians (34 women) and staff (15 women) of human rights institutions strengthened capacities to advocate for, draft new and/or strengthen existing legislation and policies on ending VAWG and gender equality and non-discrimination.

In six districts, **166 officials** participated in training to strengthen inter-agency cooperation between the assigned public institutions to implement Law of the Republic of Tajikistan “On the Prevention of Domestic Violence”. The objective was to expand access to services for survivors of gender-based violence.

Outcome 3: Prevention and Norm Change

A baseline knowledge, attitude, behaviour and practice (KABP) survey was finalized in the reporting period and presented to the government, CSOs and other stakeholders under the leadership of CoWFA. A total of 1,203 respondents took part in the survey. One of the major baseline results is that 41.2 per cent of the respondents admit the possibility of violence against their partner. Most respondents believe that cheating is justification for beating their partner (79.8 per cent). In addition, results show that 4.1 per cent of all respondents believe it is justified to subject girls to child marriage. The baseline study was published on the [Global Spotlight website](#) for use by external audiences and the media.

Building on the baseline report results, a **Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) Strategy has been developed**. It is expected to challenge harmful social norms and behaviour and tackle the issues of GBV at the community level. The BCC strategy was developed with the participation of a BCC working group, including representatives from the key line ministries, CSRG, RUNOs and experts, created under the CoWFA. A series of consultations and workshops were held, including a multimedia production workshop, and the members of the working group, young people, youth content creators, journalists and multimedia professionals participated and brainstormed on the content to be produced for the BCC campaign in Tajikistan. During the reporting period, the final version of the BCC strategy and samples of the communication materials were submitted to the CoWFA for approval and official endorsement in early 2023.

The programme has continued working in **45 schools and communities** of target districts. It has established and ensured the functionality of complaint mechanisms, which provide a safe and accessible channel to raise issues of violence, including sexual violence, with schoolteachers/mentors on cases of VAC/SGBV. The complaint mechanisms service a total population of for **94,888 people** (44,448 girls and 46,424 boys as well as 3,062 women and 954 men). In 2022, at the end of Phase I, the SPT conducted an endline survey, and the results demonstrate that **the level of violent disciplining at schools dropped from 36 per cent in 2020 to 10 per cent in 2022**. For the detailed information please refer to Annex D.

The Review Committee (RVC) is also trained on how to review and respond to those complaints brought up by children. The SPT has ensured institutionalization of the complaint mechanisms based on the results of the work under Pillar II where state institutions, including the Ministry of Education and Science, have adopted internal protocols/bylaws on complaint mechanisms (please refer to Pillar 2 for details). In 2022, it conducted training on SGBV sensitization, including establishment and rolling out of complaint mechanisms for **177 school directors and deputy directors** (155 female and 22 male) in district departments of education. During the training, the SPT target schools shared their experience on complaint mechanisms with new school representatives, and district education entities (schools) presented the Ministry order on complaint mechanisms. It is anticipated that the 177 trainees will establish complaint mechanisms in other schools that were not covered by the SPT, thus ensuring scalability and sustainability of the mechanism.

On the demand side, the programme is working with local communities, teachers, children, and parents to raise awareness on SGBV/VAC, how to prevent and respond to potential cases, as well as how and who to approach with complaints. So far in 2022 alone, **58 mentors and 1,326 student council members** trained with support from SPT have provided coverage on these issues to a total population of **18,247 individuals** (1,578 females, 456 males, 8,381 girls and 7,381 boys at schools as well as 294 female and 157 male community members).

As reported, during the reporting cycle in 2021, the training module on “Ways and methods of positive upbringing without violence and discrimination” was approved by the Republican Educational and Methodological Centre of the MoES. The training module in the local language can be accessed at [the Positive Parenting Training Module](#). The document may be found at [Decree](#)). In 2022, SPT has localized that training to branches of the Centre and trained **29 trainers** through the Centre to increase coverage. It is anticipated that during the next reporting period, those trainers will cover at least 600 more teachers.

Schools play a powerful role in catalysing broader social change to break cycles of violence. To strengthen prevention of SGBV via schools, the SPT organized **summer camps for 45 target schools covering 350 school children** and accompanying mentors (165 girls, 127 boys; 47 female and 11 male mentors). The summer camps were dedicated for Student Council members, to have in-depth training and exchange of experiences on the prevention of any kind of VAC, including SGBV, in the community, family or at school between different regions and schools. To multiply the effect of summer camps, school children who have been trained worked closely with their peers at their own schools and conducted sessions on SGBV prevention and its long-lasting impact on human mental and social life. **The 350 summer school participants have trained 10,808 peers** (5,762 girls and 5,046 boys) on SGBV detection, prevention and reporting.

To promote the culture of speaking up among the students to advocate for zero tolerance on SGBV, the SPT has announced microgrants (US\$ 300 maximum per grant) for projects. As a result, mentors together with the members of the Student Council worked on project proposals for small grants, and held meetings with community representatives and school students to identify and solve problems in preventing SGBV/VAC. A total of **35 project applications for 128 small grants** have been received. As a result of these microgrants, some schools were equipped with innovative technological solutions such as televisions, loudspeakers and printers to print out leaflets to convey information and messages on SGBV prevention. Other schools prepared radio and television shows through local and national television channels. In total **163 students** (92 girls and 71 boys) have been engaged in the preparation of radio and TV shows. The SPT estimates that through those shows almost the entire country has been covered with content to challenge social harmful norms, including but not limited to early marriage and the equal right of girls and boys to education.

The implementation of the **Adolescent Innovation Lab (AIL)** programmes as a path to prevention of the SGBV and GBV has continued throughout the year. Currently 3 AILs are implementing skills-building programmes in Yovon, Rudaki and Dushanbe and are established under the education facility that widens the access to skills building to a wider audience. In total **1,131 adolescents** (49.5 per cent girls) were covered through AILs. 10 adolescent-led solutions received seed funding and the teams are implementing their ideas. A girls-led initiative group was established by AIL graduates in Rudaki district. These groups are working with CWDs, adolescent girls and young women on SGBV and GBV using the pocket guide and violence prevention awareness-raising activities.

During the reporting period, SPT in partnership with Hamsol-ba-Hamsol has used the well-tested model of participatory interactive theatre shows in targeted districts. In total **500 adolescents and their parents** were covered through this activity. The scenarios and approaches also were used by other RUNOs during the previous reporting period with the adult target groups. The SPT adopted the scenarios and the use of the Peer2peer approach to deliver the tested model through Adolescent Innovation Labs and schools.

The SPT has piloted a **Gender Action Learning System (GALS)** introducing the gender transformation household methodology in six pilot districts. During the nine-day GALS catalyst training of trainers (ToT), **22 GALS Champions** (17 women and 5 men) received training to use and facilitate the 5 basic GALS tools: Happy Family Tree, Income Generation, Gender Justice Diamond to Eliminate Violence. Transformative change towards violence against women for positive attitude and non-violent behaviour among the population was achieved or greatly improved in six target districts. As a result, **128 members of local self-help groups** gained an understanding of inner beliefs and attitudes on VAWG and will seek to learn the ways of preventing violence thanks to the GALS educational tools.

The GALS methodology with 5 tools was replicated among **1,356 residents**, including 440 men (32.4 per cent) and 916 women (67.5 per cent). The activity has affected a self-driven and community-led movement for positive change towards active, productive and gender-fair families and a society where men and women both attain “win-win” positions, develop mutual understanding, and enjoy support and cooperation that leads to happy and wealthy families that lead lives free from violence. Their ability to recognize gender stereotypes and gender-based discrimination increased as much as two times on average.

As a short-term result, most of the families that participated in the GALS process have formed strategies on how to improve family life. They have identified factors they need to correct, improve and develop. Most of the elderly women (mothers-in-law) started recognizing the unpaid work of their daughters-in-law and their rights to be employed and earn money, their rights to express their mind and make decisions, their rights to have their own vision and the need to help them [daughters-in-law] to decrease and ease their workload. **The number of participants who believe that women should NEVER tolerate violence increased from 50 per cent to 100 per cent.** Positively impacted by the GALS process, the GALS champions and participants have also conducted **24 actions in their communities** and one in Dushanbe to promote transformation of social norms at the community level, thus engaging more people to the behavioural change process. A total of **2,138 people were engaged**, including 1,195 women (55.9 per cent) and 959 men (44.8 per cent).

Mobilization of communities for ending SGBV and support of advocacy actions at a grass roots level became more effective thanks to the results of the Community Norms Mapping through an **Ethnographic review of sexual and gender-based violence and identification of key Community Social Norms Holders** and influencers. The Ethnographic review was a first of its kind on EVAWG issues in Tajikistan and provided food for thought for gender experts and CSOs. A number of observations from the survey on social norm issues of VAWG have crafted effective transformative [messages](#).

The SPT jointly with the UNFPA Regional Office, UNESCO Regional Office and MoES conducted a sexuality education review and assessment tool (**SERAT**) **assessment to align the curriculum for grades 7–11 on Healthy Lifestyle Education** with the UNESCO guidelines on comprehensive sexuality education (CSE), specifically related to gender and GBV issues. The **recommendations from the assessment were integrated into the existing healthy lifestyle education modules** and approved by the MoES, with those specifically for Tajikistan on revision and amendment of the healthy lifestyle education curriculum and other related subjects considering gender equality and GBV issues. **90 teachers** from the schools in the SPT target districts increased their knowledge on the updated curriculum as a result of the extended training of trainer.

Building on 2021 experience in engaging men and boys in the prevention of GBV, the SPT organized an extended summer camp for **22 young male badminton and para-badminton players** to increase their knowledge on relevant gender issues and develop skills to combat gender-based violence and discrimination. The sports camp programme was based on the adapted Promundo H guidelines. Via social media platforms and a series of demonstrations done within sports competitions, the sports camp included information and training sessions on various gender aspects, promoting positive and healthy masculinity, promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights, prevention of SGBV, fair and rational distribution of care work, and gender equality-related concepts. As part of their commitment to promoting gender equality, the badminton players and representatives of the National Badminton Association developed a work plan on awareness-raising activities to be conducted by the training participants in their communities and across their social media platforms.

Guidelines for Journalists on gender-sensitive media reporting on SGBV issues have been developed and adapted through feedback received from journalists/training participants in order to assess its applicability and effectiveness in the context of Tajikistan and mass media. The SPT used different avenues to promote the use of the guideline in practice among the mass media institutions, with **106 representatives of mass media** (49 women), including journalists and bloggers, strengthening their understanding of gender sensitivity, survivor-centered approaches and usage of gender-sensitive language. 43 of the best gender-sensitive and survivor-centred media products on gender equality and SGBV were selected as a result of a media competition, and then developed and published in print and online media for use by other journalists, bloggers and the local population.

Six consultations were conducted with the population in target areas to develop ways to solve the identified priority problem. In addition, **six workshops** were organized for civil society activists, members of the Local Public Council under the law enforcement institutions, local authorities on development of action plans for community mobilization campaigns. As a result, **36 community mobilization action plans were implemented in all six project target areas** with involvement of local activists, youth, people with disabilities, women living with HIV and local governments were implemented in all six project target areas. Some **7,429 community members** (4,527 women) increased awareness and sensitivity to issues related to SGBV, including local activists, young women and men, women and men with disabilities, women living with HIV, and local government representatives. The table below provides information on women participants by vulnerability groups:

No	District	TOTAL participants	Total Women	Women and girls living in remote regions/villages	Women living with HIV	Women and girls with disability	Women and girls, former prisoners	Women and girls, returned from conflict zones	Women and girls, refugees	Widows or single women heading the household	Women and girls who use illegal drugs / inject drugs
1	Gissar	1183	739	500	6	13	0	0	0	175	0
2	Rudaki	536	376	300	3	5	0	0	0	98	0
3	Vose	619	412	230	11	13	0	0	0	38	0
4	Yovon	2347	1266	380	0	2	0	0	0	63	0
5	B. Ghafurov	1072	715	27	0	9	1	0	0	97	0
6	Isfara	1622	983	590	3	39	3	1	0	109	0
7	Dushanbe	50	36	0	0	2	0	0	0	5	0
	TOTAL	7429	4527	2027	23	83	4	1	0	585	0

Implementation of the 36 Community Mobilization Action Plans included 138 activities. Activities included thematic meetings with population and with secondary school students (52); capacity building activities for stakeholders and vulnerable groups (38); media promotions (38) including radio, TV, articles, mobile theatre and skits; inter-agency working groups and decision-makers (12); sport events involving girls (8); thematic competitions, quizzes and debates for school students (7); and professional courses for girls/women from vulnerable families (6).

Outcome 4: Quality Services

Capacities of **72 local service providers** (58 women and 14 men) at district level were built to strengthen inter-agency work among them to support children in need and at risk to prevent violence, respond when violence occurs, identify of families at risk, carry out assessments of the families and make plans for support. The service providers include the Local Commission on Child Rights, the Unit for Women and Family Affairs, Local Department of Internal Affairs, community leaders and other local government substructures that work with children and families. With support of the Local Commission on Child Rights, service providers identified families with children at risk. Based on these **70 caregivers** (53 women and 17 men), including direct caregivers and extended families, training was provided on positive parenting skills to address the needs of children in the family and encourage families to ask for support from the local service providers. As a result, **50 children at risk (30 girls and 20 boys)** from these families were provided with support through work with the families and service providers.

To expand the access of adolescents and youth to psychological support services and preventive information, the modelling of an **online/distant mental health platform** has been started in close collaboration with the MoES and the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population (MoHSPP), psychologists, parents, teachers and adolescents. Different funds have been leveraged, including the SPT, to support this initiative. The first phase of the platform development included situation analysis, development of BCC content package, development of platform branding, identification of partners for the pilot launch of the platform and identification of available resources for provision of distant psychological counselling (dedicated call centres). The pilot launch of the platform is planned for 2023 in collaboration with Dushanbe city “Smart City Initiative”.

Guidelines for providing services to women and girls with disabilities were developed and trainings provided on how to respond to SGBV against women and girls with disabilities. As a result, **18 employees of forensic medical experts and CSOs** (6 from medical forensic services, 12 from selected CSOs) gained knowledge on disabilities, the human rights-based approach, and the legal and non-discrimination framework for persons with disabilities and improved their skills in documenting the facts of violence. They have also agreed on improving cooperation to provide services to women and girls with disabilities while considering cases of violence. In their daily activities, the trained forensic medical experts and specialists of six selected CSOs are using practical information on understanding disability in terms of respecting the rights of women and girls with disabilities and understanding and differentiating gender and sex issues in the context of disabilities. They are documenting rules in accordance with national legislation and standards of the Istanbul Protocol, reflected in the guidelines developed for forensic medical experts and CSOs.

The technical and material base of target recipient institutions was improved. The SPT purchased and distributed **specialized equipment/furniture/computer sets** for six selected Crisis Centres and CSOs and six Medical Forensic Expertise Departments in target districts to serve women and girls with special needs who are survivors of violence. The list of required items was

identified by the SPT as per minimum standards for access to services. The procured items included computers, photo cameras and assistive hearing aids; trifold medical screens (Bolognese fabric) on wheels for functional zoning; indoor wheelchairs; special multifunctional couches; optical magnifiers for reading; handrails with ribbed non-slip surface; laptops, multifunctional copiers and software packages; and gynaecological sets for medical forensic services.

During 2022, women and girls with disabilities received specialized help, meeting their needs in the process of investigating cases of violence against them due to provided equipment for the six selected CSOs. NGOs were contacted for help by **611 citizens** including 48 (7.9 per cent) girls under 18, some 563 (92.1 per cent) women and 3 men who have been subjected to violence. Of these, **124 are women with disabilities** (20.2 per cent). Those who sought help were provided with psychological support and legal advice. Outreach and awareness-raising interventions reached more than **3,800 people** on existing services to prevent VAWG with disabilities who participated in sessions in six pilot districts received information leaflets and responded to questions during quizzes.

Health care providers have been trained based on the adapted guidelines on strengthening health sector response to GBV, the UN Essential Service package and the National Protocol for provision of quality essential services for survivors of GBV and sexual violence. This improved the quality-of-service delivery in response to SGBV and strengthened the referral system and multisectoral cooperation to respond to SGBV in cooperation with the MoHSP. In total **135 health professionals** have strengthened their knowledge on identifying survivors of violence, national legislation and the principles of a survivor-centred approach, provision of quality medical and psychological services and referral to other relevant services.

Six **Mobile Health Fairs** were organized in six target districts with the involvement of physicians, obstetrician-gynaecologists, psychologists/legal experts and ultrasound specialists (gynaecologists). **Over 2,100 women and girls of reproductive age** received free professional services during the events, including consultations on family planning and reproductive health, such as prevention and management of sexually transmitted infections, contraceptives and pre-conception counselling and management, cervical cancer prevention and gender-based and domestic violence. All participants in the event were given the necessary treatments, recommendations and referrals to relevant health facilities and services for further procedures. In addition, according to the report of legal specialists, most women contacted them with several gender-based violence issues.

The SPT continued building the capacity of **20 focal points of the Victim Support Rooms (VSRs)** within maternity houses that were established within the SPT in 2020, as well as staff of the government-funded shelters functioning under the MoHSPP. The capacity development focused on provision of quality and coordinated services for survivors of GBV including sexual violence. The VSR focal points and staff of the shelters had an opportunity to exchange experiences and best practices in terms of service provision. In addition, mentoring and monitoring visits were conducted to the newly established VSRs with participation from representatives of CoWFA, MoHSPP and CSRG. The main purposes of the visits were to conduct monitoring of the newly opened VSRs based in medical institutions and to provide technical assistance for the provision of quality medical and psychosocial services in these rooms, effective referral and multisectoral cooperation. In 2022, the new VSRs provided services to 48 women who were subjected to GBV.

To improve the coordination among the service providers **seven mini forums were conducted to provide a platform for open discussions** on issues related to identifying and responding to SGBV cases, providing timely free legal aid as well as psychological and social assistance to victims of vi-

olence, and their further support. This approach led to a set of measures to interact and strengthen cooperation between these service providers. **Two exchange visits** between the relevant service providers of the Sughd and Khatlon regions were supported with the purpose of uniting the efforts of all service providers (e.g. legal aid centres, health facilities, crisis centres and shelters), achieving better cooperation between them and promoting networking.

The activities of the State Legal Aid Centers were strengthened to provide a secondary free legal assistance such as representation in court and drafting documents to SGBV survivors. Some **655 judges** (106 women and 96 men), **220 police officers** (51 women and 169 men) and **233 state legal aid lawyers** (163 women and 70 men) improved their knowledge on gender sensitivity, survivor-centred approach, correct interpretation of laws, effective investigation, prosecution and adjudication of SGBV-related cases. A total of six state lawyers and six attorneys provided free legal assistance to persons subjected to sexual, gender and domestic violence. Mentorship was provided to the trained lawyer through the exchange of experiences and facilitation. It resulted in provision of the primary and secondary legal support to **600** SGBV survivors, including 11 girls, during 2022.

Women and girls as well as men affected by SGBV have access to quality legal and psychological services and referral via the Hotline 1313 and free Legal Aid Centers. Services are provided by phone and in-person. In 2022, as part of the SPT sustainability plan, the management of the Hotline 1313 system was handed over to CoWFA, to ensure it functions after the closure of the SPT. In this regard, CoWFA, as the owner of the hotline, made a commitment on inclusion of funding for the “Resource Centre for Gender Equality and Prevention of Domestic Violence” with Hotline 1313 in the new “State Programme and Action Plan of the Republic of Tajikistan on the Prevention of Domestic Violence for 2024-2030”. As part of the assessment of hotline services in terms of the quality of services provided, the experience of hotline systems in other countries providing similar services to survivors of SGBV was studied. Based on the findings and recommendations, a guide for hotline staff on effective service delivery was developed, and 15 hotline staff improved their knowledge of how to interact, counsel and support survivors of SGBV, especially women.

During 2022, a total of **2,708 people** (1,702 women and 172 men) called the hotline and received legal and psychological assistance and referral support. Of these, 213 women reported experiencing physical violence; 1,513 (92 men) reported experiencing psychological violence; 975 (17 men) reported experiencing economical violence; and 7 women reported on sexual violence. During the year, 1,151 people (1,059 women and 92 men) received legal consultations and 1,058 (934 women and 124 men) received psychological consultations by phone and face to face. Referrals to other service providers were given to 1,666 people including people from law enforcement (268), judiciary (211), local authority/Jamoats (981), health (26), CSOs (66) and others (114).

To promote economic opportunities in the region where they live, **126 women and girls survivors of violence** advanced their knowledge and skills on opening and developing businesses and the basics of entrepreneurship. A further **57 women** from target districts gained skills in developing business plans. Among the business ideas presented by 37 trained women, **20 women and girls** received mini-grants from the SPT and launched their business to become economically empowered. In the same region where the business is running, 61 women and girls affected by SGBV, including women with disabilities and women with disabled children, were employed in new jobs. The SPT has established a network of women grant recipients in all districts to produce the requested/required volume of products and services by clients. Marketing of the products among various organizations helped women mini grant receivers to run their businesses.

Outcome 5: Data

National stakeholders, gender experts and CSOs benefited from the results of the assessment on the current situation of GBV administrative data collection. As a result of the discussions of the multisectoral coordination group, supported within Pillar 2, the representatives of the Agency of Statistics under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan created a **government working group** on the development of the mechanism for the collection of the administrative data on GBV, which is chaired by the First Deputy Director of the Agency on Statistics. The working group consists of representatives from the line ministries as well as CSO representatives and gender experts. In cooperation with the national consultant and the members of the working group, the overall technical strategy for implementation of the e-system with recommendations on improvements to ensure good practices, was established with a cost assessment of creation/adaptation of the e-system based on the technical and functional requirements. The next steps of the SPT will be strengthening the administrative data systems, which includes mapping, coordination and governance of the leading agency on data and building capacity of the national statistical officers and CSOs.

Twenty employees of 10 target CSOs and Women's Crisis Centers from the SPT target districts, dealing with cases of VAWG and SGBV, improved their skills and technical potential on harmonized case registration through the specially tailored **training on the newly developed e-information system** for registration and recording of cases of VAWG. Consistent and coordinated methods of data collection and sufficiently detailed publicly accessible data on incidents and causes of domestic violence will make it easier to establish a baseline against which to measure progress in protection and prevention of domestic violence and assess which policies are effective and worth pursuing.

Service providers of CSOs and women's rights advocates have strengthened their capacities to regularly collect data related to VAWG in line with international standards. The collected data will be disaggregated by type of violence, perpetrator, categories of violence against women and girls; disaggregation by sex, age and relationship between victim and perpetrator, ethnicity of the survivors of violence, and the number of complaints received will be registered. The prevalence and incidence data on VAWG will be easy to analyse and be made publicly available to inform evidence-based decision-making.

Measurement and methodologies for cases of violence data collection are improved and strengthened among targeted NGOs and activities will create a framework and capacity that will allow for data regarding cases of violence to be regularly collected, analysed and used in line with international standards. The harmonized data registration started in October 2022. Newly purchased notebooks were provided to 10 CSOs with the installed E-VAW Registration System. The activity will be continued into 2023, providing on-the-job mentorship and making adjustments to the data collection system, based on the feedback received from the NGOs.

Outcome 6: Women's Movement

As reported in the previous reporting cycle, a **School of Gender Activities (SGA)** was established, strictly following the LNOB principle, and **20 activists from different CSOs** coming from diverse backgrounds and different target districts became the first graduates of this school in early 2022. After graduation, the list with contact details of the SGA graduates was handed over to the CoWFA and to the Members of Parliament of the Republic of Tajikistan. CoWFA organized a joint meeting and brought together all 20 graduates and heads of CoWFA Departments/Units from those

districts where the graduates are originally from. The Chair of CoWFA welcomed the School of Gender Activities graduates and introduced them to the heads of the CoWFA Departments/Units in their district. The Chair highlighted that CoWFA as a key beneficiary of the SGA can rely on them as experts during implementation of the national programmes and strategies related to prevention of violence in the family, activation of roles of women 2030, and national campaigns, as well as call on them during thematic and technical discussions in their places of origin.

After graduation from the SGA, the graduates replicated trainings in their own communities. Some **50 men and 150 women and girls**, including many community leaders, participated in trainings delivered by SGA graduates and later identified the linkage between gender equality and elimination of VAWG, and demonstrated know-how to conduct information activities to prevent VAWG on a peer-to-peer basis. Graduates of the SGA worked closely tapping into each other's expertise, resources and networks while conducting their own interventions. The graduates have strengthened intergenerational ties with their peers in the form of the transfer of experience and knowledge between senior experts and experts of the new generation.

One of the key results of the SGA was that many were able to apply the acquired knowledge almost immediately in practice, as a reinforcing effect. Several were able to implement the acquired knowledge in their organization in existing projects, **obtaining a mini grant** (Sayorai Umed, Association of Women Lawyers for Development; Hamsol-ba-Hamsol) under CSOs Strategy implementation and small grants under other SPT components (Mumtoz). Others became members of different CSO Advisory Boards with other UN agencies, for example the CSO Advisory Board run by the IOM on combating illegal migration, smuggling and human trafficking, and the CSO Group on the Rule of Law, and they became a core team for promotion of gender equality in other sectors.

Another highly important outcome of this Pillar is the contribution to increasing the institutional capacity of CSOs based on the development of the "CSOs Strategy on transformative behavioural changes and implementation of initiatives to prevent violence" through participation and coordinated actions.

According to the SPT baseline evaluation report in 2020, **only 48 per cent of CSOs** covered by the evaluation and working on SGBV issues, at the national and subnational levels, carried out their activities based on strategic planning. Of these, **24 per cent have existing strategies and action plans**, and 24 per cent previously had, but at the time of the assessment, have not yet developed new strategies and plans. To bridge this gap, in 2021, for the first time a CSOs Strategy, leading to transformative change on the issues of elimination of VAWG, was developed in Tajikistan bringing together more **than 40 CSOs working** in the areas of GBV/SGB, gender equality and women's economic empowerment. A detailed action plan was also developed to operationalize the CSOs Strategy. In 2022, these CSOs started referring to the CSOs Strategy in their projects and programmes.

Linked to the CSOs Strategy, **51 CSOs** joined the newly created network "**Life Without Violence**" by signing the MoU between the CSOs. The CSOs have also established the Knowledge Hub <https://ogoplatforma.tj>. The Coordinating Council includes representatives of the Network of Women with disabilities, the NGO Coalition "From legal equality to de facto equality", the Advisory Council of the NGOs of the Sughd region, the network of women living with HIV, CSOs from the regions and youth organizations.

During the current reporting period six CSOs received **grants on implementation of the CSOs Strategy**, significantly contributing to the prevention of SGBV in local communities. To challenge

negative gender-based social norms and harmful practices **2,942 beneficiaries** (52 per cent women and girls) were covered in home communities. Examples of the activities include the following:

1. As a result of the fairytale “reading circle”, opinions of **160 children** of Dushanbe and Yovon showed a significant change in terms of the role of women and girls in the society. As a result of the reading circle discussions of children’s fairy tales using gender-sensitive language, participants more confidently noted the gender characteristics of the fairytales’ characters. The fairytales compel adults and children to think critically, promote girls’ leadership and do not tolerate violent behaviour. Participants’ attitude towards the role of girls in public and social life has changed substantially after the reading circles.
2. Mini-projects and awareness-raising actions engaged and positively impacted **670 children** (430 girls, 240 boys) as well as 1,090 adults (630 women, 460 men) on critical thinking and identification of harmful practices and gender-based stereotypes.
3. Knowledge was improved for **100 women with disabilities** from Yovon, Rudaki and Vose about where to seek help in case of violence. They received legal and social support consultations and raised their awareness of the rights of people with disabilities as a result of specially-tailored trainings.
4. Round table discussions of senior family members with local leaders, police and school directors led to **200 women and men of Sughd region** (remote and conservative jamaats) changing their attitudes towards daughters-in-laws and supporting non-violent relations in the family.
5. More than **200 school students and informal leaders** changed their opinion about gender inequality and acknowledged that women and girls’ empowerment is beneficial for the entire community, through conducted quizzes, training sessions and mini campaigns. A video was developed and, during its first week of airing on social media, received 1,000 likes and positive comments ([Video of Women Lawyers for Development](#); Social poll of experts on VAWG, [Social poll on VAWG in Tajikistan](#)).
6. The permanent Commission of the People’s Members of Local Parliament of Yovon district included gender and SGBV-related recommendations into the District Development Plan during the session of the Permanent Commission on Science, Education, Culture, Health, Family Protection, Women, Sports and Tourism.

The SPT increased the capacity of CSOs working with women living with disabilities, women living with HIV and women from low-income communities by conducting a series of trainings on the Project Cycle, **Monitoring and Evaluation and Fundraising for CSOs**. As a result of the training sessions, participants gained experience in project development and were also familiarized with the M&E mechanisms. As a result of the Fundraising training, the participants gained knowledge of the legislative environment for fundraising and gained rich experience in ways to attract and increase resources. The Regional Spotlight Programme Call for Grants received the highest number of applications from Tajikistan, which could be directly attributed as an impact of this training.

CSOs working on GBV, and women’s rights issues received a three-day training on CEDAW, its principles and reporting procedures. The SPT also supported one-day national workshops with the aim of increasing the capacity of CSOs on international advocacy to the CEDAW Committee based on documenting the facts of violence against women and girls.

With the aim of building capacity of the local grass roots CSOs, the SPT awarded four mini-grants to organizations focusing on LNOB for implementation of small-scale projects related to addressing SGBV in their communities. The winning proposals included:

1. PO “Zarshedabonu” and the project “Life without violence – is our right”, which provided free legal consultations to **52 women and girls** in Vose district. Two clubs for mothers-in-laws and daughters-in-laws were created with more than 20 members. The clubs now function as a local platform to bring women and girls together to address issues of domestic violence.
2. PO “Imkoniyat” and the project “Accept me as I am”, which are awareness-raising campaigns to reduce stigmatization of people with disabilities. The project focused on working with **10 women and girls with disabilities** survivors of GBV/SGBV who received training on legislative frameworks and the rights of people with disabilities, and who participated in group and individual sessions with a psychologist on how to cope with the trauma of GBV. They also participated in discussion sessions with successful women with disability, learning about their success stories and experiences. After the training programme, women and girls with disabilities were given the opportunity to hold an information session on GBV and the rights of persons with disabilities for more than 300 people as part of an awareness-raising campaign.
3. PO “Mumtoz” and the project “My safe world”, which reached more than **2,300 children and teenagers and 200 teachers and parents** via puppet theatre performances to raise awareness on SGBV prevention among children. The performances mainly touched upon the topics of personal space and the safety of children, as well as referrals to existing SGBV services. The PO is now reaching out to other development partners for resource mobilization in order to continue this intervention in other districts.
4. Also awarded mini-grants were PO “Said” and the project titled “Promoting changes in gender norms, inclusion, knowledge management and the use of innovative approaches to advocacy through the development and sustainable use of adaptive Internet applications as a tool to counteract SGBV in Tajik society, involving men and boys, religious leaders, mahalla committees, psychologists and lawyers”. As a result of the project, a “Family Consultant” chatbot was created to provide basic information about the types of GBV, root causes and consequences, legal advice, contact details of GBV services, religious aspects and other information.

Several mentoring sessions were provided to the local CSOs by responsible RUNO and the IPs on the Spotlight programme and its objective, programmatic and financial reporting requirements of the RUNO as well as communications and project visibility guidelines with the aim of building their capacity on implementation of UN projects.

Rights Holders (Spotlight programme “Beneficiaries”)

Indicative numbers	Direct for 2022	Indirect for 2022	Comments / Explanations
Women (18 yrs. and above)	14,278	1,092,690	Beneficiaries reached through public consultations, capacity-building events such as seminars, trainings, workshops for state officials, journalists and bloggers, round tables, health fair target local population, women using VSR services, GALS champions and facilitators, awareness-raising activities including TV and other social media platforms, members of cascaded trainings for informal leaders.
Girls (5-17)	17,429	2,670,918	Beneficiaries covered through community mobilization campaigns (GALS, sport games, school meetings/discussions, theatre performances, summer camps, etc.) in target areas on raising awareness on SGBV, including on prevention and response measures.
Men (18 yrs. and above)	5,388	1,024,576	Beneficiaries are participants of capacity-building events such as training, workshops for state officials, community workshops (GALS), journalists and bloggers, round tables and target local populations.
Boys (5-17 yrs.)	14,953	2,673,467	Beneficiaries covered through community mobilization campaigns (GALS, sport games, school meetings/discussions, theatre performances, summer camps, etc.) in target areas on raising awareness on SGBV, including on prevention and response measures
TOTAL	52,048	7,461,651	

Challenges and Mitigating Measures

As already highlighted in the Contextual Shifts and Implementation Status, some of the challenges highlighted in the previous reporting cycle re-occurred in the present reporting cycle.

The unrest and conflict at the borders with the Kyrgyz Republic have re-occurred and made unplanned changes to the programme timeline, given two of the programme target districts are directly affected. The activities that were planned during 2021, were instead implemented in early 2022. For interventions planned for 2022, the SPT jointly with its partners very carefully monitored the situation and conducted interventions according to the situation, avoiding putting government

counterparts and communities at additional unnecessary risk. This was all possible due to strong support from the CoWFA.

While working with state institutions provides more space for their capacity development and state buy-in leading to more opportunities for sustainable interventions, internal government procedures put pressure on timely delivery of the programme. As reported in 2021, work on the KABP survey was not completed on time. The KABP survey was delayed due to late endorsement of the programme itself. The delay further negatively impacted other activities that were sequenced to the KABP survey. As a result, the review and endorsement of the BCC Strategy by the Government took longer than anticipated. At the same time, most of the BCC activities were not initiated on time thus negatively affecting the final programme outcomes. It is obvious that behaviour change takes more time. In order to overcome this challenge, the programme in consultation with CoWFA has agreed that the BCC Strategy would be approved as an internal document of the CoWFA, firstly to ensure sustainability and secondly to continue BCC activities on transformative changes for better results on challenging harmful social norms beyond the programme lifespan.

Coordinating with national counterparts on the creation and hosting of the database posed some challenges and affected the delivery rate for Outcome 5. Selecting a government entity that will manage and host the database is crucial, as it will determine the quality and accessibility of the collected information. Currently, not all the key agencies have sufficient capacities or resources to manage the proposed database system. To mitigate this issue and to accelerate implementation of Outcome 5 activities, the SPT conducted high-level advocacy with the relevant ministries and agencies responsible for GBV administrative data collection, as well as built capacity of the national statistical officers of these ministries on the standards and importance of the GBV admin data collection, analysis and distribution. This will continue into the next reporting cycle.

During the reporting period, as highlighted under the PMER table, one of the main challenges faced was the operationalization of the PME. Given this is the first time enacting PME, it was challenging to bring everybody on-board and develop a methodology that would be user-friendly and collect data. Also, given there were no fees allocated for this exercise for the PME members, except the daily stipend allowance and transportation cost, PME members did not prioritize it, delayed the process and did not take it very seriously. As a mitigation measure, while planning for the PME during the next reporting cycle, it was suggested by the RC and supported by the Heads of RUNOs, that the programme should consider paying the PME members honorarium, to keep them motivated and do the job with full dedication. It was also suggested to consider hiring a professional researcher who will support the PME working group with data analysis and reporting, which was highlighted as the most time-consuming part of the exercise.

Lessons Learned and New Opportunities

a) Lessons Learned

Implementing GALS methodology is a novelty in Tajikistan. A number of lessons learned were recorded by RUNO's implementing partner and the lead facilitators on facilitation skills. For examples, there were issues of trainers facilitating too much (which contradicts the GALS methodology) and issues around gender and power dynamics that hindered the participation of female participants. There were issues around GALS methodology because, given that the methodology involves drawing, participants felt uncomfortable showing their drawings to each other, mindful that they

might be laughed at. Other issues included time limitations, as time allocated for this exercise was condensed and required more time allocated to this, and lastly the challenge of care work as women had to bring their children to this workshop, given there is no support available to look after the children with no adult around. Fortunately, the workshop itself implies creativeness and use of drawing, so the children could entertain themselves. Without such an option, this would likely have limited women's full participation in the training.

Moving forward one of the key recommendations for conducting GALS in communities would be for the trainer to do less facilitation but instead should guide the participants to reach their own conclusions and decisions. In order to have a better and more meaningful participation, for Tool 1, organize a separate exercise for male and female so participants feel comfortable to engage in discussions, share and draw their own dream tree. For Tool 2 it is recommended to bring participants together and as at the trainings on the GALS, it is necessary to ensure the gender balance of the participants. Time allocated for this activity is the most important precondition for quality assurance. Therefore, it is important that a good number of qualified facilitators are involved with enough lead time to prepare for this exercise and address any questions the participants might have. And lastly, given this exercise is mostly conducted in rural areas of the target districts, access to care is not available. Thus, while planning for this exercise, facilitators should factor in that female participants shall attend with their children, so extra resources are required to keep the children busy and engaged while their parent is participating at the workshop.

Based on the experience from the PME exercise during the reporting period, the SPT jointly with the CSRG and Government counterparts agreed to further explore ways to engage the right holders into the PME. It is quite complicated since it needs more time to identify, motivate and train them. Moreover, the SPT should consider not involving members of the CSRG who are very busy. Since most of the PME members were also involved in the SPT, as an implementing partner, in addition to their own commitments and other ongoing projects. It was quite challenging to involve them in the whole PME process, including participation in the meetings, and to attract them to conduct analyses and desk review of knowledge products, field visits, analyses and reporting. All of these steps took time.

As a practical idea for the next reporting cycle, the suggestion is to engage the graduates of the School of Gender Activists (SGA) in the participatory monitoring and evaluation process. The suggestion is to conduct comprehensive training on M&E, methods of data collection and data analyses, since the graduates of the first SGA have different backgrounds and work experience. The realization of this idea will enhance the M&E experience of the graduates of the SGA while also bringing a closer gender focus to the PME process, considering the gained skills of the SGA's members.

b) New Opportunities

During programme implementation, the efforts to amend legislation to promote alternative family-based care has continued. The working group established by the MoES refined the draft Law on Guardianship. The Executive Office of the President was involved in the process to refine the law. It is expected that the final draft of the law will be submitted to the government for endorsement and approval in 2023.

The government is working on the elaboration of the Education Code that will codify all the legislation related to the education sphere in Tajikistan. This is a new opportunity to contribute and

to ensure the issues of inclusive education, complaint mechanisms, girls school dropout, safety of school children including sanitation standards for girls, are covered at once. The SPT, based on the experience of the implementation, will ensure those standards are in place and reflect gender equality.

Although the COVID-19 period is in the past with long-lasting negative effects, the pandemic brought an understanding for local communities and decision makers of the utmost importance of digital connectivity, including digital services. Based on this unexpected increased understanding and the programme work during the COVID-19 period, especially on mental health support, the programme is working on the establishment of an online solution to respond to adolescent mental health. This will serve as a preventive measure and promotion platform to raise awareness, to create a demand to provide counselling and to refer cases to relevant services.

Innovative, Promising or Good Practices

During the reporting period, one promising practice was the establishment of a comprehensive VAC/SGBV prevention mechanisms for school children, especially girls, and local communities under Pillar III (Prevention).

The SPT has established complaint mechanisms in each school that includes a complaint box and a hotline (usually mentors' phone and phone number of Ombudsman on Child Rights) to address complaints coming from children, especially girls. The Complaint Revision Committees are comprised of a mentor, two teachers, a local police inspector and representatives of the local community. Members of the Complaint Revision Committees have been trained on how to review, address and refer the cases. Most importantly, they have been trained on the basics of human rights approaches: "do no harm", confidentiality, impartiality and gender sensitivity, to name a few. So far, complaint mechanisms have received and resolved hundreds of appeals coming from children, especially girls. Thanks to these established mechanisms, children, mainly girls and in a couple of cases girls with disabilities, have been able to return to their studies.

Another promising practice is strengthening the local Student Council, consisting of 26 active students in each school the SPT has worked in. Student Councils are gender balanced (more details are provided in Annex D), have representatives of different groups of local communities, including children with disabilities and gypsies, as appropriate to the local realities. Student Councils have been trained on the Convention, gender aspects, issues of VAC/SGBV, how to detect and report on cases, and basic human rights to equality, especially gender equality. Using the "steppingstone" methodologies, Student Council members have conveyed SGBV prevention messages to their peers and nearby communities.

As a result, every year, Student Council members cover thousands of their peers and local communities with messages on VAC/SGBV. In addition, Student Council members have shared their experience with nearby schools where complaint mechanisms are not supported by SPT.

To back up the Student Councils, the SPT has worked with Parent Teacher Associations, so that parents are also aware about SGBV issues, positive parenting and ways to be supportive to their children as activists to end violence.

To inculcate the culture of speaking up among the students to advocate for zero tolerance on

SGBV, the SPT has announced microgrants (US\$ 300 max per grant). Students have managed to prepare radio and TV shows with messages to challenge social harmful norms, including but not limited to early marriage, equal right of girls and boys to education etc. Over a million people have been covered with radio and TV shows so far.

SGBV prevention mechanisms implemented under the SPT appear to offer a comprehensive approach for positive changes as well as tools for local communities that cover both demand and supply sides. On one hand SGBV prevention mechanisms have provided teachers, parents and the wider community with tools on how to raise their children, especially girls, without application of corporal or other types of punishment, to pay attention not only to immediate results but look at their children as a human being, bearing dignity and their next generation equally. On the demand side this has empowered girls and boys with messages on their rights to equality, gender equality specifically, provided an opportunity to speak up and triggered their personal development via active participation in social life.

Mechanisms have enabled children to be advocates for gender equality. The advocacy started at school level and later scaled up to regional and national levels via partaking in TV and radio shows where girls were transmitting the messages that girls, equally with boys, can and shall be given an opportunity by their parents to continue education to pursue a university diploma and be a full and equal member of the society. The approach the SPT envisages is amplifying messages by word of mouth that takes SGBV prevention messages beyond their immediate school and community to nearby communities.

Communications and Visibility

a) Overview

In 2022, the Communications and Visibility Task Force continued the implementation of the Communications and Visibility Action Plan of the SPT, mainly focused on increasing the awareness of the general public on GBV issues in Tajikistan and generating discussions on the ways to prevent and address them. From engaging with young content creators and influencers to inviting experts on positive parenting, the offline and online activities in 2022 reached an estimated **2 million people in Tajikistan**. In addition, the SPT and the Regional Spotlight Programme gained **30 article posts in local media.docx - Google Docs** in local digital media channels as earned media.

Communications and visibility interventions were well coordinated through regular Communications and Visibility Task Force meetings, including joint meetings with the EU to discuss overall the approach to communication and visibility within the SPT and aligning the approaches and work plans. As a result, a calendar of events was introduced to keep the EU, Government and CSRG constantly updated. All communications and advocacy/visibility related interventions within the SPT were incorporated into the wider framework of actions by the UNCT and other partners, including UN Communications Group work plan and UN GTG concept note and matrix of actions for the global 16 Days of Activism against GBV campaign for 2022.

The following communications-related results were achieved in 2022:

- Output Indicator 3.2.2: (# people reached by campaigns challenging harmful social norms and gender stereotyping) – Estimated 2 million people reached with key messages through TV, radio and social media.

- Output Indicator 3.2.5: (# of campaigns challenging harmful social norms and gender stereotyping, including of women and girls facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination, developed, and disseminated) – One campaign (#UNiTEForHer) was conducted with a series of offline and online events during the 16 Days of Activism against GBV in Tajikistan.

b) Messages

The #UniTEForHer campaign implemented by communications group of RUNOs in 2023 conveyed key messages from the Communications and Visibility Action Plan of the SPT and from a broader Gender Equality campaign of UN in Tajikistan targeting:

- young people in Tajikistan
- decision makers in central and local levels
- opinion and community leaders
- the general public
- vulnerable women
- persons living with disabilities
- migrants
- refugees
- organizations working on women's rights issues.

c) Media and Visibility Events

During the reporting period in 2022, the #RunForHer marathon in Yovon was organized to officially kick-off the global campaign on the global campaign 16 Days of Activism against GBV in Tajikistan. The event was organized with high-level representation from the CoWFA, EU, UN and a local authority. The CoWFA was represented by the Chair of the Committee; the EU delegation was represented by the EU Ambassador to Tajikistan; the UN was represented by the Resident Coordinator and the CSRG were represented by the Chair.



Photo 2: High-level representatives arrive to the start of the #RunForHer marathon in Yovon, 26 November 2022

The #RunForHer marathon was held in an open-air and engaged 200 adolescents aged 16–18 years old (100 girls and 100 boys) from local schools, who were taking part in a 3 kilometre marathon under the slogan “My power is not for violence!”. The press release for the event is available [here](#).



Photo 3: Adolescent girls and boys in Yovon during a marathon under the slogan “My Power is not For Violence!”, 26 November 2022

d) Campaigns

The following offline (in-person) key media and visibility events were organized by the communications group of the SPT in 2022. They engaged more than 1,000 people, including children, young people, parents, government partners and members of CSOs:

- Organization and broadcast of celebrity futsal match with the Tajikistan Football Federation dedicated to the International Women’s Day and aiming at conveying messages on importance of GBV elimination in Tajikistan.
- Organization of PROFamily offline series of events in Dushanbe for parents and children to promote positive parenting with participation of experts in early childhood development, psychologists and gender activists and celebrities.
- A talk show on one of the national TV with a representative of the CoWFA and a psychologist of the 1313 hotline, where they discussed issues related to gender-based violence and the implementation of the Law on Prevention of the Violence in the Family.
- Organization of panel discussions with the influencers “We stand for Gender Equality” campaign that was also dedicated to the closure of the global campaign on 16 Days of Activism against GBV.

The celebrity futsal event gathered celebrity players of the national futsal and national football teams and was broadcast live on the national Football HD channel. Simultaneously, prior to the

match, over 100 children aged 6–12 were engaged in a small art workshop where they were designing tote bags with messages on gender equality and elimination of violence.



Photo 4: Futsal and football celebrity players pose with the children during the opening of the futsal match dedicated to the International Women’s Day in Tajikistan, March 2022

The PROFamily series of events organized in Dushanbe aimed at engaging parents and experts in open discussions around early development of children, early education, positive parenting and creating non-violent relationships at the family and community levels. The PROFamily events were visited by UNHCR Regional Goodwill Ambassador – Manizha, who presented her initiative “SiLSila”, which helps women survivors of abuse.



Photo 5: UNHCR Regional GWA participates in PROFamily event to present her initiative “SilSila” for women survivors of abuse, 26 November 2022

A separate series of visibility events were organized on a digital platform called “ProMaterinstvo” (all about motherhood) to share expert information with parents on non-violent upbringing of children and ways to help the children to cope with different life situations avoiding violence:

- Organization of PROFamily series of expert-led webinars on Instagram for parents on positive parenting.
- Organization of radio-talk shows on positive parenting with experts.

The talk show on one of the National television channels “Jahonnamo”, broadcast on 10 December, brought together experts and representatives of CoWFA, SPT, IPs, the Hotline 1313 psychologist addressing questions from the audience on issues related to GBV and violence in the family.

The panel discussion with male influencers, including famous singers, media personalities and journalists, artists and athletes focused on involving men in preventing and responding to violence against women and girls. The influencers shared their experiences on using their platforms on raising awareness on GBV issues, particularly on reaching out to other men in order to work together in challenging rigid norms that negatively affect women and girls and influencing their peers in adopting positive forms of masculinities to eliminate violence against women and girls. The event also included an art performance scripted and directed by one of the male influencers and performed by young artists to raise awareness of VAWG and put a spotlight on the effects of abusive relationships and intimate partner violence on the health and well-being of women.

The SPT also organized two social media competitions with participation from influencers: Healthy Family (<https://fb.watch/i-YHPdluQN/>) and We Stand for Gender Equality (<https://fb.watch/i-YqyU-vMX5/>). The overall objective of the social media competitions was to support the implementation of the SPT particularly activities planned under Pillar 3 by using the power of youth-centred social media influencers through the creation of short videos targeted at youth aged 18 to 24. The videos challenge traditional social norms, promote positive masculinity and provide information on healthy lifestyle and sexual and reproductive health and rights in an accessible and fun way.

The social media competitions also aimed to promote equal participation of women and men in achieving gender equality and to engage men to prevent gender-based violence and eradicate negative stereotypes and social norms. Both competitions concluded with high-level award ceremonies with participation of the Chair of CoWFA, UN RC, EUD, CSRG, social media influencers, development partners, youth, gender activists and public on the International Day of the Girl Child and conclusion of the 16 Days of Activism against GBV campaign. They included panel discussions with male influencers and other art initiatives on raising awareness on GBV prevention. More than 50 videos were shortlisted for the selection committee to vote, and 10 winners were awarded valuable prizes. Taking into account the videos, posts, engagement with the social media accounts of the competitions as well as newspaper articles and broadcasting of the winner's videos on Dushanbe billboards, the competition has reached more than 1 million people.

As for the online (virtual) media campaigns, in 2022 the SPT implemented two campaigns targeting young people on social media:

- #UNiTEForHer and
- #WeStandForGenderEquality

The #UNiTEForHer social media campaign in 2022 aimed to support the implementation of the Spotlight Programme Communication and Visibility Strategy, particularly the Goal #2 on “Increase public awareness on violence against women and girls, with a focus on domestic and intimate partner violence” through implementation of the social media campaign aimed at reaching young girls and boys in Tajikistan. This campaign was targeting media users in Tajikistan aged 18–35 years old, specifically young people on Instagram and YouTube platforms.

The #UNiTEForHer campaign engaged local influencers for content production with key messages, promoting elimination of violence against girls and women in Tajikistan, with a focus on positive parenting. The reach of the campaign on Instagram is 280,000 social media users in Tajikistan, generating 539 comments and 12,718 likes. The campaign-related video assets accumulated over 300,000 views on Instagram, Facebook and YouTube. One of the videos was then amplified by the [local media](#). To complement video assets, thematic comic and digital posters were developed to depict harmful gender stereotypes and ways to address them with an aim to target young audiences (18–24 years old) on social media.



In addition, several social media influencers ran a flashmob on Instagram to support the #UNiTE-ForHer campaign, by sharing their make-up transformation videos with positive messages such as “I’m a woman, I stand for a violence-free world!” reaching over 62,000 views cumulatively.

The #WeStandForGenderEquality campaign in Tajikistan also aimed at supporting the implementation of the SPT, particularly activities planned under Pillar 3. It did so by using the power of youth-centred social media influencers through creation of viral-oriented short videos targeted at youth aged 18 to 24 that challenge traditional social norms, promote positive masculinity and provide healthy lifestyle/sexual and reproductive health and rights information in an accessible and fun way. The main objective of this campaign is to promote equal participation of women and men in achieving gender equality and engaging men from a positive perspective to prevent gender-based violence and eradicate negative stereotypes and social norms.

The #WeStandForGenderEquality campaign was launched on 1 November 2022 through its dedicated social media accounts on Instagram and Facebook and produced six videos in collaboration with relevant social media influencers and posted targeted messages on men and boys’ engagement in prevention of GBV/SGBV, positive masculinity/fatherhood and promoting the rights of women and girls.

In addition, the social media contest on youth-generated content was announced for young people in Tajikistan to take part and share their vision of the “Healthy Family” – the one that is violence-free and the one that nurtures healthy gender-equitable relations within a loving family environment. The “Healthy Family” competition produced nine videos in collaboration with relevant social media influencers and posted many targeted messages on healthy family relations, prevention of GBV/SGBV, positive parenthood/fatherhood and promoting the right of women and girls. This resulted in 430,000 views on social media and reached more than 1 million people on social media for this contest alone.

Overall, the online (virtual) campaigns of the SPT during the reporting period cumulatively reached over 2 million people on social media in Tajikistan.

e) Human Interest Stories

1. In Tajikistan, supporting children with disabilities to stay in school

For many children with disabilities in Tajikistan, especially girls, a combination of social stigma, insufficient facilities and poverty prevents them from socializing, studying and integrating into their community.

Over the past two years, the SPT has aimed to create inclusive school environments by introducing student councils in 45 schools across target cities and districts. More than 1,000 students have joined these councils and each of them is trained in gender-based violence prevention, including the rights of people with disabilities. The initiative has successfully implemented complaint mechanisms in schools to respond to and refer cases of violence among students to the relevant authorities. Combined with positive behaviour training for teachers, this has fostered respectful relationships among children.

Mohtobkhon, 16, from Hissor is one of the many children with disabilities who, thanks to the Spotlight Initiative, enjoys going to school. Teachers, staff, classmates, friends and parents of Mohtob-

khon are now working hand-in-hand with the student council to ensure that Mohtobkhon gets the education she deserves. They help her to move around the school to classes and offer social support.

“My school has changed not only into a place where I can study, but it also makes me feel comfortable. I don’t notice how [long the day is as] time goes by quickly,” says Mohtobkhon.



Photo 6: Mohtobkhon, 16, from Hissor is being helped by her classmate and teacher at school

Read the full story here: and watch the related social media assets [here: Twitter](#), [Instagram](#).

2. Social and legal support for violence-affected women and children in Tajikistan

Shermatova Marjona is a 35-year-old mother of three. She met her husband while she was working abroad in Moscow. They had a religious marriage, and it was not long before he persuaded her to send all the money she earned to her father-in-law in Tajikistan, who was supposed to use the money to build a house for them.

Once construction had begun, Ms. Shermatova and her husband returned to Tajikistan. She used the rest of her savings to put a roof on the house, install windows, doors and paint two rooms, and the family lived in the semi-finished home together. In addition, she provided her father-in-law with money almost daily, whenever he would ask for it. The situation changed as soon as Ms. Shermatova ran out of money. Her husband stopped coming home and her father-in-law started claiming the house as his own, attempting to kick Ms. Shermatova and her children out. When she refused to leave, her father-in-law began physically abusing her and regularly beat her in front of the children.

It was not until she contacted the local organization Hayot dar Oila (Life in a Family), which provides social and legal support services, that she began to see progress. Hayot dar Oila is supported by the Spotlight Initiative and provides assistance to women and children who are experiencing violence. Their lawyers provided Ms. Shermatova with legal support and worked with her to draft an appeal to the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, the Commissioner for Human Rights, the General Prosecutor's Office, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the Committee on Women and Family Affairs (CoWFA). As a result, the Department of Internal Affairs detained Ms. Shermatova's father-in-law, and he was tried and sentenced to six months in prison for his abuse. The court also initiated a criminal case against her husband for evading child support.

Over the past two years, the Spotlight Initiative has provided psychological and legal assistance to vulnerable women like Ms. Shermatova and helped them to become financially independent by providing capital to start their own small businesses. Ms. Shermatova purchased an oven and a sewing machine so she could sell food and earn an income through her tailoring business. Multiple studies have found that financial independence is a key factor in reducing women's vulnerability to violence and allowing them to break the cycle of violence. ***"Nowadays, we go to the city park, and Mom often buys treats. Mom does not cry or scream anymore,"*** Ms. Shermatova's children shared.





Photo 7: Marjona's children in their backyard

3. Social and legal support for violence-affected women and children in Tajikistan

“Don’t give up, look for support and act for life without violence!” — Ramziya Nazarova

Her mother-in-law took an instant dislike to her, and it was not long before her husband began to behave aggressively. He was a jealous man, which led to a lot of fighting between the couple. Nonetheless, they had two daughters together. When their second daughter was born with a disability, her husband announced that he was migrating to Russia.

Shortly after leaving, he stopped paying rent on the family’s apartment and cut off contact with Ramziya Nazarova. She couldn’t ask her husband’s family for help either; her mother-in-law told her “We do not need a *kelin* (daughter-in-law) with a child with disability”. She and her children were kicked out on the street.

Without a school certificate, it was difficult to find work, but she began helping local entrepreneurs at the market to sell their bread. In 2017, she got married again - this time to a man who already had a wife – and gave birth to her third daughter. A year later, while cleaning the ceiling of their home’s verandah, the roof collapsed on her and severely injured her spine. She was forced to undergo two surgeries but still found it difficult to move or walk. “I was a second wife, who has a disability. Constant bullying from the husband’s relatives was a norm,” Ramziya says.

Studies show that girls living with a disability are four times more likely to experience violence than their non-disabled peers, while women with disabilities are twice as likely to be sexually assaulted.

Through an awareness campaign, Ramziya learned about Zarshedabonu, an NGO supported through the Spotlight Initiative that assists women and girls with disabilities to understand and exercise their rights. They offered her free medical support, legal advice and training in tailoring and cooking to help her generate an income. Today, Ramziya is able to walk without crutches and has increased her confidence.

“Spotlight impacted my life by helping me to recover and raising my self-esteem! I want to work and become an entrepreneur. Although I have no education, I can do everything. Life has taught me a lot,” she says.

Thanks to the efforts of Afif and six national NGOs whom they supported and trained, many women like Ramziya have been reached. Over the past six months, more than 1,800 people have been reached with information on services to prevent violence against women and girls with disabilities through training sessions and other materials.

“During the information sessions, I met other women subjected to psychological violence, who did not know where to turn. Now we know when, how and to whom to apply [for support] and how to protect our women’s rights. Many of us are in touch and try to support each other,” says Ramziya.

f) Testimonials

“I have attended a lot of Steering Committee meetings, but this [steering committee] meeting was by far the most engaging by all partners. I would suggest the recommendations made today are taken into consideration and also the future meetings I suggest bringing back the voices of the beneficiaries and showcase concrete support to beneficiaries and some practical measures or support that legal sector has provided to the cases of SGBV.” — Marilyn Josephson, outgoing EU Ambassador.

“In the past I raised my voice at my child. I felt very bad about that. During the PROFamily event I heard advice from the experts and learned a few tips on positive parenting and how to maintain healthy and loving relationships with my child.” — Mother, participant in the PROFamily event in Dushanbe.

“We shouldn’t stay aside when it comes to gender-based violence. Just imagine how many girls are becoming victims of abuse and violence in Tajikistan. When will this stop?” — Instagram comment by young person.

“I believe in order to create a violence-free society; we need to start educating our children from an early age. I believe we come to this world to leave a positive legacy and not to harm each other. We need to educate parents to educate children.” — Father and a famous comedian.

“From the very beginning, I could not take the GALS training seriously, as the methodology seemed to me very easy and even more childish. But with each tool it became more difficult and interesting, and I realized that this technique makes it possible to make the right decisions.” — Kurbanaliyeva Maftuna, Head of the Youth Centre – Rudaki.

“I used to think that sports and heroism were only for boys, but after reading [gender-adopted] fairy tales, I realized that girls can be brave and determined too.” — Student, aged 11, from school No. 48, Shohmansur district, Dushanbe.

g) Photos



Photo 8: National Conference on findings and analysis of the legislation review, 23 June 2022



Photo 9: Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed with the SPT partners and beneficiaries, 7 June 2022



Photo 10: The UN RC and the EU Ambassador at one of the schools in Yovon district, meeting schoolchildren and mentors on complaint mechanism, 25 November 2022



Photo 11: Closing ceremony of the first School of Gender Advocates and presentation of results from the mini-grants' work in local communities, 15 July 2022

h) Videos

CSOs and Women's Movements Tajikistan SPT

Sustainability

During the reporting period, a number of discussions were held with relevant line ministries, CSRG, CSOs and EU on sustainability of the key interventions of the SPT. The Sustainability and Exit Strategy is planned to be developed in early 2023, as highlighted in the Next Steps section.

During the reporting period, a number of efforts were made for the key government partners and CSOs to ensure sustainability of interventions relevant to their areas of responsibility. In the next reporting period, the SPT is planning to organize a joint retreat with all stakeholders that will specifically focus on discussing the sustainability strategy and resource mobilization for the programme, more details are provided under the Next Steps.

Adolescent Innovation Laboratories: With the programme support of the SPT, four new Adolescent Innovation Laboratories have been established and two existing have been renovated and scaled up programming for adolescent girls and boys. Similar laboratories have been established in other districts from different donor sources. For sustainability purposes, UNICEF, leveraging different resources, signed a Sustainability Plan and Recommendation for Adolescent Skills Development through Innovation Labs in Tajikistan with the Ministry of Education and Science in 2022. The Plan envisages the full Government takeover of all 82 Innovation Labs (countrywide) by 2026, including another four that have been established with SPT funds. By that time, UNICEF will ensure its transfer to the Government.

Behaviour Change Communication: The SPT developed a BCC Strategy jointly with CoWFA and provided capacity development training on how to conduct behaviour change communication to challenge and address harmful social norms for CoWFA and other relevant state institutions. The Strategy was submitted to CoWFA for review and adopted as internal by-law/policy that is obligatory to be implemented in the future. CoWFA will raise funding from the state budget and other donors to implement the Strategy beyond SPT lifetime, once it is adopted.

Compliant and referral mechanisms: These mechanisms have been elaborated and adopted by five different ministries and state institutions, including the Ministry of Education and Science. Complaint mechanisms for school children adopted by the MoES were sent to all Regional and District Education Departments for further implementation and scaling up from target schools to the remaining educational institutions. Orientation workshops have already been conducted for 177 new schools and SPT will further support the MoES in scaling up and sustaining complaint mechanisms.

The programme has strengthened and supported feminist/women's rights and progressive movements, to continue to take the work forward after Spotlight ends. The 20 graduates of the **School of Gender Activists** (2021) are already making changes in their communities. They have developed modules, conducted training on gender issues and informed the population on gender issues, human/women's rights, provided legal assistance, etc. from their own resources. This number will be doubled or tripled during the next reporting period and a lot of expression of interest has been received by the Responsible Partner to establish and train **similar schools at district level**. This will

enable them to expand the network of graduates to other districts of the country and cover more people in their activist's work.

The Civil Society Strategy to Lead Change on EVAWG: After the CSO strategy was developed in 2021, a network “Life Without Violence” was formed in 2022. Coordination and expert bodies have been elected and 48 public organizations have signed the Memorandum of Cooperation demonstrating their commitment to continue working on prevention of violence against women and girls. The Memorandum is open for joining the network by other CSOs who are not yet members of this network. Based on the desk review made, more than 50 organizations are already working in this field. The CSO Strategy, which is a unique document for the CSOs not only in Tajikistan but the region in general, serves as a platform for the civil society to join efforts and continue working to achieve changes on EVAWG. Representatives of the network became members of the Regional Network of CSOs of Central Asia to Eliminate SGBV and Harmful Practices, created by the Regional Spotlight Programme.

Next Steps

As a next step, the SPT will ensure all the planned interventions for the final year of the programme implementation are completed within the set time frame, by end of August 2023, followed by remaining months of closure of the programme. The SPT is planning to have a closure ceremony at the end of the year to report on key achievements of the programme, key areas where it has made a positive change, handover the wealth of the knowledge management products, information and systems that were developed within the years of implementation. It is envisaged to invite the national and local government partners, CSOs, beneficiaries, youth, media, donors and development partners.

The SPT is planning to hold a joint retreat with key government counterparts, CSRG members, EU and RUNOs on 27-28 April 2023. At the retreat the SPT will continue the discussion on sustainability of the programme, phasing out and resource mobilization. Discussions will also focus on what changes the SPT has made and will make due to the interventions it had, what can be carried over and sustained, what are the best and promising practices, what are the lessons learned and set of recommendations for future similar joint programmes. A Sustainability and Exit Strategy will be developed and shared with key stakeholders along with the key knowledge products and systems and their ownership to government and CSOs and development partners.

Pillar I

- Continue support to the government working groups on drafting a new State programme on EVAW and its NAP ensuring it builds on the lessons learned from the reviews and evaluations of previous plans in this area, considering all aspects of private and public life of women and girls for their protection from violence.
- Provide capacity building initiatives to key stakeholders in legislative and policy development processes and conduct advocacy campaigns, including both the executive and legislative branch, to advocate for making the necessary changes into the existing policies and laws on ending VAWG, with engagement of local CSOs.
- Promote and lobby for the amendments to SGBV-related policies and legislations that includes, providing technical assistance to the government working group in drafting evidence-based amendments for identified priority legislations, policies, and proce-

dures related to SGBV, (especially with focus on criminalization of domestic violence), in line with international standards.

- Facilitate establishment of the national Interagency Gender Group (based on the example of the UN GTG) and making it functional under the auspices of CoWFA.

Pillar II

- Continue further advocacy on adoption of draft policy amendments to strengthen the enabling environment for girls and boys.
- Continue provision of legal support to children survivors of sexual violence and advocating for strengthened protective environment and social rehabilitation of those children.
- Continue working on improving national and subnational coordination mechanisms for addressing SGBV across key sectors through supporting the work of the MultiSectoral Coordination Group.
- Continue engaging faith-based organizations and Muslim religious leaders, trained within Phase I, to promote the CRA's strategy on prevention of domestic violence and to highlight CRA's contributions towards the implementation of the Law on Prevention of Violence in the Family. Suggest areas of cooperation with other relevant ministries and agencies based on the best practice examples collected from the field and at the national level.
- Increase direct involvement and advocacy with faith-based organizations to address SGBV through extensive training for Muslim religious leaders from regional centres. In addition, support GBV prevention through the development of premarital counselling materials for couples, which will be disseminated across mosques in all Spotlight target districts.
- Support the establishment and functioning of the Inter-governmental Gender Group with CoWFA in lead, to ensure the group is sustained and continues its role post-SPT.
- Strengthen the capacity of Ombudsman's Office, including its regional representation offices to monitor situation on SGBV, collect evidence and report on the government's commitments and provide recommendations on measures to be taken to address discrepancies.

Pillar III

- Continue partnership with the MoES to scale up complaint mechanisms to cover more schools in the country.
- Roll out of the BCC strategy adopted by the CoWFA in close cooperation with Multi Sectoral Working Group.
- Continue promoting youth participation, youth leadership and engagement of men and boys and sports masters/influencers in addressing SGBV, SRH and rights issues, including harmful social norms, gender stereotypes, as well as promoting engaged fatherhood and positive masculinity at the community and national levels.
- Expand the innovative work on transformative change towards violence against women for behavioural change among the population in six target districts.
- Conduct capacity development training for journalists and bloggers representatives of

mass media, as well as build the capacity of mentors on SGBV issues with focus on each media channel.

- Organize media campaigns on SGBV to eradicate inequitable social and gender norms and harmful practices, with engagement of capacitated representatives of mass media.

Pillar IV

- Finalize Adolescent Health online service provision platform and roll out services along with elaboration of standard operating procedures (SOPs) for services providers and their institutionalization.
- Provide further support to service providers for inter-agency cooperation at the local level, identification, assessment and referral of children affected by violence in target districts.
- Conduct additional Mobile Health Fairs in Spotlight target districts to provide women and girls from remote areas with free specialized services, including consultations on reproductive health, cervical cancer, psychological and legal services for survivors of domestic violence.
- Support operationalization of the SOPs and National protocol on services for survivors of SGBV for subnational front-line service providers on health, psychosocial and police services.
- Support MoHSP in creation of additional Victim Support Rooms in areas located near the Spotlight target districts.
- Build further capacity of VSRs focal points, CoWFA and police focal points and staff of existing shelters in coordinated multi sectoral response, service delivery and referral based on the SOPs on quality services to survivors of SGBV. While it is important to observe SOPs aligned to global standards, and articulate procedures for managing referrals within and between partners, it is equally important to develop ethical sensitivity to the cases of VAWG. SPT will develop a video tutor for professionals and service providers on the correct counselling of survivors of violence and support, observing the principles of a survivor-centred approach, its understanding through professional and analytical visioning: video tutor screening for NGOs, Crisis Centres and service providers in target areas, debates and explanations.
- Provide free psychological, legal and referral counselling as well as free online and offline services to SGBV survivors through the Hotline 1313 operated under CoWFA and a mobile application. Conduct nationwide advocacy and awareness-raising campaigns on Hotline 1313 and mobile services among the population.
- Provide capacity building on digital literacy, data collection and analysis. This includes updates of CoWFA's website to ensure connection with possible services for SGBV survivors.
- Support CoWFA in implementation of the coordination mechanism and connection of the Hotline 1313 services with other services such as mobile application, legal aid centres, shelters, etc.
- Conduct capacity building training on development of social, business and economic skills of women and girls, survivors of violence, and their families in six target areas, including provision of mentoring services to SGBV survivors.

- Provide technical support and material support to women and girls who are survivors of SGBV to create a new and/or expand the existing business.

Pillar V

- Continue providing technical assistance on implementation of the SGBV and harmful practice database and collection of data.
- Provide national statistical agencies and relevant government institutions with equipment for collecting SGBV/domestic violence data.
- Provide on-job mentoring and support to the 10 CSOs trained on e-system. These CSOs were already equipped during Phase I on generating reports including consolidated reporting for cloud or other relevant platform(s).

Pillar VI

- Continue empowering CSOs in advocating for and exploring new fundraising opportunities and establishing partnership with the private sector and other partners with the aim of becoming more sustainable.
- Continue team building with the graduates of the SGA and to open two new SGAs for youth in two localities (Dushanbe and Khujand)-to link state, non-state partners and local authorities with the qualified gender experts.
- Support the civil society organizations to continue implementation of the CSOs Strategy and its action plan further linking all CSOs working in GBV/SGBV.
- Support cooperation and working relations between CSRG, the state partners' focal points and SPT team (retreats, round tables).

ANNEXES

Annex A: Results Framework – [here](#)

Annex B: Risk Matrix – [here](#)

Annex C: CSO Engagement Report – [here](#)

Annex D: Innovative, Promising or Good Practices Reporting Template – [here](#)

Annex E: Annual Work Plan – [here](#)

Annex A

Results Framework

Annex A 2022

Outcome 1 Summary table

Outcome Indicator	Baseline	Milestone 2022	Results for Reporting Period (2022)	Cumulative	Target	Reporting Notes
Indicator 1.1 Laws and policies on VAWG/HP in place that adequately respond to the rights of all women and girls, including exercise/access to SRHR, and are in line with international HR standards and treaty bodies' recommendations.	Legal age of marriage					
	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	0	
	Parental Authority in Marriage					
	0	1	0	0	0	
	Parental Authority in Divorce					
	0	1	0	0	0	
	Inheritance rights of Widows					
	0	1	0	0	0	
	Inheritance rights of Daughters					
	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	
Laws on Domestic Violence						
0.25	1	0.25	0.25	0.25		
Laws on Rape						
0.5	1	0.75	0.75	0.25		
Laws on Sexual Harassment						
1	1	0.25	0.25	0.75		
National level						
Indicator 1.2 National/and/or sub-national evidence-based, costed and funded action plans and M&E frameworks on VAWG/HP are in place that respond to the rights of all women and girls and are developed in a participatory manner.	Does not apply/ there is no plan	Does not apply/ there is no plan	Evidence-based, Costed, Rights of all women & girls	Evidence-based, Costed, Rights of all women & girls	Evidence-based, Costed, M&E framework, Rights of all women & girls, Participatory Development	The situation is the same as in 2021. The current SP and NAP on Prevention of Violence in the Family is valid till 2023 including. In 2022 RUNO, jointly with the Committee of Women and Family Affairs under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan (CoWFA), have conducted the Review of its implementation and produced the Report on key findings and recommendations.
	Does not apply/ there is no plan	Does not apply/ there is no plan	Evidence-based, Costed, M&E framework, Rights of all women & girls, Participatory Development	Evidence-based, Costed, M&E framework, Rights of all women & girls, Participatory Development	Evidence-based, Costed, M&E framework, Rights of all women & girls, Participatory Development	In 2023 it is planned to support the CoWFA and WG on drafting the new SP and NAP, based on the existing Law of RT on PFV; but considering a comprehensive approach to tackle all spheres where violence occurs (incl. sexual exploitation and abuse, violence in public places, cyber violence and paying attention at issues of VAWG)
Output Indicator	Baseline	Milestone 2022	Results for Reporting Period (2022)	Cumulative	Target	Reporting Notes
Developed or Strengthened						
Indicator 1.1.1 Number of draft new and/or strengthened laws and/or policies on ending VAWG and/or gender equality and non-discrimination developed that respond to the rights of women and girls facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination and are in line with international HR standards, within the last year.	0	2	2	2	8	The Law of the Republic of Tajikistan on Equality and Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination was developed and approved. Criminal Code was strengthened and revised with inclusion of SGBV aspects.

Parliamentarians						
Indicator 1.1.5 Number of Parliamentarians and staff of human rights institutions with strengthened capacities to advocate for, draft new and/or strengthen existing legislation and/or policies on ending VAWG and/or gender equality and non-discrimination and implement the same, within the last year.	0	0	91	91	12	
	Women Parliamentarians					
	0	0	34	34	6	
	Human Rights Staff					
	0	0	15	15	30	
Women Human Rights Staff						
	0	0	7	7	7	
National						
Indicator 1.2.1 Number of evidence-based national and/or sub-national action plans on ending VAWG developed that respond to the rights of all women and girls, have M&E frameworks and proposed budgets within the last year.	Does not apply/ there is no plan	Evidence-based, Programs & activities costed, M&E Plan, Needs of ALL women & girls	0	1	Evidence-based, Programs & activities costed, M&E Plan, Needs of ALL women & girls	The situation is the same as in 2021. The current SP and NAP on Prevention of Violence in the Family is valid till 2023 including. In 2022 RUNO, jointly with CoWFA, has conducted the Review of its implementation and produced the Report on key findings and recommendations.
	Sub-National					
	0	1	1	1	1	In 2023 it is planned to support the CoWFA and WG on drafting the new SP and NAP, based on the existing Law of RT on PFV; but considering a comprehensive approach to tackle all spheres where violence occurs (incl. SEA, violence in public places, cyber violence and paying attention at issues of VAWGs).

Outcome 2 Summary table

Outcome Indicator	Baseline	Milestone 2022	Results for Reporting Period (2022)	Cumulative	Target	Reporting Notes	
Coordination Mechanism?							
Indicator 2.1 Existence of a functioning regional, national and/or sub-national coordination and oversight mechanisms at the highest levels for addressing VAWG/HP that include representation from marginalized groups.	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	The ToR of the National MSCG was developed and submitted to the Government for approval. However, the based on the comments from the Government the MSCG can be established after it has been included in the revised version of the Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence.	
Health							
Indicator 2.3 Extent to which VAWG/HP is integrated in 5 other sectors (health, social services, education, justice, security, culture) development plans that are evidence-based and in line with globally agreed standards.	Low	Medium	Low	Low	Medium	The situation is still the same as in 2021. The current SP and NAP on Prevention of Violence in the Family is valid till 2023 including. In 2022 RUNO, jointly with CoWFA, has conducted the Review of its implementation and produced the Report on key findings and recommendations. In 2023 it is planned to support the CoWFA and WG on drafting the new SP and NAP, based on the existing Law of RT on PFV; but considering a comprehensive approach to tackle all spheres where violence occurs (incl. SEA, violence in public places, cyber violence and paying attention at issues of VAWGs).	
	Education						
	No Integration	Medium	No integration	No integration	Medium		
	Justice						
	Low	Medium	Low	Low	Medium		
	Security						
No Integration	Medium	Low	Low	Medium			
Social Services							
No Integration	Medium	Low	Low	Medium			

Output Indicator	Baseline	Milestone 2022	Results for Reporting Period (2022)	Cumulative	Target	Reporting Notes
	Health					
	0	0	0	0	0	
	Education					
	0	0	0	3	0	
	Justice					
Indicator 2.1.3 Number of strategies, new plans and programmes of other relevant sectors (health, social services, education, justice, security, culture) that integrate efforts to combat VAWG developed in line with international HR standards, within the last year.	0	3	3	3	3	- Gender-sensitive education programmes for the violence prosecuting institutions have been adopted and institutionalized (Training Centre of the Supreme Court and Ministries of Justice); - Gender-sensitive curriculum for judiciary sector officials, and - Methodological guide for state lawyers on provision of legal assistance.
	Security					
	0	4	2	2	7	- Programme on Empowerment of women in the security sector and Women Police Inspectors to prevent and respond to SGBV for the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Gender-sensitive education programmes for the violence prosecuting institutions have been adopted and institutionalized (Ministry of Internal Affairs/Academy); - Guideline on increasing gender sensitivity of security sector;
	Social Services					
	0	2	2	2	5	Gender Mainstreaming Strategy on promotion of increased access of women to decision-making positions in state institutions competent on prevention of violence against women and girls for the period up to 2030 is adopted by CoWFA on 05.01.2022;
	Government Officials					
Indicator 2.1.6 Number of key government officials trained on human rights and gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours towards women and girls, including for those groups facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination, within the last year.	0	100	88	512	480	The number stays the same as in 2021. 88 Service Providers (5 ministries: MoH&SP, MoES, MoJ, Mol, CoWFA) as trainees on specially tailored programme for intersectoral cooperation on the EVAW/SGBV programmes.
	Women Government Officials					
	0	60	55	233	230	
	Indicator 2.2.1 Multi-stakeholder VAWG coordination mechanisms are established at the highest level and/or strengthened, and are composed of relevant stakeholders, with a clear mandate and governance structure and with annual work plans, within the last year.					
There is no coordination mechanism	Established at the highest level, Composed of relevant stakeholders, With a clear mandate and governance structure, With annual work plans	Composed of relevant stakeholders	Composed of relevant stakeholders	Established at the highest level, With a clear mandate and governance structure, Composed of relevant stakeholders, With annual work plans	The ToR of the National MSCG was developed and submitted to the Government for approval. However, the based on the comments from the Government the MSCG can be established after it has been included in the revised version of the Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence.	
	National Level Meetings					
Indicator 2.2.4 Number of meetings of regional, national and/or sub-national multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms, within the last year.	0	2	2	2	2	These include the two round table meetings of the MSCG chaired by COWFA. However, this group is not institutionalized yet.
	Sub-National Level Meetings					
	0	3	3	6	3	This includes the round table meetings of the Regional MSCG in pilot districts: B. Ghafurov and Isfara as well as Khujand at the regional level.

Outcome 3 Summary table

Outcome Indicator	Baseline	Milestone 2022	Results for Reporting Period (2022)	Cumulative	Target	Reporting Notes
Indicator 3.1 Percentage of people who think it is justifiable for a man to (subject) beat his wife/intimate partner.	64	64	39.00	39.00	60	Data from Baseline/KAPB survey (2021)
Child Marriage						
Indicator 3.2.b) Percentage of people who think it is justifiable to subject a woman or girl child marriage.	4.1	4.1	4.10	4.10	3.6	Data from Baseline/KAPB survey (2021)
Output Indicator	Baseline	Milestone 2022	Results for Reporting Period (2022)	Cumulative	Target	Reporting Notes
Indicator 3.1.1 Existence of a draft new and/or strengthened Comprehensive Sexuality Education in line with international standards	NoNo	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	The SPT jointly with the UNFPA Regional Office, the UNESCO Regional office and the MoES conducted SERAT assessment to align the curriculum for grades 7-11 on Healthy Lifestyle Education (HLSE) with the UNESCO guidelines on comprehensive sexuality education (CSE), specifically related to gender and GBV issues. The recommendations from the assessment specifically for Tajikistan on revision and amendment of the HLSE curriculum and other related subjects considering gender equality and GBV issues were integrated into the existing HSLE modules and approved by the MoES.
In-School Programmes						
Indicator 3.1.2 Number of young women and girls, young men and boys who participate in either/both in- and out-of school programmes that promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours and exercise of rights, including reproductive rights, within the last year.	0	0	20,068	49,331	350	
	In-School Programmes Girls					
	0	0	9,188	28,176	350	
	In-School Programmes Boys					
	0	0	10,880	21,155	0	
	Out-of-School Programmes					
	0	0	11,939	12,766	800	
	Out-of-School Programmes Girls					
0	500	6,322	6,741	900		
Out-of-School Programmes Boys						
0	500	5,617	6,025	100		
Indicator 3.2.2 Number of people reached by campaigns challenging harmful social norms and gender stereotyping, within the last year.	0	4,300	464,136	1,072,780	615,600	

<p>Indicator 3.2.5 Number of campaigns challenging harmful social norms and gender stereotyping, including of women and girls facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination, developed and disseminated during the past year.</p>	0	16	127	127	58	<p>- 36 community mobilization action plans with involvement of local activists, youth, people with disabilities, women leaving with HIV and local governments were implemented in all 6 project target areas; - 43 best gender-sensitive and survivor-centered media products on gender equality and SGBV cases were published in web of local TV channels, social media and newspaper with about 300k subscribers. - 25 actions in their Communities on GALS - Gender Action Learning Systems in 6 districts and in Dushanbe - 1 campaign on access of Women with Disabilities to services. - 6 NGOs received mini-grants to implement Community based initiatives and actions (round tables, gender reading circles, informational work, peer-to-peer informational actions with youth). - 2 social media campaigns. - 6 Mobile health Fairs. - 5 theatre performances on safety and personal space for children. - 1 event at Siyoma Mall on raising awareness on the rights of PWD. In total 127 campaigns. In Health sector: 7. In Education sector: 3. In Social Services: 117.</p>
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Outcome 4 Summary table

Outcome Indicator	Baseline	Milestone 2022	Results for Reporting Period (2022)	Cumulative	Target	Reporting Notes
	Women					
<p>Indicator 4.1 Number of women and girls, including those facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination, who report experiencing physical or sexual violence and seek help, by sector.</p>	141	3100	4497	4790	3300	
	Girls					
	7	400	444	461	450	
Output Indicator	Baseline	Milestone 2022	Results for Reporting Period (2022)	Cumulative	Target	Reporting Notes
	Developed					
<p>Indicator 4.1.3 Existence of national guidelines or protocols that have been developed and/or strengthened in line with the guidance and tools for essential services.</p>	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	The WAVE and UNFPA Guidance on strengthening health sector response to GBV has been adopted and adapted by the MoHSP.
	Strengthened					
	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	UNFPA SOPs on health, psychosocial support and police services were reviewed and strengthened based on the updated EECARO SOPs, which were developed and presented within the Regional Spotlight Project.
	Government Service Providers					
<p>Indicator 4.1.4 Number of government service providers who have increased knowledge and capacities to deliver quality and coordinated essential services to women and girl survivors of violence, within the last year.</p>	0	3,190	3,283	4,080	4,097	
	Women Government Service Providers					
	0	1,658	1,673	2,132	1,658	

Indicator 4.2.1 Number of women and girl survivors of violence that have increased KNOWLEDGE of a) to quality essential services, and b) accompaniment/support initiatives, including longer-term recovery within the last 12 months	a) Girls with Knowledge of ES					
	0	300	318	679	1160	
	a) Women with Knowledge of ES					
	0	3700	4884	6389	4640	
	b) Girls with Knowledge of longer term services					
	0	400	0	1402	1160	
b) Women with Knowledge of longer term services						
	0	1600	151	2181	4640	
Indicator 4.2.2 Number of women and girl survivors/victims and their families, including groups facing multiple and intersecting forms or discrimination, that have increased ACCESS to a) to quality essential services and b) accompaniment/support initiatives, including longer-term recovery services, within the last 12 months	a) Girls with ACCESS to ES					
	570	375	95	95	995	High numbers in 2021 are due to massive campaign on EVAW amidst COVID. In 2022 611 citizens (48 (7,9%) girls U-18 and 563 (92,1%) women), as well as 3 men, who have been subjected to violence, contacted SPT partnering NGOs for seeking help. Out of them, 124 were women with disabilities, which is 20,2% of those who sought help. All women were provided with psychological support and legal advice. The rest 340 (incl. WWDs) were informed during the actions of mini-grants in local Communities.
	a) Women with ACCESS to ES					
	0	1125	855	855	3075	
	b) Girls with Access to Recovery Services					
	50	200	0	1200	310	
b) Women with Access to Recovery Services						
	0	550	0	50	940	

Outcome 5 Summary table

Outcome Indicator	Baseline	Milestone 2022	Results for Reporting Period (2022)	Cumulative	Target	Reporting Notes
Indicator 5.1 Existence of globally comparable data on the prevalence (and incidence, where appropriate) of VAWG/HP, collected over time	Prevalence					
	No	No	Not applicable	Not applicable	No	
	Incidence					
	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	In cooperation with the national consultant and the members of the working group on development of the mechanism for the collection of the administrative data on GBV, the overall technical strategy for implementation of the e-system with recommendations on improvements to ensure good practices was established with a cost assessment of creation/adaptation e-system based on the technical and functional requirements. The next steps of the SPT will be strengthening of the administrative data systems, which includes mapping, coordination and governance, leading agency on data and building capacity of the national statistical officers and CSOs.
Output Indicator	Baseline	Milestone 2022	Results for Reporting Period (2022)	Cumulative	Target	Reporting Notes
Indicator 5.1.1 National Statistical Offices has developed/adapted and contextualized methods and standards at national level to produce prevalence and/or incidence data on VAWG	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	This process will be finalized in 2023.

	Government Personnel					
Indicator 5.1.4 Number of government personnel from different sectors, including service providers, who have enhanced capacities to collect prevalence and/or incidence data, including qualitative data, on VAWG in line with international and regional standards, within the last year	0	140	0	0	280	The training module will be developed in 2023, therefore, the capacity building activities have been rescheduled to 2023.
	Women Government Personnel					
	0	0	0	0	148	
Indicator 5.1.5 Number of women's rights advocates with strengthened capacities to collect prevalence and/or incidence data, and qualitative data, on VAWG	0	20	20	20	40	

Outcome 6 Summary table						
Outcome Indicator	Baseline	Milestone 2022	Results for Reporting Period (2022)	Cumulative	Target	Reporting Notes
Indicator 6.1 Number of women's rights organisations, autonomous social movements and relevant CSOs, including those representing youth and groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization, increase their coordinated efforts to jointly advocate on ending VAWG	0	6	35	41	20	35 NGOs united around the CSO's Strategy on transformative change of attitude & behavior towards VAWG and the Network "Life without violence."
Indicator 6.3 Number of women's rights organisations, autonomous social movements and CSOs, including those representing youth and groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization, report having greater influence and agency to work on ending VAWG	0	5	52	63	10	School of Gender Activists/ CSOs - 17; 35 NGOs united around the CSO's Strategy on transformative change of attitude & behavior towards VAWG and the Network "Life without violence."
Output Indicator	Baseline	Milestone 2022	Results for Reporting Period (2022)	Cumulative	Target	Reporting Notes
Indicator 6.1.1 Number of jointly agreed recommendations on ending VAWG produced as a result of multi-stakeholder dialogues that include representatives of groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, within the last year	0	2	2	3	5	Recommendations considered in the CSOs' Strategy on transformative change of attitudes and behavior towards VAW; Number of recommendations of covered CSOs and gender activists, that have been considered in the CSO's Alternative Report to CEDAW.

<p>Indicator 6.1.4 Number of women's rights groups, networks and relevant CSOs with strengthened capacities to network, partner and jointly advocate for progress on ending VAWG at local, national, regional and global levels, within the last year</p>	26	5	52	82	41	<p>School of Gender Activists/ CSOs - 17; 35 NGOs united around the CSO's Strategy on transformative change of attitude & behavior towards VAWG and the Network "Life without violence."</p>
<p>Indicator 6.3.1 Number of women's rights groups and relevant CSOs representing groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization that have strengthened capacities and support to design, implement, monitor and evaluate their own programmes on ending VAWG, within the last year.</p>	12	6	58	88	12	
<p>Indicator 6.3.2 Number of women's rights groups and relevant CSOs using knowledge products developed by the participating UN agencies in the design of their own programmes on ending VAWG, within the last year</p>	0	5	5	11	10	

Annex B

Risk Matrix



ANNUAL REPORT – ANNEX B RISK MANAGEMENT REPORT

Country: Tajikistan

Reporting Period: 01 January 2022 – 31 December 2022

Instructions: Kindly refer to the Risk Management Matrix in your approved Spotlight Country/Regional Programme Document to report in the below matrix on how your programme has managed all identified risks during the reporting period. Should new risks have arisen, please include them clearly in the Risk Management Matrix below, denoting [NEW RISK] and use this matrix moving forward. Please also update the section on 'Assumptions' as necessary.

Risk Assessment			Risk Monitoring:		Addressing the Risk:	Responsible Person/Unit
(All text in the Risk Management Report: Arial 10 point, normal)			How (and how often) did your programme monitor the risk(s) during the reporting period?		Please include the mitigating and/or adaption measures taken during the reporting period.	
Risk	Likelihood: Almost Certain – 5 Likely – 4 Possible – 3 Unlikely – 2 Rare – 1	Impact: Extreme – 5 Major – 4 Moderate – 3 Minor – 2 Insignificant – 1	Periodicity	Source for monitoring		
Contextual risks						
Resistance from family, community, traditional and religious leaders	Likely (4)	Moderate (3)			Adoptive pathways of communication; user-friendly approaches; use of win-win policy; engagement of the entire communities.	UNDP/UNFPA and national partners
Cyclones, earthquakes, flooding, and other natural disasters	Likely (4)	Major (4)			No major natural hazards occurred during the period of this report.	
COVID-19	Likely (4)	Major (4)			The situation with COVID-19 is stable in the country. The number of new cases were reducing during the reporting period. The SPT will continue monitoring the epidemic situation in the country and coordinate with UNCT to implement mitigation measures. No major increase of new cases were observed in 2022. The implementation of the programme was not hindered by COVID-19 in 2022.	UNDP/UNICEF/UNFPA/ UNWomen

Lack of legal incentives for creation and running of NGOs, particularly for local grassroots organizations	Possible (3)	Major (4)	Quarterly	Meeting of the CSRG and other NGOs	The SPT cooperates with gender machinery and stakeholders to tailor a comprehensive National Action Plan on ending all forms of violence against women and girls. In part related to cross-cutting structures, during the drafting of the new Action Plan, special attention will be paid to the fact that the new plan commits not only to constitute local-level working groups comprising government organizations, but also to strengthening support structures for community-based organizations for their participation in these and to better enable community interventions. It will continue building the capacity of relevant CSOs, not only through resourcing, but also by recommending legal incentives for their creation and running (including NGO-run shelters), by supporting structures to enable coordination of effort, information, and practice sharing. The discussions on this started in 2022 and will continue into 2023.	UNDP/UNICEF/UNFPA/ UNWomen
Stigmatization of victims of GBV at community level, resistance from family and unwillingness to seek professional support	Possible (3)	Major (4)	Frequent	Meeting with service providers, community leaders and CSRG	Campaigns designed to fight stigmatization have been implemented as part of the community mobilization awareness raising activities in the target districts. While creation of additional services for SGBV survivors, locations and accessibility were taken into consideration.	UNDP/UNICEF/UNFPA/ UNWomen
Limited national ownership and commitment to effective change	Possible (3)	Major (4)	Frequent	Interaction with key counterparts	During the reporting period, Government counterparts have continuously demonstrated dedication and commitment to SPT interventions and discussed number of possibilities to sustain interventions after the programme life to effect change.	UNDP/UNICEF/UNFPA/ UNWomen
NEW RISK-The conflict around territorial issues and natural resources in the cross-border conflict with Kyrgyzstan negatively impacted the programme implementation. This is a re-occurring risk and it might potentially continue which can cause delays for interventions planned in Isfara and Bobojon Gaffurov, two out of the six target groups.	Possible (3)	Major (4)	Periodicly	Local and national media outlets, UNCT	"During the conflict, the Government did not request for assistance from the UN system. However, the UNCT stood ready to provide support if needed. Tajikistan and Kyrgyz authorities have reached peace agreement in September 2022. However, the risk of clashes exists to date. The SPT team closely monitors the situation in collaboration with other agencies. Based on the situation, the SPT expedited activities in those areas. As a mitigation measure, whenever possible, the SPT may decide to invite participants of some activities to nearby districts, to reduce the exposure of beneficiaries to risk. "	UNDP/UNICEF/UNFPA/ UNWomen
NEW RISK - In February 2022, the start of the war in Ukraine and international sanctions on Russian Federation that caused the limitations in export of essential goods has impacted the economic situation in Tajikistan.	Likely (4)	Major (4)		CSOs, communities, media outlets	Number of returning-home labour migrants was not high, in comparison to the numbers of returned Tajiks with dual citizenship and other nationalities, trying to escape being sent to war, after a partial mobilization was announced in Russian Federation. This exodus of people into the country in 2022 resulted in increase of prices and cost of living, which can potentially influence the situation with DV, as economic burden on families, especially low-income ones, is the main source of tension. The SPT will continue monitoring socio-economic situation in the country and coordinate its efforts with UNCT and national government on potential responses.	UNDP/UNICEF/UNFPA/ UNWomen

Programmatic risks						
Country Programmes are not fully funded to achieve all deliverables due to the lack of required resources (resources additional to the EU envelopes)	Unlikely (2)	Moderate (3)		Meetings and consultations with donors	During the reporting period, the SPT team, and in some occasions, jointly with Government counterparts reached out to number of donors and International Financial Institutions (IFIs) to advocate for sustainability and funding of the current activities to ensure they do not stop after the closure of the Spotlight Initiative. So far no hard commitments have been made, however, number of IFIs showed willingness to continue to advocate for sustainability of number of interventions.	UNDP/UNICEF/UNFPA/ UNWomen/Coordination Unit
Funding and services not available after Initiative ends due to lack of resources	Possible (3)	Major (4)		Meetings and consultations with donors and relevant line ministires	The SPT continued to focus on resource mobilization during the reporting period. The SPT used all available avenues to call on Government counterparts for increasing national ownership and sustainability of interventions after the programme ends, through increasing allocation from national budget. Moreover, held number of consultations with development partners to ensure some of the knowledge products developed and networks set within the SPT are properly used by other partners, without duplicating efforts.	UNDP/UNICEF/UNFPA/ UNWomen/Coordination Unit

Annex D

Promising or Good Practices Reporting Template

State of a practice: good practice or promising practice?

The following set of criteria will help you to determine whether a practice is a good practice:

	Innovation, experience	Promising practices	Good practices	Policy, principles, norms
Level of evidence	Minimal objective evidence, inferences from parallel experiences and contexts. Lessons learned need to be drawn.	Unproven in multiple settings, anecdotal evidence, testimonials, articles, reports. Existing lessons learned that need to be further elaborated.	Evidence of impact from multiple settings, several evaluations, meta-analysis, expert review, cost-efficiency analysis, good practice criteria. Lessons learned integrated.	Proven in multiple settings, replication studies, quantitative and scientific evidence.
Replicability potential and applicability	New idea, no previous experience, highest risk.	High risk, but potential for further investigation.	Demonstrated replicability, limited risk for replicability.	Consistently replicable, widely applicable.

Adapted from Hancock, J. (2003). *Scaling-up for increased impact of development practice: Issues and options in support of the implementation of the World Bank's Rural Strategy*. Rural Strategy Working Paper, World Bank, Washington D.C.

Guidance and Template on Good and Promising Practices

As **demonstration fund**, the Spotlight Initiative will demonstrate the evidence base that a significant, concerted and comprehensive investment in gender equality can make a lasting difference in the lives of women and girls and in the achievement of all SDGs. It is thus critical that promising and good practices that have the **potential for adaptability, sustainability, replicability and scale-up**¹ in the field of EAWG and chart a new way of working, both within the UN system and with various stakeholders to maximize the transformative potential of the Initiative are documented and shared.

This brief guidance and template is thus developed to ensure a common understanding of “**Promising and/or Good Practices**” in Spotlight, provide a set of criteria to determine whether a practice is a good practice or promising and a template for documentation. As Spotlight Initiative is in its early stages of programming and a mid-term review is yet to be undertaken, it is anticipated that countries will be documenting promising practices at this stage. Please see definition below and a diagram for further clarification.²

Definition of a Promising Practice

A promising practice has demonstrated a high degree of success in its single setting, and the possibility of replication in the same setting is guaranteed. It has generated some quantitative data showing positive outcomes over a period of time. A promising practice has the potential to become a good practice, but it doesn't yet have enough research or replication to support wider adoption or upscaling. As such, a promising practice incorporates a process of continuous learning and improvement.

Definition of a Good Practice

A good practice is not only practice that is good, but one that has been proven to work well and produce good results and is therefore recommended as a model. It is a successful experience that has been tested and validated, in the broad sense, has been repeated and deserves to be shared, so that a greater number of people can adopt it.

¹ Guidelines on good practices, UNHCR. 2019. Accessible here: <https://www.unhcr.org/5d15fb634>

² Good Practice Template, FAO. 2016. Accessible here: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-as547e.pdf>

Section A: Innovative, Promising and Good Practices

<p>Title of the innovative, promising or good practice</p>	<p>Comprehensive SGBV Complaint and Response Mechanisms for School Children and Local Communities</p>
<p>Provide a description of the innovative, promising or good practice. What pillars/principles of the Spotlight Initiative does it address?</p>	<p>The Spotlight Programme in Tajikistan (SPT) has established comprehensive violence against children (VAC)/sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) prevention mechanisms for school children, especially girls and local communities under Pillar III (Prevention).</p> <p>The concept was to establish comprehensive mechanisms for children's safe living environment at school, communities, and home and engage parents, local community activists, and state bodies through the mechanisms to change their knowledge, attitudes, and behaviours on VAC/SGBV.</p> <p>As a starting point, the SPT approached targeted schools and selected one person from each school to train as a mentor. Training sessions included, but were not limited to, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, positive parenting and disciplining, overall principium of leaving no one behind, and complaint mechanisms for children and local communities on different types of the violence, including SGBV.</p> <p>The established complaint mechanisms under each school includes a complaint box and a hotline (usually the mentors' phone), to address complaints coming from children, especially girls. The SPT established Complaint Revision Committees (CRC) which are comprised of a mentor, two teachers, local police inspector and representatives of the local community to address the complaints raised. Members of the CRC have been trained on how to review, address and refer cases. Most importantly, they have been trained on the basics of human rights approaches: "do not harm", confidentiality, impartiality, gender sensitivity, etc. At the same time, the SPT to prevent corporal punishment has worked with teachers and equipped them with positive parenting and disciplining techniques to be transferred through Parent-Teacher Association to wider communities. So far, complaint mechanisms have received and resolved hundreds of appeals coming from children, especially girls. Thanks to these established mechanisms, children, mainly girls, and in number of cases girls with disabilities, have been able to return to their studies.</p>
<p>Objective of the practice</p>	<p>The goal of this practice is to prevent, detect, respond, and refer to cases of VAC/SGBV through setting out comprehensive complaint and response mechanisms at school and community levels.</p>
<p>Stakeholders involved.</p>	<p>The beneficiaries of the mechanisms were school children (girls and boys), schoolteachers, parent-teacher associations, local and regional educational departments, Ministry of Education and Science, community activists and local Police Inspectors.</p>

<p>What makes this an innovative, promising or good practice?</p>	<p>The SGBV prevention mechanisms implemented under the SPT appeared to be a very comprehensive approach for positive changes, as well as a tool for local communities addressing both demand and supply sides. On one hand it provides teachers, parents and the wider community with a tool on how to educate their children, especially girls, without application of corporal or other types of punishments, pay attention not only to immediate results but look at their children as a human being, bearing dignity and their next generation equally. On the demand side it empowered girls and boys with messages on their rights to equality, gender equality specifically, provided a safe life and learning environment to realize their full potential as per the UNCRC.</p> <p>Although complaint mechanisms established to receive and address complaints on SGBV issues coming from girls and boys, now is serving wider purposes, and bringing all other issue of concern to students for the review of the CRC. One of the good examples: students have complained on corruption and illegal money collection by teachers at school. During one of the planned prosecutor's checks, this complaint has been revealed by the prosecutors and measures have been taken to resolve the issue.</p>
<p>What challenges were encountered and how were they overcome?</p>	<p>The main challenge was reluctance of parents and adults in general to the realities of SGBV and educating children on human rights issues, including gender equality. To overcome this challenge, the implementing partner conducted workshops for parents and teachers to sensitize them on gender equality issues and brought examples/repercussion of the latest cases of grave violations in the family that preceded suicides or murders in environments where local communities were tolerant to violence against women and girls and harmful gender practices.</p> <p>While we have not yet seen evidence of parents fully agreeing with the key messages of the Spotlight Initiative, the programme has at least not faced the issue of parents being in open opposition to the intervention, which is considered as a first small step towards behaviour change.</p>

<p>Outputs and Impact:</p>	<p>Comprehensive complaint mechanisms are the only mechanisms that unites different actors (schoolteachers, parents, community members, law enforcement, girls and boys) around the issue of elimination of violence against children, especially girls.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To date, 45 mentors, and some 700 teachers` capacity have been enhanced on different issues, including gender equality, inclusion, positive parenting and disciplining. They have developed their capacities on international best standards on child rights, skills to listen and consider one`s voice, etc. • In 45 schools where more than 90,000 children are studying, complaint mechanisms have been established and are fully operational to receive appeals from children, address or refer them. • Anecdotal evidence demonstrates that the level of bullying and harassment in school has substantially decreased. School governance and the role of children in decision-making has improved. • An endline study demonstrated that the perception level of application of corporal punishment has decreased to 10% in contrast to 36% before introduction of mechanisms. • Complaint mechanisms have received and successfully resolved over 200 cases.
<p>Adaptable (Optional)</p>	<p>This activity is fully adaptable in other countries and contexts, and it is easy to implement, as the steps of its operationalization are simple, requiring only dedication and some resources at the inception.</p> <p>In fact, the mechanisms are based on the existing resources at local level, and depending on the context, it might be adapted to different realities, if the main principles like do not harm, confidentiality, impartiality, etc. are strictly adhered to. The mechanisms might also be adapted to adults, for instance in higher institutions, at workplace, etc. Moreover, the UN system can use it as a Community Based Complaint Mechanisms on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, which shares a common goal.</p>
<p>Replicable/Scale-Up (Optional)</p>	<p>The Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Tajikistan has adopted the by-law on the procedures on receiving, addressing and referring the appeals from children that is in line with the complaint mechanisms. In addition, the MoES in implementing its by-law, has elaborated sample complaint mechanisms that other schools can/shall adhere to, thus ensuring the scalability of the mechanisms to other non-SPT areas. In 2022, the SPT trained 177 school directors, representatives of educational departments on the mechanisms and disseminated the order of the MoES that is evidence of its scalability.</p> <p>Schools where the mechanisms are established have established networks at district level to share experiences, thus informing other schools (non-SPT) on the results of the mechanisms, including decreased levels of violence, active participation of children in school activities, more respectful relationships among students themselves and students to teachers and vice versa that “causes” less burden to school administration and prevents unforeseen situations, detects any violence and addresses issues in a timely manner.</p>

Sustainable	As mentioned above, the MoES has elaborated and adopted a by-law that sets a legal basis for rolling out of the complaint mechanisms. It is also obligatory for every school to establish and roll out mechanisms, which provides good grounds for the programme's sustainability. Furthermore, the MoES has elaborated sample complaint mechanisms bylaws for schools to adopt and implement in practice. It is anticipated that the MoES will be monitoring the implementation of the mechanisms through its subordinates at district and regional levels. Tajikistan is elaborating the Education Code which will codify all the laws in this sphere. The SPT and RUNOs will be advocating for inclusion of the mechanisms into the draft code beyond the Spotlight Initiative.
Validated (for a good practice only)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulation/by-law on receiving and addressing appeals from children had been adopted by the Ministry of Education and Science. • Based on the Regulation/By-law sample complaint mechanism charter for schools has been developed.
Additional details and contact information	<p>Contacts: Saidahmad Ikromov, Child Protection Officer. Justice for Children, UNCEF, Tajikistan Tel: (+992) 93 514 33 46 E-mail: sikromov@unicef.org</p> <p>Farogat Mirzoyeva, Country Director, INGO Good Neighbours in Tajikistan, Implementing Partner Tel: (+992) 77 888 5400 E-mail: farogat.mirzoeva@goodneighbors.org</p>

Title of the Innovative, Promising or Good Practice	Empowering Student Councils to Advocate and Educate on VAWG and Inculcate the Culture of Speaking among Adolescent Girls and Boys
Provide a description of the innovative, promising or good practice. What pillars/principles of the Spotlight Initiative does it address?	<p>The SPT has strengthened the Student Councils comprised of 26 active students in target schools under the Pillar III (Prevention) to advocate and educate on VAWG and inculcate the culture of speaking among adolescent girls and boys that promotes students` participation in social life and decision-making, advocacy in their schools and communities and improve students` leadership skills. Student Councils are gender balanced (13 girls and 13 boys), have representatives of different groups of local communities, including children with disabilities and gypsies, as appropriate to the local realities. Student Councils have been trained on the UNCRC, gender aspects, issues of VAC/SGBV, how to detect and report on those cases, basic human rights to equality, especially gender equality. Using the “steppingstone” methodology, Student Councils members have conveyed SGBV prevention messages to their peers and nearby communities.</p> <p>As a result, every year, Student Council members engage with thousands of their peers and local communities. In addition, Student Council members have shared their experience with nearby schools where complaint mechanisms are not supported by the SPT.</p> <p>To support Student Councils, the SPT has worked with Parent-Teacher Associations, so that parents are also aware about SGBV, positive parenting and supportive to their children, activists to end violence.</p> <p>To inculcate the culture of speaking up among the students to advocate for zero tolerance on SGBV, the SPT has announced micro-grants (USD 300 maximum per grant). Students have managed to prepare radio and TV shows with messages to challenge social harmful norms, including but not limited to early marriage, equal rights of girls and boys to education, etc. Over a million people have been reached via radio and TV shows so far.</p>
Objective of the practice	Empower Student Councils to advocate and educate on VAWG and inculcate the culture of speaking among adolescent girls and boys, promote students` participation in social life, decision-making and advocacy at school level.
Stakeholders involved	The beneficiaries of the mechanisms were school children (girls and boys), schoolteachers, parent–teacher associations, local and regional educational departments, Ministry of Education and Science, community activists and local Police Inspectors.

<p>What makes this an innovative, promising or good practice?</p>	<p>Strengthening Student Councils and their engagement in advocating and educating peers and local communities on VAWG proved its efficiency and effectiveness. Strengthening Student Councils have created demand on one side through empowered girls and boys with messages on their rights to equality, gender equality specifically, provided an opportunity to speak up and triggered their personal development via active participation in social life. On another hand empowered Student Councils served as an asset to spread the word-of-mouth messages on SGBV prevention within the schools and beyond.</p> <p>Strengthened Student Councils have enabled children to be advocates for gender equality that started at school level and later on have been scaled up to regional and national levels via partaking in TV and radio shows where girls were transmitting the messages that girls, equally with boys, can and shall be given an opportunity by their parents to continue education, to pursue university diploma and be a meaningful and equal member of the society.</p> <p>Due to girl's and boy's empowerment and activation of their participation, Student Councils members became activists beyond SGBV issues, bringing attention to social and family problems experienced by their peers, to the attention and resolution of local authorities.</p>
<p>What challenges were encountered and how were they overcome?</p>	<p>While Student Councils have been empowered to be a role model, students in senior classes upon graduation leave the school, which impedes the overall capacity of the Student Council. To overcome this challenge, the SPT decided to form the Council from among the students from different grades starting from eight to eleven, so that this scheme ensures knowledge transfer between the generations of schoolchildren.</p>
<p>Outputs and Impact:</p>	<p>Student Councils provide a unique platform for children to speak up, freely expressing their grievances and views. In addition, strengthened student council has enhanced the confidence of children while communicating with adults and discussion the issues that may go beyond the SGBV thematic area, including quality of education, social support to families, inclusive education, etc. It has strengthened the culture of speak up among children and has developed leadership skills and trust for the positive outcomes of civil activism.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In total, 1,170 Student Council members in 45 schools have been empowered through training sessions and peer to peer support. • Student Council members with support of their mentors have conducted SGBV prevention campaigns that covered more than 50,000 people at schools and local communities. Through local and national TV and radio channels, students have conducted shows to challenge social and gender harmful practices with coverage estimated around 6 million people (population of Tajikistan is 10 million).
<p>Adaptable (Optional)</p>	<p>This activity is fully adaptable in other countries and contexts, and it is easy to implement, as the steps of its operationalization are simple. Adolescent girls and boys are full of enthusiasm and energy and the most important part is to ensure they believe in the cause and the changes they can make. This will yield in a great result within a short period of time.</p>

Replicable/Scale-Up (Optional)	Student Councils have to be established in each school as per the Ministry of Education and Science regulations along with the parent–teacher associations. Effectiveness of the Student Councils depends on the level of trust and independence provided by school administration and developing its capacities.
Sustainable	Student Councils and Parent–Teacher Associations are permanent bodies at schools. Since complaint mechanisms require specialized knowledge provided by the SPT from the very beginning, schoolgirls and boys in grades 8 to 11 have been enrolled in it, thus while one group graduates, others from lower grades will take over and recruit new members. The proportion of new Council members is around 25% that are trained by existing Student Council members. The SPT has trained only one mentor per school who are the driving force of the whole mechanism. At the same time, observations prove that mentors have trained two to three other teachers who can easily take over in case the mentor retires or leaves the job. In addition, Principals are also aware of the mechanism and have sufficient knowledge. In one case, the school Principal has moved to another non-Spotlight district and immediately upon arriving has established mechanisms in that school. The main driver of sustainability is the interest of the school administrations in the results of the mechanisms, which aims to establish “peace and stability” in their schools.
Validated (for a good practice only)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulation/by-law on receiving and addressing appeals from children had been adopted by the Ministry of Education and Science. • Based on the regulation/by-law sample complaint mechanism charter for schools has been developed.
Additional details and contact information	<p>Contacts: Saidahmad Ikromov, Child Protection Officer. Justice for Children, UNICEF, Tajikistan Tel: (+992) 93 514 33 46 E-mail: sikromov@unicef.org</p> <p>Farogat Mirzoyeva, Country Director, INGO Good Neighbours in Tajikistan, Implementing Partner Tel: (+992) 77 888 5400 E-mail: farogat.mirzoeva@goodneighbors.org</p>

Section B: Knowledge Production

Title of Knowledge Product	Product type(s)* (Select from the list above. If other, please specify)	Brief Description & Purpose	Date completed/ published or expected to be	Link to Knowledge Product (if available)
Tajikistan Country Programme Snapshot Tajik, Russian, English	Briefs/Factsheets	Overall brief information on the Spotlight Initiative programme in Tajikistan (objectives, goals, pillars, statistic information, etc).	2020	here
Information flyer hotline in Russian language	Brochures/Leaflets	Information leaflets to promote services provided by hotline 1313. Hotline provides free legal and psychological services (24\7).	2020	here
Leaflet on available VAWG service in six target districts in Tajik	Brochures/Leaflets	Leaflets on COVID-19 impact and violence against women and girls (VAWG).	2020	here
Leaflet on COVID-19 impact and VAWG in Tajik Language	Brochures/Leaflets	Contact information on the available services for supporting survivors of the violence in programme target areas. The leaflet was developed and disseminated during COVID-19 period.	2020	here
Leaflet on hotline and psychologist on VAWG	Brochures/Leaflets	Phone number of free psychological services which provides consultations for the children. Free psychological support for children was provided during COVID-19 period.	2020	here
Expert report on Addressing Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in the fields of Justice, Security, Health, Education and Labour: International and Regional Human Rights Instruments and Standards	Assessment	The report presents the SGBV related main international principles on International and Regional Human Rights Instruments and Standards Addressing Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in the fields of Justice, Security, Health, Education and Labour.	2021	here
Guide on conducting public hearings on incorporation of SGBV prevention and response measures into DDPs	Guidance Note	Guidance on conduction of public hearings with population of target districts on incorporation of priority preventions and response measures to SGBV.	December 2021	here
Training module of two-day workshop on “Incorporation of prevention and response measures on SGBV into DDPs of target districts”	Capacity Development Modules	Module of two-day workshop with target groups on incorporation of priority prevention and response measures to SGBV into District Development Plans.	October 2021	here

District Social-Economic Development Programmes for 2021-2025 with incorporated priority prevention and response measures to SGBV	Policy document	Strengthened the Social-Economic Development Plans of the six target districts with incorporation of priority prevention and response measures to SGBV.	2021-2022	here
Training package on strengthening cooperation between ministries and departments on transformative change to prevent SGBV/VAWG institutionally/ (Main package in Russian, handouts in Tajik language)	Capacity Development Modules	Training Module and training related materials on strengthening cooperation between ministries and departments on transformative change to prevent SGBV/VAWG institutionally.	September 2021	here
Training module on “Strengthening cooperation between ministries and agencies of justice and law enforcement sectors to achieve the goals of promoting gender equality and elimination of gender-based violence”	Capacity Development Modules	Training Module and guidance on improving/strengthening the cooperation between law enforcement and justice sector ministries and agencies on promotion of gender equality and elimination of gender-based violence in Russian language.	October 2021	here
Training module on “Strengthening cooperation between ministries and agencies of justice and law enforcement sectors to achieve the goals of promoting gender equality and elimination of gender-based violence” translated from Russian into Tajik	Capacity Development Modules	Training Module and guidance on improving/strengthening the cooperation between law enforcement and justice sector ministries and agencies on promotion of gender equality and elimination of gender-based violence.	October 2021	here
Training materials for practical work in groups	Tools/Capacity building module	Distribution materials for practical group work during the training on “Strengthening cooperation between ministries and agencies of justice and law enforcement sector to achieve the goals of promoting gender equality and elimination of gender-based violence” in Tajik language.	October 2021	here
Gender Mainstreaming Strategy on promotion of increasing access of women in decision-making positions in Russian and Tajik languages	Policy Document/ Capacity Development	Gender Mainstreaming Strategy on promotion of increased access of women to decision-making positions in state institutions (organs) of the Republic of Tajikistan competent in prevention of violence against women and girls, till 2030 in Russian and Tajik languages.	December 2021	here

Plan of Actions on implementation of Gender Mainstreaming Strategy on promotion of increased access on women to decision-making position, for the period of 2021-2025 in Russian and Tajik languages	Policy Document/ Capacity Development	Plan of actions on implementation of Gender Mainstreaming Strategy on promotion of increased access of women to decision-making positions in state institutions (organs) of the Republic of Tajikistan competent in prevention of violence against women and girls, for the period of 2021-2025, in Russian and Tajik languages.	December 2021	here
Training module for journalists and bloggers on covering SGBV issues	Capacity Development Modules	Training module for journalists and bloggers on gender sensitive coverage of SGBV issues in media Tajikistan.	October 2021	here
Three training modules on prevention and response measures on SGBV for Ministry of Internal Affairs (MoIA), Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and Judiciary (three modules for different target groups)	Capacity Development Modules	Three training modules on increasing gender sensitivity on prevention and response measures to SGBV for police, lawyers/advocates, and judges (MoIA, MoJ and Judiciary.)	October 2021	here
Module for conducting information sessions on SGBV, including domestic violence	Capacity Development Modules	Module/Guidance for conduction of information sessions/ meetings on SGBV with representatives of MoIA, MoJ and Judiciary in Russian language.	October 2021	here
Training materials for participants (judges, police, lawyers) on SGBV in Russian and Tajik	Capacity Development Modules.	Distribution materials for training participants on increasing gender sensitivity, survivor-centred approach and correct implementation of laws in Russian and Tajik languages.	October 2021	here
Training Module on Positive Parenting and prevention of VA	Capacity Development Modules	Module for schoolteachers on positive parenting and prevention of VAC/SGBV.	June 2021	here
Legislation and practice review on cases of sexual violence against children	Assessment	Assessment of real cases on sexual violence against children.	October 2021	here
Complaint mechanism	Tools	Complaint mechanisms at schools.	June 2021	here
Training module of documenting cases of violence for CSOs	Capacity Development Modules	To build the capacity of CSOs working with women with disabilities, women living with HIV and women from low-income communities on documenting cases of SGBV/GBV for evidence-based advocacy at the national and global level (CEDAW).	November 2021	here
Flier/posters/brochure on SGBV)	Brochures	Flier/posters/brochure on SGBV, reproductive health and GBV for dissemination in Universities and Spotlight Target districts.	August 2021	here

Training module on capacity building for CSOs	Capacity Development Modules	To build the capacity of CSOs working with women with disabilities, women living with HIV and women from low-income communities on programme cycle, project development process, M&E mechanisms, and fundraising.	October 2021	here
Review and Analysis of the Legislation and Policies of Tajikistan Affecting Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Against Women and Girls (SGBV) and their Alignment with International Standards	Assessment	The report presents the overall conclusions of the analysis of national institutional, policy and legal framework by sectors, specifically, justice, law enforcement, health, education, and labour-market, and provides a set of recommendations to improve compliance of the national legislation with international standards.	2022	here
Assessment of gaps in the quality-of-service delivery by key government agencies and provide recommendations to improve the quality of services for the survivors of SGBV (Russian language)	Assessment	The findings of the gap analysis of the existing public services providing for women and girls (survivors of SGBV), in need of assistance, including recommendations to improve the quality of services.	2022	here
Knowledge, attitude, persuasion and practice on the behaviour of the population on the issues related to sexual and gender-based violence (Russian language)	Assessment	Provide basic data on knowledge, attitudes, persuasion/ beliefs and behaviours/practices (ATA) of population and service providers, public organizations (CBOs), media (media) in the area of sexual and gender-based violence, taking into account vulnerable groups of women and girls, and develop recommendations for the development and implementation of policies and measures to change the behaviour of populations in the frame of implementation of global programme Spotlight Initiative in Tajikistan.	2022	here
Assessment capacity of government and public organizations on promotion of gender equality and the eradication of gender-based and sexual violence (Russian language)	Assessment	Report on conducted capacity assessment of government and public organizations on promotion of gender equality and the eradication of gender-based and sexual violence. Identify key stakeholders and available resources in the area of gender-based violence/violence against women, girls to validate the design of the programme and to identify the potential and gaps of the country programme.	2022	here

Summary of report on the baseline on the implementation of the joint EU UN “Spotlight Initiative” on eradication of violence against women and in Tajikistan (Russian language)	Assessment	Summary of the baseline on the implementation of the joint EU UN “Spotlight Initiative” on eradication of violence against women and in Tajikistan.	2022	here
Communication Behaviour Change Strategy (Russian language)	Policy briefs	The communication strategy includes a set of awareness-raising activities aimed at developing zero tolerance for VAWG, as well as an implementation plan to change behaviour and attitudes to prevent violence, through key messages and various communication channels that foster and sustain positive practices and behaviours at the individual, interpersonal and societal levels.	2022	here
Communication materials for information campaigns within the framework of Communication Strategy (Russian language)	Tools	Communication materials (sample of logos, messages, etc.) for information campaigns within the framework of Communication Strategy.	2022	here
Report on the status of included measures to prevent and response to gender-based violence in justice, internal affairs (security) and judicial bodies (Russian language)	Guidance notes	To review international best practices on mainstreaming of GBV into sectoral programmes (Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior, including police, and judiciary) and internal documents of key stakeholders (e.g., internal manuals, instructions, orders, etc.), elaboration of detailed recommendations on the inclusion of GT in sectoral documents.	2022	here
Needs assessments to empower women in security and women police inspectors to prevent & respond to SGBV cases (Tajik language)	Assessments	The results of the research for the development of the programme for conducting activities on expansion rights and opportunities of women in the security sector and women - police inspectors on issues of violence were the basis for prevention and timely response to cases of violence.	2022	here
Report on international practice on prevention and response to SGBV. To include SGBV into sectoral and internal documents (Russian language)	Guidance notes	The report reviews international best practices on inclusion of SGBV into Sectoral programmes (Ministry of Justice, Ministry of the Interior, including police, judiciary) and internal documents of key stakeholders’ parties (e.g. internal manuals, instructions, orders, etc.).	2022	here

Comparative analysis of other countries to provide hotline services for the victims of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) (Russian language)	Assessments	The results of comparative review of the experience of other countries on running hotlines to provide assistance and support to people, mainly women, survivors of sexual and gender-based violence.	2022	here
Assessment of services provided by Hotline 1313 (Russian language)	Assessment	Findings of the study on the service delivery chain to learn the point of view of the SGBV survivors to compare the gaps in the chain of service providers. Findings from the Inception Report, Desk Review and Qualitative Research of the Hotline 1313 services running by the resource center at CoWFA.	2022	here
Assessment of public opinion on the degree of media coverage of problems Gender and Sexual Violence in Tajik Society (Russian language)	Assessments	Findings of the assessment on population's opinion about the problem of SGBV and its coverage in the media in Tajikistan. It determines the extent to which the population is aware of the problems of SGBV, and the opinion of the population about the coverage of SGBV issues by the media.	2022	here
The Gender Mainstreaming Strategy and Action Plan for the period up to 2030 to increase women's access to leadership positions in government institutions working on prevention of violence against women and girls (Tajik language)	Position Papers/ Thematic Strategy Briefs	It determines the main directions of the state policy to increase the level of participation of women in the decision-making process and is aimed at creating equal opportunities for men and women in the promotion and appointment to leadership positions, increasing the number of women at the leadership level in relevant government bodies.	2022	here
Guideline for the hot line 1313 consultants (Russian language)	Guidance note	It describes the basic rules for working with a hotline, instruction on referral, data security, identification of security needs, security strategies and security plan.	2022	here
Programme on Empowerment women in the security sector and Women Police Inspectors to prevent and respond for SGBV (Tajik language)	Policy Briefs	It aims to improve the understanding of SGBV, among law enforcement officers, including gender sensitivity in the addressing SGBV, gender-based violence as a fact of discrimination against women and girls, mastering the topic of preventing violence against women and girls and timely response to cases of SGBV.	2022	here
Training module for the Hotline 1313 consultants on providing consultation and support/services to SGBV survivors (Russian language)	Capacity Development Modules	To capacitate Hotline staff to provide efficient services to SGBV survivors through improved interaction skills, consultation and support.	2022	here

Create and develop your business» Annotation: Business planning and business idea development (three-day training module) (Russian language)	Capacity Development Modules	To support women and girls to start an entrepreneurial and income-generating activity, to improve entrepreneurial skills with the involvement of experienced and successful entrepreneurs on the principles of mentoring.	2022	here
Creation and development of business taking into account the economic opportunities of the region (two-day training module) (Tajik language)	Capacity Development Modules	To help women and girls, potential SGBV survivors, to start and develop their entrepreneurship activity with the economic capacity of each region. Running business activity will also help to create a new job for women and girls from the same area.	2022	here
Methodological guide for state lawyers in providing legal assistance to achieve the goals of promoting gender equality and elimination of sexual violence (Tajik language)	Guidance notes	To define the responsibilities and functions of public advocates when the survivors of domestic violence (especially women and girls) apply for legal advice, promoting gender equality and ensuring their equal opportunities as guaranteed by constitution and other opportunities including privileges provided for by law. It also contributes to a better understanding of the social significance of gender-based violence and the need to change attitudes in order to increase access and improve the quality of services to combat violence against women and girls.	2022	here
Manual on increasing the gender sensitivity of government officials from the security sector (Tajik language)	Guidance notes	This methodological guide is aimed to increase gender sensitivity and knowledge, and skills of internal affairs officials in this topic.	2022	here
Training programme on increasing gender sensitivity and prevention of domestic violence for employees of the judiciary sector (Tajik language)	Capacity Development Modules	This training programme has various and wide aspects including gender equality and domestic violence, and the study of its topics help lecturers to adapt it depending on the audience and the level of employment of judicial official.	2022	here

<p>Training programme (on increasing gender sensitivity, prevention of sexual and gender-based violence of employees of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Tajikistan) (Tajik language)</p>	<p>Capacity Development Modules</p>	<p>To contribute to gender education, prevention of domestic violence and increasing gender sensitivity of employees of the Ministry of Justice to perform service duties, creating beneficial conditions for both men and women to freely develop the ability to participate in the political, economic, social and cultural process that will be used to ensure gender equality and prevent domestic violence.</p> <p>In order to master the topics included in this study programme, various active learning methods are used, such as lectures, presentations, discussions in groups, work in groups, demonstrations, role-playing, question and answer, attack mental, etc.</p>	<p>2022</p>	<p>here</p>
<p>Leaflets to support women and girls with disabilities against women and girls (six districts) in Tajik language)</p>	<p>Infographics</p>	<p>Infographics on existing referral mechanisms on response to VAWG for people with disabilities, localized for six target districts, produced in form of brochures for awareness-raising activity among the population, target groups, CSOs and public services.</p> <p>The purpose is to inform people with disabilities and their families on existing services in case of VAW.</p> <p>Result: Women and girls who experience violence and harmful practices use available, accessible, acceptable and quality essential services including for long-term recovery from violence.</p>	<p>2022</p>	<p>here</p>
<p>Guidelines for forensic experts and doctors to assist women and girls with disabilities and to document cases of violence as per Istanbul Protocol standards</p>	<p>Guidance note</p>	<p>Handbook for the medical forensic expertise (MFE) and medical workers to address needs of Women and girls with disabilities during the investigation process on VAW - in Russian and Tajik languages.</p> <p>The purpose is to support improving the system of service provision by MFE to address specific needs of women and girls with disabilities during the investigation process of VAWG cases (medical forensic services) as per the international standards, norms and requirements on EAW.</p>	<p>2022</p>	<p>here</p>

Guidelines for CSOs and Women's Crisis Centres to assist women and girls with disabilities (Russian language)	Guidance note	Handbook for CSOs, dealing with WGWD - violence survivors to address needs of WGWD while addressing VAW cases or during participation in investigation process. In Russian language. The purpose is to support improving the system of service provision by CSOs to address specific needs of women and girls with disabilities during investigation process of VAWG cases (medical forensic services) as per the international standards, norms and requirements on EVAW.	2022	here
Guidelines for civil society organizations to assist women and girls with disabilities (Tajik language)	Guidance note	Handbook for CSOs, dealing with WGWD - violence survivors to address needs of WGWD while addressing VAW cases or during participation in investigation process. In Tajik language. The purpose is to support improving the system of service provision by CSOs to address specific needs of women and girls with disabilities during investigation process of VAWG cases (medical forensic services) as per the international standards, norms and requirements on EVAW.	2022	here
Briefing on four national consultations on progress made by responsible parties in the implementation of the current Plan of Actions of the State programme on Prevention of Violence in the Family in the Republic Tajikistan for 2014-2023. (Russian language)	Briefs	The Brief on conducted public consultations in the programme target areas (city Gissar, Rudaki district), Khatlon region (city Bokhtar, Vose region), Sughd region (city Khujand, B.Gafurov district), Dushanbe city (Russian) provides evidence-based information for decision makers and experts and helps to take steps on the advancement on the implementation of the current NAP on PVF (2014-2023), and provides concrete recommendations for inclusion in the forthcoming NAP beyond 2023.	2022	here
Expert report for the Review of current Plan of Actions for the implementation Government programme on Prevention of domestic violence in Tajikistan for 2014 – 2023. (Russian language)	Assessment	The Expert Report provides analysis of the information collected and received from all stakeholders of the current Plan of Actions of the State programme on Prevention of Violence in the Family in the Republic Tajikistan for 2014-2023 and recommendations for future steps.	2022	here

<p>Training module to conduct ToT for the implementation of Gender Action Learning System (GALS) methodology to the Spotlight Initiative in the RT (Russian language)</p>	<p>Capacity Development Modules</p>	<p>ToT Module is a tool for learning Gender Action Learning Systems (GALS) methodology in Tajikistan for CSOs and community mobilizers.</p> <p>Purpose: The ToT was provided for partner lead NGO and its local partnering CSOs in six target districts of SPT for cascading GALS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To facilitate target communities and households to develop gender action learning plans. 2. To equip NGOs with the tools and techniques, enabling women and men to collect and analyse information necessary for understanding and changing negative gender relations, stereotypical norms and behaviour that lead to VAWG. 3. To equip NGOs with knowledge and skills of mapping gender and power balance in households, livelihoods, and power relations and to sustainably integrate GALS in rural livelihoods and community development processes to mobilize communities for critical thinking and gender transformative interventions. 4. To catalyse an increased commitment, understanding, potential of the trainees in their capacity of gender transformative programme mentors. 	<p>2022</p>	<p>here</p>
<p>“Ethnographic review on mapping of Social Norms Holders and harmful practices that affect attitude towards VAWG” (English/ Russian/Tajik languages)</p>	<p>Research paper</p>	<p>Purpose of the Ethnographic Review on social norms holders on the attitude towards VAWG (ER) was engaging grass roots activists for diminishing the risk of community resistance to reflect on norms, attitudes and behaviours that are sustaining openly and honestly VAWG.</p> <p>The ER results were disseminated for planning of Gender Communication Strategies to end VAWG, for the use by gender experts, project managers, decision makers, communication and media staff, as well as CSOs and Media and academicians.</p>	<p>2022</p>	<p>here here here</p>
<p>Visibility cards “Nuriya in the world where Girls Can (English/ Russian/Tajik languages)</p>	<p>Brochures/Leaflets</p>	<p>Visibility cards to increase public awareness on violence against women and girls aimed at reaching young girls and boys in Tajikistan.</p>	<p>2022</p>	<p>here</p>

Visibility cards “Nuriya in the world free of violence” (Tajik language)	Brochures/Leaflets	Visibility cards to increase public awareness on violence against women and girls aimed at reaching young girls and boys in Tajikistan.	2022	here
Visibility cards “Nuriya in the world free of violence” (Russian)	Brochures/Leaflets	Visibility cards to increase public awareness on violence against women and girls aimed at reaching young girls and boys in Tajikistan.	2022	here
Visibility cards “Nuriya in the world free of violence” (English language)	Brochures/Leaflets	Visibility cards to increase public awareness on violence against women and girls aimed at reaching young girls and boys in Tajikistan.	2022	here
Training module for CSOs on the project cycle, tools for developing project proposals (Russian language)	Capacity Development Modules	The developed training module, cover such topics as general strategic, operational and project planning and management for local public organizations in the following areas: project cycle, main tools how to develop a project proposal for public organizations working with women living with HIV (PLHIV), women with disabilities (PLH) and low-income women (poor and vulnerable).	2022	here
Training module for CSOs on “Monitoring and evaluation” (Tajik language)	Capacity Development Modules	Training module with tools and instructions on how to conduct Monitoring and evaluation during project implementation process.	2022	here
Training module for CSOs on Fundraising (Russian language)	Capacity Development Modules	Training module for the representative of Public Organization especially for those which works with vulnerable groups with tools and instructions on how to organize and conduct fundraising processes.	2022	here
Training module on documentation facts of gender violence against women and girls, including vulnerable groups (Russian language)	Capacity Development Modules	Training module to increase the capacity of public organizations to document facts of violations of the rights of women subjected to gender-based violence and how further to protect them.	2022	here

<p>Localized VAW case management and referral mechanisms in six pilots</p> <p>(1) for CSOs and State service providers – in Tajik language</p> <p>(2) for population “Where to seek help in case of violence?” – in Tajik language</p>	<p>Guidelines Notes with Infographics</p>	<p>Integrated approach to response VAWG, national level. For use by all stakeholders and beneficiaries. Two types of brochures with infographics and guidance notes for CSOs/ Women’s Crisis Centres ; and for public service providers and specialists on VAWG/SGBV case management.</p> <p>The VAW case management and referral mechanisms were localized to six target localities, developed in 2020 and updated in October 2022.</p>	<p>2020/ 2022</p>	<p>here here</p>
<p>Tool as a basis for indicators for e-System on VAWG registration (the E-System itself is available on flash card) (Russian language)</p>	<p>Tool</p>	<p>Tool as a basis for indicators for e-System on VAWG registration.</p>	<p>2022</p>	<p>here</p>
<p>Training module on how to use the E-System on VAWG registration (Russian language)</p>	<p>Capacity Development Module</p>	<p>Training module with instructions on how to use the E-System on VAWG registration.</p>	<p>2022</p>	<p>here</p>
<p>E-Platform of NGOs to unite for fighting and prevention of VAWG</p>	<p>Website as a platform</p>	<p>Platform for NGOs and experts as EVAW KNOWLEDGE HUB (based on a website electronic depository of research, laws, tools, studies, donor information on SGBV/ VAWG issues; calendar of events/ press-releases of CSOs, useful contacts and links, list of donors on GEWE/ EVAWG).</p>	<p>July 2022/ administering and updating are ongoing.</p>	<p>here</p>
<p>CSOs strategy, behavioural change and implementation of initiatives to prevent violence against women and girls (Russian language)</p>	<p>Position Papers/ Thematic Strategy</p>	<p>CSO’s product to unite CSOs in work on EVAW. It also serves as an axis for CSO’s networks and alliances.</p> <p>Purpose: The Strategy is the practical tool, developed by and for CSOs as a contribution to increasing the institutional capacity of CSOs through participation and coordinated actions.</p> <p>Result: In 2022 these NGOs started referring to the CSO’s Strategy in their projects and programmes. Since July 2022 48 CSOs joined the newly created Network “Life without Violence” by signing the MoU between the CSOs for joint implementation of the Strategy.</p>	<p>2021-2022</p>	<p>here</p>

CSOs strategy, behavioural change and implementation of initiatives to prevent violence against women and girls (English language)	Position Papers/ Thematic Strategy	CSO's product to unite CSOs in work on EVAW (as mentioned above).	2021-2022	here
CSOs strategy, behavioural change and implementation of initiatives to prevent violence against women and girls (Tajik language)	Position Papers/ Thematic Strategy	CSO's product to unite CSOs in work on EVAW (as mentioned above).	2021-2022	here
Knowledge, Attitude, Behaviour and Practice Study (Brief in Russian language)	Study	Study to produce evidence on knowledge, attitudes, behaviour and practices of local communities and state institutions on SGBV, including early marriage (Brief).	2022	here



Spotlight Initiative

To eliminate violence against women and girls

