



**Spotlight
Initiative**

Final Narrative Programme Report

**The United Nations Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF)
grant-giving to civil society organizations under the
Spotlight Initiative**

01 April 2019 for WPHF-Spotlight Initiative Africa Partnership
(The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Uganda)

24 July 2020 for WPHF-Spotlight Initiative in Haiti, PNG and Afghanistan

PROGRAMME PERIOD: 1 April 2019 – 31 December 2023

Initiated by the European Union and the United Nations:



Programme Title & Programme Number

Programme Title: Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) grant-giving to civil society organizations under the Spotlight Initiative
MPTF Office Project Reference Number^a
 Africa: 00117147
 Afghanistan: 000123503
 PNG: 000123505
 Haiti: 000123504

Recipient Organization(s)

Civil society organizations

Programme Cost (US\$)

Africa (DRC, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Uganda): 7,075,472 USD
Papua New Guinea (PNG): 2,000,000 USD
Haiti: 2,000,000 USD
Afghanistan: 2,000,000 USD

Priority Regions/Areas/Localities for the Programme

The WPHF-Spotlight Initiative partnership covers 8 countries:
 Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Uganda, Papua New Guinea, Haiti and Afghanistan

Key Partners

Civil society organizations in particular local/grassroots women's rights or women-led organizations

Programme Start and End Dates

WPHF-Spotlight Initiative Africa Partnership (The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Uganda)
 Start Date: 01 April 2019
 End Date: 31 December 2023
 WPHF-Spotlight Initiative in Haiti, Papua New Guinea and Afghanistan
 Start Date: 24 July 2020
 End Date: 31 December 2023

Report Submitted:

22 April 2023

a) 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

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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

CBO	Community Based Organization	ME	Management Entity
CfP	Call for Proposals	NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
CO	Country Office	NSC	National Steering Committee
CSO	Civil Society Organization	PBSO	Peacebuilding Support Office
CSRG	Civil Society National or Regional Reference Group	PNG	Papua New Guinea
DFA	De Facto Authority	PSS	Psychosocial Support
DPO	Disability Person's Organization	PWD	People Living with Disabilities
D.R.C	Democratic Republic of Congo	SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
EU	European Union	SI	Spotlight Initiative
EVAW	Ending Violence Against Women	SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
EVAWG	Ending Violence Against Women and Girls	SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
FSW	Female Sex Worker	STD	Sexually Transmitted Disease
GBV	Gender Based Violence	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
GFFO	Germany Federal Foreign Office	UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
GWF	Global Women's Forum	UNTF	United National Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons	VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
IGA	Income Generating Activity	VSLA	Village Saving and Lending Association
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization	WPHF	Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund
		WPS-HA	Women, peace, security and humanitarian action

Executive Summary

The partnership between the United Nations Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) and the European Union funded Spotlight Initiative (SI) aims to channel funding to civil society organizations (CSOs) working on eliminating violence against women and girls (EVAWG) in conflict-affected and humanitarian settings. The partnership focuses on Outcome 6 of the Spotlight Initiative’s Regional Results Framework (strengthening civil society organizations and building women’s movements) and on WPHF Outcome 5 (Protection of women and girls). The partnership targets specifically local, grassroots and community-based women’s organizations, with grants ranging in size from USD 2,500 to USD 200,000.

The programme was marked by several crisis which impacted the implementation of projects. These include, restrictions from de facto authorities following the Taliban takeover in 2021 on the rights and freedom of Afghan women and decrees preventing Afghan women from CSOs from working, escalating gang violence in Haiti, multiple floods in Malawi, displacement in Nigeria and Uganda, the continued armed conflicts in the Democratic Republic of Congo (the D.R.C), and the global COVID-19 pandemic, all of which have increased the risks and threats to women and their organizations.

In this context, WPHF, in close coordination with the Spotlight Initiative Secretariat and UN Women offices, ensured that the principle of Do No Harm in the spirit of Leaving No One Behind, and inclusivity of various intersectionalities remained central to the programme’s approach and delivery. Flexibility to adapt to changing contexts was key to ensuring safe and effective implementation, including for CSOs to adapt their project activities, budget and timing, notably in Afghanistan, as the country has had to adapt and pause, where needed, to ensure women’s safety.

Despite these challenges, significant results were still achieved.

Overall, 101 grants by 145 CSOs and their co-implementing partners implemented initiatives in Afghanistan, the D.R.C, Haiti, Liberia, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Malawi and Uganda focusing on the protection of women and girls and women’s movement building in crisis and conflict settings, including two new grants in Haiti in 2023 under WPHF’s emergency track following escalating violence. 94% of these organizations were women-led and/or women’s rights organizations and 3% were youth focused or led by a young woman, including those representing marginalized women and girls.

CSOs and their co-implementing partners, reached 453,955 direct beneficiaries, of which 290,220 (63.9%) were women and girls. Of these, 70.6% were women above the age of 18 and 29.4% were girls and young women below the age of 18. Various age and population groups were reached, including survivors of sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) and women identified by various intersectionalities. Overall, 18.0% of partner projects worked with women who are forcibly displaced, 31.0% with women and people living with disabilities, 20.0% with child and/or single mothers, and widows, 2.0% with LGBTIQI+ communities, 3.0% with female sex workers (FSWs), and 7.9% with indigenous and ethnic minorities. An estimated 5 million indirect beneficiaries were also reached.

Table 1: WPHF-SI Grants and Partners (2019-2023)

Country	Cumulative	
	No of grants	No of CSOs ¹
DRC	15	26
Liberia	8	15

¹ Includes lead CSOs and their co-implementing partners. CSOs that have received both institutional and programmatic funding are counted only once.

Country	Cumulative	
	No of grants	No of CSOs ¹
Malawi	9	11
Nigeria	8	16
Uganda	9	15
Afghanistan	17	18
Haiti	17	29
PNG	18	15
Total	101	145

Almost half of partners are new to the UN (43.8%), showing the ability of WPHF to reach local and grassroots women's rights organizations that had not been previously supported by the UN.

Cumulatively, over 3,300 CSOs, community-based organizations (CBOs) and women's groups and/or associations across eight countries have jointly coordinated efforts, and linked activists and women peacebuilders together, to advocate for and carry out interventions focused on the prevention of and response to SGBV and ending VAWG and other discriminatory and harmful practices in crisis and conflict settings, strengthening their collective influence in addressing systemic barriers for women and girls.

While service delivery was not the focus of Spotlight funding, as a result of coordinated efforts, approximately 129,961 survivors have accessed critical psychosocial, legal, and health services as well as referrals to service providers and accompaniment for the rebuilding of their lives. The provision of these services was a way of building legitimacy and trust with CSO constituencies, and to further advocate to prevent and respond to SGBV.

4,010 CSOs, CBOs and local women's groups and associations have also had significant influence in advancing gender equality, protecting women and girls and ending VAWG, including community and family violence in conflict, crisis and humanitarian contexts. These organizations have equally built their confidence in continued advocacy efforts towards their work in the prevention and response of SGBV contributing to tangible changes around local planning and policy, including new national and regional policies being adopted to further the needs of marginalized communities.

The WPHF-Spotlight Initiative also strengthened the institutional capacity of CSOs through institutional and core funding, whereby 19 CSOs have strengthened their institutional capacity making them more equipped to respond to women and girls' needs in crisis contexts and contributing to building women's movements and networks. New adaptive strategies, tools and systems were adopted for continuity of their operations, including in Haiti where organizations developed risk management and contingency plans or strategies. In PNG, local women's rights organizations strengthened their operational and technical capacity, through staff trainings on referral and case management of survivors of violence, acquiring IT equipment and transportation to enhance their reach within local communities. This funding has also helped organizations sustain themselves during crisis, with 1,035 staff and volunteers across these countries retained during the reporting period for the continuity of their operations.

Contextual Shifts

During the programme, the WPHF-Spotlight partnership countries operated in difficult conflict and crisis settings, including the deteriorating security and/or humanitarian situation and political violence, worsening the situation of women and girls.

All countries reported increasing incidences of sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls, as they reeled from the lasting impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and its containment measures, the deteriorating

situation in Afghanistan, as well as the global economic decline resulting from the Russian aggression on Ukraine. Major contextual shifts included armed conflicts, multiple floods, increasing cases of child and early marriages, rape, due to power imbalances strengthened by patriarchal norms in disfavor of women and girls. To these existing challenges, armed conflicts in the D.R.C, displacement in Nigeria and Uganda, restrictions on women's rights and freedoms and bans on Afghan female workers in Afghanistan, and debilitating gang violence in Haiti have created additional challenges for women's rights organizations to safely implement their projects.

During the implementation period, in the **D.R.C**, the resumption of violent hostilities in October 2022 between the March 23 Movement (M23) armed group and the D.R.Cs army (FARDC) in Eastern Congo has caused significant human suffering, including deaths and injuries among civilians as well as significant numbers of newly displaced persons, leaving the country on the brink of a humanitarian disaster. Additional security threats in South Kivu, Maniema, Tanganyika and Mai-Ndombe were also prevalent and weakness of community protection mechanisms and movement of people greatly exacerbated women's rights and incidences of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). This increased the needs on the ground, which had particularly risen in the post-COVID situation, coupled with the persistence of conflicts, specifically in the Eastern regions. In addition, the lethargy in the processing of judicial files, traditional harmful customs and habits, high vulnerability and lack of financial capacities affected the implementation of activities.

Malawi experienced flooding twice during the reporting period due to Tropical Storm Ana and Cyclone Combe, displacing over 360,000 women and affecting the most vulnerable. Another key challenge was the rising cost of living due to high inflation rates and the devaluation of the Malawian Kwacha, exacerbated by the Ukraine war, leading to skyrocketing prices of goods, and affecting implementation of project activities as price increases affected budgets. Economic instability was a retrogressive element which has re-perpetuated power imbalances at the domestic level as patriarchy tendencies resurfaced, affecting women's rights and livelihoods. As a result, CSOs were given flexibility to adapt given the increase in budgets and sought more efficient options in implementation (e.g. partnering with other organizations and jointly using facilities to share costs) and close coordination with WPHF to ensure the overall objectives were met.

In **Nigeria**, vulnerable communities were still reeling from the lasting impacts of COVID-19, as they faced overflow of Internally Displaced Populations (IDP) populations and refugees from Cameroon, multiple devastating floods and effects of climate change, rising food insecurity and terrorism. These resulted in negative coping mechanisms such as poor eating habits, transactional sex, child labor and begging. Within a complex operational context and limited humanitarian presence, women and girls still faced increasing threats of violence, abduction, rape, as well as forced and child marriages.

In **Uganda**, the effects of COVID-19 continue to be felt by the most vulnerable, especially women and girls. Heavy rainfall in July 2022 also resulted in the destruction of countless houses, affecting thousands of families, with a heavy impact on women and girls, children and elderly, as displacement took a toll on their stability, with many groups moving to camps. Although the projects were focused on GBV prevention, with these contextual shifts, CSOs integrated some relief activities to respond to urgencies. In addition, a large influx of women, girls, men and boys continued to arrive across the border from the D.R.C and South Sudan.

In **Afghanistan**, the context with regard to women and girls' rights deteriorated significantly over the implementation period. The severe negative impacts of the post-August 2021 Taliban takeover have been characterized by severe restrictions on women and girls, which has increased across the country. Several edicts were passed by the De Facto Authority (DFA) restricting women's rights and freedoms, including the banning women from accessing public baths, beauty salons, gyms, parks, ban on education for girls except in primary schools, gender segregated workplaces and classrooms and banning women from accessing health without a

‘mahram’’. In April 2023, the DFA banned women from working for NGOs and the UN. Projects that delivered mental health and psychosocial support to women and girls, including women-only health centers impacting severely the ability of women and girls to access life-saving support. In this rapidly evolving context, WPHF CSO partners continued to successfully navigate the restrictions of DFA by developing creative response solutions such as working through entry points in areas in which the DFA permits projects to be implemented such as health, livelihoods, and psychosocial support (PSS) to deliver GBV services, advocacy on women’s and girls’ rights, educating men on women’s rights, protection of women and eliminating violence against women (EVAW). Some partners successfully presented women’s rights as interpreted under Islam as an entry point to support projects involving activities related to GBV and support for survivors of GBV.

In **Haiti**, the situation deteriorated during the WPHF-Spotlight partnership - in particular for women and girls-through political instability, surge in kidnappings and armed violence perpetrated by organized gangs, a debilitating economic crisis, as well as fuel shortages, cholera, and the deportation of Haitians from the Dominican Republic and the United States, as communities continued to be impacted from the aftermath of COVID-19. This has significantly complicated the efforts of humanitarian and women’s rights organizations working on the ground. In public spaces, levels of violence against women and girls (VAWG) were particularly alarming, specifically in the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince and its surroundings, as armed gangs typically used sexual violence as a weapon to assert their control and power over communities. Despite these challenges, partners were able to reach women and girls and continue their advocacy, including in remote areas.

In **PNG**, SGBV against women and girls continues to be persistent with high incidence rates, with about two-thirds of women having experienced some forms of violence. The country has been plagued with slow economic growth, high unemployment rates, continuous incidents of tribal fights and sorcery related accusations of violence and deaths, including the continued impacts from COVID-19 and the economic decline. On a positive note, however, the July 2022 elections saw for the first time the election of two women in Parliament, a positive progress for women in leadership in the country. A significant contextual shift was also the government vocally supporting ending VAWG, evidenced by the establishment of a permanent Parliamentary Committee on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment (GEWE) in the new Parliament elected in July/August 2022.

Overall, due to the increased needs for protection and services for women and girls as a result of the escalation of violence, displacement, and restrictions on their rights, women’s rights organizations had to often re-adjust their activities for safety concerns but also to ensure they keep the trust and legitimacy in their communities by responding to their needs through service delivery and economic empowerment, in addition to their continued advocacy and coordination efforts. Aligned with WPHF principles, flexibility and remaining demand-driven by civil society were key to support women’s rights movements in crisis and conflict settings.

Programme Governance and Coordination

During the programme, the WPHF Secretariat continued to work closely with the SI Secretariat to ensure close coordination, in particular following the Afghanistan Taliban takeover and to ensure a do no harm approach for grantees and to ensure that local women’s organizations remained supported in a flexible way to adapt to the new context restrictions and challenges. The WPHF Secretariat participated in regular exchanges with the SI Secretariat and the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (UNTF) to ensure collaboration, complementarity, and non-duplication, based on the comparative advantages of both Funds. WPHF and the UNTF on ending violence against women have shared good practices and challenges to improve reach, accessibility, flexibility, and support to women’s rights organizations.

National Steering Committees (NSCs)

To ensure inter-agency and programme coordination and to avoid duplication of funding, the WPHF used existing national decision-making mechanisms (e.g., Spotlight Initiative National Steering Committees) and establishes new WPHF National Steering Committees (NSCs), where needed. The members of the WPHF NSCs included UN agencies, the EU Delegation, Government representatives, when possible, and civil society representatives. The NSCs are co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator and the Government, with a few exceptions according to the context. During the selection of proposals at the onset of the programme, special attention was given to women's rights organizations that have not received previous UN funding, as well as those that work in remote areas and with people facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination (people with disabilities (PWD), indigenous groups, LGBTQI+, female sex workers, single mothers, or child mothers, etc.). Throughout the project implementation, the NSC was informed of implementation progress, provided input if major challenges or risks arose, and members were invited to join monitoring missions to visit partners.

In Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria and PNG the WPHF used the Spotlight Initiative's NSCs for final endorsement, and in D.R.C where an already established NSC through WPHF was used. A new NSC was established in Uganda at the onset of the programme with the EU delegation being a part of both D.R.C and Uganda committees. In Haiti and Afghanistan a joint WPHF-Spotlight NSCs was established in 2021, as no Spotlight or other mechanism was in place. The EU Delegation was also a member in both NSCs.

Civil Society National or Regional Reference Group (CSRG)

All Spotlight Initiative NSCs, or those newly established WPHF-Spotlight Initiative NSCs, had at least 20% civil society representation. The civil society representatives were selected by self-nomination process at country level which was also open for CSOs which were members of the Civil Society National Reference Groups. As members of the WPHF NSC, CSOs participated in the selection of projects, overall monitoring and guidance, and decision-making on reallocations, where necessary.

Programme Partnerships

Throughout the programme, the WPHF Secretariat supported UN Women Country Offices (COs), as the Management Entities (ME) for civil society organizations in processing the transfer of funds for selected organizations. As per the WPHF Operations Manual, the designated UN Management Entity for CSOs (UN Women in countries where UN Women has a field presence assumes programmatic and financial accountability for funds received and ensures timely disbursements of funds to partner CSOs and other designated institutions or entities in accordance with the decisions of the country level steering committee and its rules and regulations. This also contributed to building linkages between projects and CSOs –where there were other existing initiatives. For example, under UN Women Pillar 6, technical input was sought on VAWG from SI and partners in Uganda, and synergies were drawn where possible. In 2022, the partner, Purple Innovation, in Malawi linked an additional 6 CSOs that were trained in ending VAWG, to the existing Spotlight project coordination structures through District Coordinators ensuring joint planning, implementation and monitoring. As such, they were integrated as part of the district coordination meetings and field joint planning and monitoring missions that were conducted in an effort to contribute towards improved coordination and collaboration.

The UN Women country offices also ensured project monitoring, evaluation, and audits of CSO projects and managed the reporting systems of CSO projects on behalf of the country's NSC and in line with its rules and regulations. The UN Management Entities for CSO was also responsible for the management of risks relating to cash advances to implementing partners.

a) Government

Through the various NSCs, local ownership in the selection of projects and monitoring of implementation was secured. For example, in the D.R.C, the NSC meetings were attended at the highest levels with the Ministers

of Solidarity and Humanitarian Action, Minister of Gender, Children and Family, and the Minister of Planning. This space contributed to raising awareness and recognizing the important role that local women's organizations play in ending VAWG and promoting women's movements, but also the long road ahead and need for further support from government and national stakeholders. In Malawi, the representative from the Ministry of Gender joined a 4-day monitoring mission together with the CO and the WPHF Secretariat. And, in PNG a government representative in the name of the Deputy Prime Minister participated in the NSC highlighting that the NSC is a platform allowing integration and coordination across existing programs. Finally, in Haiti la Ministre à la Condition Féminine et aux Droits des Femmes (MCDF) applauded that the NSC of the WPHF as an opportunity of close cooperation between a variety of stakeholders. Government participation, where possible, contributes to the sustainability of the impact, with increased attention and awareness given to local women's rights organizations' work and role.

b) Civil Society

As a Fund working in crisis settings, supporting grassroots and women's rights civil society organizations, the leaving no one behind principle and ensuring inclusivity of women from various intersectionalities is at the heart of WPHF's mandate and strategy. This is demonstrated by the fact that almost half (43.8%) of all local women's organizations supported by WPHF-SI were funded by the UN for the first time, including 74.3% which work exclusively at the grassroots level. In addition, projects were selected with a particular focus on targeting and supporting women and girls facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, including women living in poverty, women and girl refugees, IDPs, women and girls living with HIV/AIDS, indigenous and ethnic groups within the context of ethnic tensions, and women and girls living with disabilities.

In certain contexts, where local women's rights organizations face particular barriers to funding because of capacity limitations, implementation in remote geographic areas and regions most affected by conflict and crisis, WPHF established a partnership with CARE International in PNG through a Call for Proposal (CfP) to strengthen the capacity of local women's organizations working on women's rights, ending violence against women and peacebuilding. This partnership facilitated capacity strengthening to 13 organizations, contributing to increased coordination and women's movements building in PNG.

Civil society was not only considered as a partner for WPHF, but also a decision maker in both its Global Funding Board and its NSCs (see previous section on NSCs). This contributed to reinforcing the perspectives of civil society in decision-making processes for more accessible and demand-driven flexible funding throughout the entire programme.

WPHF aims to build equal partnerships with civil society. Regularly, through different means (online meetings, surveys, emails, field missions), WPHF seeks feedback and consults CSO partners to ensure that it can better support women's rights organizations. Civil society have been driving WPHF's response, including its funding windows and processes to ensure needs are supported in a tailored and demand-driven manner.

c) European Union Delegation

In the WPHF-Spotlight Initiative countries, the EU Delegation was a member of the NSC and therefore part of the decision making in country for the selection of partners. The NSCs met based on the needs in country, at least once a year.

d) Inter-Agency Cooperation (UN agencies)

UN agencies are members of the WPHF's global Funding Board and NSCs. At the Board level, UN agencies included UN Women, UNFPA, UNDP, PBSO and UNHCR. UNFPA chaired the WPHF Funding Board in 2022 and 2023. Similarly, at the country level, several UN agencies - different based on context and presence-

take part in the decision-making process to ensure no duplication in funding and coordination, as well as complementarity, with WPHF funding reaching more grassroots organizations and marginalized groups.

e) Other partners, resource mobilization and capacity strengthening

Throughout the programme, the WPHF Secretariat continued to cultivate relationships with diverse actors in the private sector, including new corporations, celebrities, and high net-worth individuals to raise awareness and support for local women's organizations working to prevent and respond to SGBV on the frontlines of conflict and crisis. WPHF mobilized new support from various corporations and fostered relationships with celebrity partners, including WPHF Global Advocate Kristen Bell. In 2023, WPHF held its Inaugural Gala: 'Portraits of Strength and Resilience' in Hollywood, United States, where it convened celebrities, philanthropists, corporations and civil society partners to raise awareness of women's critical impact on the frontlines – including women's vital roles to preventing and responding to SGBV in crisis settings – reaching new audiences and mobilizing USD 1.2 Million in new funding for frontlines women's groups.

WPHF also established a partnership with Dell Technologies (from 2020-2023) to develop the WPHF Global Community of Practice digital platform, a knowledge hub that connected all WPHF partners, including those supported through the partnership with Spotlight Initiative². This Community of Practice grew into the WPHF Global Learning Hub (L-HUB) which provides capacity development opportunities to all WPHF CSO partners, including WPHF-SI partners through leveraging expertise and resources from civil society organizations, government and private sector entities.

WPHF-SI partners were also eligible to submit proposals to the WPHF CSO Peer learning Awards launched in partnership with Women Have Wings to recognize women's leadership in women, peace, security and humanitarian action (WPS-HA) and foster mutual strengthening, coalition building and joint advocacy between CSOs. During the programme, three WPHF-SI partners from the D.R.C and Haiti were selected to implement peer learning projects³.

In 2023, in collaboration Germany's Federal Foreign Office (GFFO), the WPHF hosted the Global Women's Forum for Peace and Humanitarian Action (GWF) in Berlin where 200 stakeholders, including 87 women's rights organizations across 29 countries participated, four of which were SI partners from Afghanistan and PNG. The forum aimed to define joint advocacy priorities to mobilize further support for women's rights organization's work on peace, security and humanitarian action, build relationships and solidarity, share and showcase their work and the impact they have had with government donors, UN entities, International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs), and other CSOs. Discussion were organized based on five thematic areas, including one specific to protection against sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).⁴

Between 2020 and 2023, WPHF-SI partners had access to a total of 73 capacity building webinars and knowledge exchanges which were held on various topics, including specific webinars focused on the protection of women and girls in crisis contexts and including sessions on measuring coalition building for women's movements, prevention and response to sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse in CSOs, digital safety and security for women activists and civil society leaders, UN mechanisms for human rights for the work in WPS-HA and peer exchanges on child marriage, leaving No One Behind and preventing and responding to CRSV. Several WPHF-SI partners were also featured as speakers to share their experiences in mobilizing women's groups against GBV and measuring the effects of coalition building in crisis and conflict settings, including JPHRO Haitian Relief Organization, Green Concern for Development from Nigeria, and Gbowee Peace

² In 2023, the online platform was shifted to an online library leveraging Google Suite to increase accessibility to resources for CSOs.

³ Soutien à La Femme Autochtone de Walungu (SFAW) from the D.R.C, and Mouvement pour l'Intégration et l'Émancipation des Femmes Handicapées - MIEFH and Haiti Adolescents Girls Network - HAGN)

⁴ Please see the [WPHF 2023 Global Women's Forum Report](#)

Foundation from Liberia. Overall, 82.5% of partners who participated in capacity building initiatives reported using new knowledge and skills, and CSOs have been inspired to use new approaches in project implementation and create new partnerships and synergies at local level. One CSO participant from PNG noted, *“We are grateful for the helpful and relevance of this WPHF L-HUB in our work towards preventing violence on women and girls but promoting the well-being and rights of women in rural and disadvantaged communities from the information gathered from WPHF L-HUB.”*

Summary of Results

Feminist and women's rights' movements, and movement building

A total of 3,324 CSOs, CBOs, and women's groups and/or associations across eight countries⁵, have jointly coordinated efforts to advocate for and carry out interventions focused on the prevention and response of SGBV and ending VAWG and other discriminatory and harmful practices, strengthening their collective influence in addressing systematic barriers for women and girls in crisis and conflict settings. These efforts have also improved the understanding of the broader community and duty bearers on the causes, impact, and response to SGBV, and contributing to improving more local and regional plans and policies in this area. CSOs have had significant influence and agency through their efforts, with over 4,000 CSOs influencing and advancing gender equality, protecting women and girls and ending VAWG, including community and family violence in conflict, crisis and humanitarian contexts.

Leaving No One Behind

Overall, WPHF-SI partners reached 453,955 direct beneficiaries, of which 290,220 (63.9%) were women and girls. Of these, 70.6% were women above the age of 18 and 29.4% were girls and young women below the age of 18. Various age and population groups were reached, including survivors of SGBV and women identified by various intersectionalities. Overall, 18.0% of partner projects worked with women who are forcibly displaced, 31.0% with women and people living with disabilities, 20.0% with child, single mothers, and widows, 2.0% with LGBTQI+ communities, 3.0% with female sex workers (FSWs), and 7.9% with indigenous and ethnic minorities. An estimated 5 million indirect beneficiaries were also reached. Almost half of partners have been new to the UN (43.8%), showing the ability of WPHF to reach local and grassroots women's rights organizations that had not been previously supported by the UN.

In line with the key principle of leaving no one behind, all selected CSO projects adopted an intersectional lens to their activities and include marginalized women who face multiple and intersecting forms of violence as target beneficiaries in their delivery, addressing women's needs and promoting their rights. While service delivery was the focus of Spotlight funding, as a result of coordinated efforts, approximately 129,961 survivors across eight countries have accessed critical psychosocial, legal, and health services as well as referrals to service providers and accompaniment for the rebuilding of their lives. This provision of these services was a way of building legitimacy and trust with CSO constituencies, and to further advocate to prevent and respond to SGBV.

Political and strategic positioning for ending violence against women and girls

WPHF-SI partners initiated steps to establish or increase the use of social accountability mechanisms to plan, monitor and engage in prevention and policy interventions for ending VAWG. Overall, over 84 different community, district or regional mechanisms drawing on different modalities have been used by CSOs. These ranged from gender rights early warning committees to community-based monitoring systems using score cards to monitor commitments towards the protection of women and girls, and victim support units. In Papua New Guinea for example, CSOs strengthened referral pathways in collaboration with Family Safety Committees to ensure linkages with local service providers for increased awareness and prevention on GBV and sorcery related violence and conflict, while in Malawi, access to justice for GBV survivors was streamlined through enhancing referral pathways where survivors were supported to swiftly access justice.

Many of these efforts have also contributed to broader policy changes including the adoption of new policies and laws advancing gender equality, and protecting women and girls, and ending VAWG, including community

⁵ Afghanistan, Haiti, the D.R.C, Nigeria, Malawi, Uganda, and Papua New Guinea (PNG).

and family violence in conflict, crisis and humanitarian contexts. This was witnessed in Nigeria with the adoption of the Violence Against Person's (VAPP) Act in Yobe and Borno States, a new district-level GBV Ordinance in Uganda, adoption of community by-laws for the end of child marriage in Malawi, and the facilitation of the first peace treaty between communities in Western Highlands in PNG, resolving conflict that has lasted over 25 years between tribes.

Pillar 6 Overarching Impact and Results

Outcome 6: Women's Movement

Indicator 6.1 Proportion of countries where women's rights organizations, autonomous social movements and relevant CSOs, increase their coordinated efforts to jointly advocate to end VAWG, including SGBV and HP⁶.

Cumulatively, a total of **3,324** CSOs, women's groups and/or associations across eight countries in Afghanistan, the D.R.C, Haiti, Malawi, Liberia, Nigeria, Uganda, and PNG have jointly coordinated efforts, and linked activists and women peacebuilders together, to advocate for and carry out interventions focused on the prevention of and response to SGBV and ending VAWG and other discriminatory and harmful practices, strengthening their collective influence in addressing systemic barriers for women and girls. These efforts have also enhanced the understanding of the broader community and duty bearers on the causes, impact, and response to SGBV, and contributed to improving local and regional plans and policies in this area. Moreover, these efforts have reinforced psychosocial, legal and referral mechanisms established to address the needs of women, girls, and other vulnerable populations (also see Indicator 6.2).

While service delivery was not the focus of Spotlight funding, as a result of coordinated efforts, approximately **129,961 survivors** across eight countries have accessed critical psychosocial, legal, and health services as well as referrals to service providers and accompaniment for the rebuilding of their lives. The provision of these services was a way of building legitimacy and trust with CSO constituencies, and to further advocate to prevent and respond to SGBV. Essential services have been inclusive and marginalized groups, including LGBTIQ+ communities, people living with HIV and women living with disabilities have been able to access services, where previously there were barriers to them.

Africa

1,000 CSOs, CBOs and women's groups actively collaborated in planning, monitoring, information sharing and reporting of cases of SGBV in their communities. These organizations have increased their confidence in engaging in and facilitating dialogue with duty bearers, including service providers, government authorities and district level administration in ensuring that survivor-centered legal, health and psychosocial services and referral pathways are accessible and available to survivors, as well as concerted efforts in increasing the understanding of the boarder community on the causes, impact, and response to SGBV.

While service delivery was not the focus of Spotlight funding, as a result of coordinated efforts, approximately **25,913 survivors** across four countries have accessed critical psychosocial, legal, and health services as well as referrals to service providers and accompaniment for the rebuilding of their lives.

This coordination has also led to more stigmatized groups accessing services, but also increased positive engagement with local health providers, government authorities and police. In **Uganda**, for instance, WONETHA continued to support female sex workers (FSWs), and collectively they have advocated for human rights and finding alternative livelihood solutions which put them less at risk. As a result of their mobilization, the health seeking behavior among the FSWs (i.e., demanding health services) has increased, including accessing HIV/AIDS testing and between 2020 and 2022 1,752 FSWs accessed these services as well as SRHR services. Consequently, health workers, also note that FSWs are more open to using health services and openly consult with them to receive treatment. Furthermore, there has been an increase in reporting gender-based violence cases faced by FSWs to the police, and more involvement of pro bono lawyers and trained peer

⁶ Please note for WPHF grantees, the indicator's unit of measurement is 'number of CSOs'.

educators to address cases of violence against them, ensuring access to justice for survivors of violence. It was reported that police officers investigate cases more efficiently when a lawyer and peer educator are involved.

In **Malawi**, over the programme period, **783** women and youth groups including community structures like mother groups and women's forums led to the strengthened design, implementation, and monitoring of programmes on VAWG, including SGBV/HP, and promotion of women's and girls' SRHR. As a result, **12,696** women, men, girls and boys accessed essential services. For example, NAWALOG, engaged and directly worked with 305 CSOs supporting coordination efforts to end VAWG and increase access to SRHR services at the district levels through the existing District level Gender Technical Working Group, District Executive Committees, and the District CSO network. Engagements with Police have led to strengthened capacity of Community Policing and Community Victim Support Unit regarding how to deal with GBV cases, championing working relationship between police and communities in promotion of safe community spaces. Overall, the project saw a 40% reduction in GBV cases in targeted areas. Purple Innovation also continued to engage and work with 149 CSOs and CBOs in Nkhatabay and Mzimba districts. Of these, 92 CSOs now form part of the District Executive Committees and the District CSO Network and have been instrumental in coordination efforts on ending SGBV/HP. Aided by the existing Spotlight Project coordination structures through the District Coordinators, joint planning and monitoring has been consistent and has greatly enhanced coordination which has drastically reduced duplication and enabled joint planning, implementation, and monitoring. The Gender Technical Working Group in Nkhatabay, for instance, handled 910 GBV cases, addressed 134 dropout cases where the girls returned to school and managed to withdrawal 154 girls from child marriages

Joint advocacy and collaboration has also notably brought conflict resolution to the forefront in conflict and crisis settings. In the **D.R.C** for instance, 633 civil society organizations collaborated in their efforts despite the continuous crisis that effects the country. Foundation Moyo, for example, supported leaders in the reconciliation and cessation of hostilities between tribal groups in Katanda territory and to find peaceful solutions to conflict. A new consultative framework to simultaneously address SGBV and reduce conflict was established with provincial ministries, police, military, religious leaders and CSOs, and a new declaration of commitments by traditional authorities in favor of the integration of women in conflict resolution processes was declared.

Finally, in **Uganda**, 262 CSOs, through their joint management of VAWG/SRHR cases which has equally relieved pressures on public justice systems, have supported the resolution of disputes, especially those in domestic situations. As a result, over 7,000 domestic cases were settled through mediation and reconciliation through trained women networks, groups, community Development Officers, probation officers, family elders and CBOs in the target areas.

Afghanistan⁷

A total of 46 CSOs jointly collaborated to address intersecting forms of discrimination, despite the restrictive environments in which they work. As a result, approximately 92,377 survivors accessed legal services, psychosocial counselling, and referrals to other CSOs and agencies.

Further, a total of 1,231 women local CSOs have been trained by 16 WPHF partners in coordinating efforts to end GBV and support SGBVs through PSS, raising awareness, legal counselling, protection and advocacy at community and government level for girls and women rights to be respected and protected. For example, one CSO coordinated with de facto authorities and reached a total 6,010 beneficiaries (67% female) in 2023 alone through provision of training on EVAWG, gender equality, advocacy on women's rights within Islam, and establishing two community based GBV prevention advocacy groups in targeted provinces, selected from community influencers and key actors to support conflict safety, restorative justice, gender equality, mediation

⁷ Please note CSO names are anonymized for their protection and security

techniques in family disputes, legal counselling and awareness on survivors of violence. The engagement of religious leaders has been a key strategy to protect to a certain extent the advances made pre-Taliban takeover. In addition, through institutional funding, another CSO was able to build the skills of 120 volunteer provincial coordinators from the Provincial Women Network (PWN) to support women and girl survivors at the community level, including connecting survivors to different CSOs and agencies providing humanitarian assistance.

Haiti

Through programmatic funding, **27** local women's organizations, CSOs or autonomous social movements have been coordinating efforts to end SGBV, including all forms of human trafficking. As a result, over **8,000** women and adolescents and girls have received multi-sectoral and survivor-centered services across communes, including health, legal and psychosocial support services.

For example, as a result of the various interventions of WPHF-SI partner Movement for the Integration and Emancipation of Women with Disabilities (MIEFH), a coalition of 13 organizations has been formed to take joint action in the fight against women's rights and GBV. These efforts have addressed both prevention and response from multiple lenses including increased efforts in community sensitization, new skills for health providers at local facilities and in nursing colleges, adolescent-friendly counselling sessions, strengthening reception centers, income generating activities of survivors living with disabilities, and skills building with local CBOs and disability person organizations (DPOs) to carry out advocacy initiatives. In addition, J/P Haitian Relief Organization (JPHRO) and its four partner organizations coordinated to ensure efficient service provision to survivors, and referral follow ups and provision of dignity kits for cases in Fanm Grandans, Fanm Solid, Entr'Elles, and AFAGA.

In October 2023, RAPHA also participated in the constructive dialogue of the United Nations in Vienna, Austria, where they advocated against child trafficking – a widespread problem that disproportionately affects the most vulnerable and whereby in many cases, victims go unnoticed. This provided a unique opportunity for civil society to engage with UN Member States in a political debate aimed at advancing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols. The representative of RAPHA pointed out that trafficking in persons remained a widespread problem that disproportionately affected the most vulnerable members of society and that in many cases the victims went unnoticed. Children are at increased risk of being trafficked due to the additional vulnerabilities they face compared to adults

Indicator 6.2: Proportion of countries where there is an increased use of social accountability mechanisms by civil society in order to monitor and engage in efforts to end VAWG, including SGBV and HP

WPHF-SI partners strengthened social accountability mechanisms in order to plan, monitor and engage in prevention and policy interventions for ending VAWG. Overall, over **84** different gender-responsive community, district or regional mechanisms drawing on different modalities have been strengthened and used by CSOs, ranging from gender rights early warning committees to community-based monitoring systems using score cards to monitor commitments towards the protection of women and girls, and victim support units.

For example, in **Afghanistan**, where women's rights organizations continuously faced threats and risks after the takeover of the Taliban in 2021, CSOs⁸ established community-based monitoring systems with the coordinated efforts of 25 women-led and rights organizations to not only raise awareness on issues of SGBV and VAWG, but also as a mechanism to identify cases for direct referrals for psychosocial and health support in local health facilities. As a result, several positive impacts occurred including the rise of new volunteer group

⁸ Names of CSOs are anonymized in this country for security and protection

networks to participate in monitoring and an expanded access to extremely remote areas which do not benefit from available services. Dialogue mechanisms were also established to engage elders, Mullahs, Jigras and Malaks and provide space to advocate for prevention of VAWG and safety, and to ensure protection of women's rights given the current context. One CSO, which focused activities in Kabul and Ghazni provinces, strengthened the capacity of middle-level health workers, midwives and 50 CBOs in the provision of psychosocial counselling in emergency contexts.

In **Haiti**, increased coordination has contributed to increased accountability, including through strengthening, and scaling up access to SRHR and services for GBV survivors. 29 support systems for the protection of women have been established, including referral pathways in the country. For example, Rapha House has strengthened its trafficking and sexual exploitation trauma coping mechanisms to support their long-term mental resilience, providing anxiety management, counselling, and care sessions with survivors of SGBV and those displaced by conflict and gang violence. In addition, 21 survivors, survivors of human trafficking were housed in a safe and transitional therapeutic center run by the organization. These recipients received trauma-appropriate care, meals, clothing, education, social development, and access to health care personnel. These actions have enabled beneficiaries to regain confidence and reintegrate into their communities as actors of change. SOFNE, for example, also mobilized and engaged local authorities in a support group created to support GBV survivors and coordinate the existing complaints mechanisms, which addressed over 200 complaints in 2023 alone.

In **Malawi**, through existing and multiple platforms established and strengthened by PASD, at district and community levels such as the District Gender Technical Working Group, the District Spotlight Initiative coordination meetings, and ADC meetings among others, joint planning, monitoring, follow up of cases, sharing of project reports and data has been enhanced and sustained. This has helped enhance accountability among the CSOs through the consistent interfaces among the CSOs and with government stakeholders and institutions working to address SGBV/HP and promotion of SRHR in the district. In addition, Centre for Civil Society Strengthening (CCSS)'s network of 37 CSOs through the District Executive Committee and District CSO Network has leveraged its use of a "score card" and interface engagements between community structures and district council, to increase accountability for actions based on monitoring of efforts in how GBV response and needs are being addressed in the area.

In **Uganda**, the six local Peace Committees in Kamwenge and Kumi districts have successfully identified early warning and response to VAWG at both community and household levels. This committee not only serves as a monitoring mechanism but has further advocated for clean water during community barazas and as a result two new boreholes were drilled in Asinge Parish. And, Uganda Women's Network (UWONET), has strengthened its three gender-sensitive conflict prevention mechanisms that include: mediation, referrals and follow up in Adjumani and Yumbe district with 100 female leaders. A GBV referral pathway in both host and refugee committees has also been established and strengthened by linking them to police and the district-based network organizations whose capacity was built already in 2020.

Finally, in **Papua New Guinea**, CSOs strengthened referral pathways in collaboration with Family Safety Committees to ensure linkages with local service providers in Jiwaka Province for increased awareness and prevention on GBV and sorcery related violence and conflict. In addition, the launch of a 'Law Toolkit' for police and other service providers was instrumental in ensuring existing service providers had access to key policy knowledge on the rights of survivors, the Sorcery Accusation Related Violence act and Children Protection Act to protect children who have been exploited. CSOs such as 'HRDAPANG' strengthened its human rights defenders network through intensive certification programmes. These HRDs serve as witnesses and advocates for survivors of violence in communities.

Community structures such as Village Saving and Lending Associations (VSLAs), have also been established in three countries by WPHF-SI partners, building the economic resilience and independence of survivors of

SGBV and preventing new cycles of violence. Initial results in the **D.R.C** demonstrate that the support to survivors through economic activity entry points have been positive in increasing survivor's resilience and reintegration. To date, over 100 groups are operational, with an average capital of \$875, which includes loans distributed to survivors for new income generating activities (IGAs). These structures, for example, has led to increased income of 200 women through eight agricultural cooperatives, established by FPP to increase the resilience of survivors. In **Uganda** there is a clear link between income and increased confidence of group members in advancing accountability systems in their communities and in their ability to engage in efforts to end VAWG. Follow up of 52 VSLA groups in 2022 established by Uganda Change Agent Association (UCAA) found that 2,000 women have started small-scale business, including retail shops, selling vegetables and fish and other income generating activities. The businesses have increased the women's resilience and enables them to meet some of the basic needs of their families. The group's financial health is strong with accumulated savings of 115,277,200 UGX (\$30,586 USD), and the model has served to inspire the 45 additional VSLAs groups in the parish.

Indicator 6.3 Proportion of women's rights organizations, 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, including SGBV and HP

Overall, **4,010** CSOs, CBO, local women's groups and associations across eight countries have increased their influence in advancing gender equality, protecting women and girls and ending VAWG, including community and family violence in conflict, crisis and humanitarian contexts. These organizations have equally built their confidence in continued advocacy efforts towards their work in the prevention and response of SGBV and tangible changes around local planning and policy. These changes are a result of targeted capacity building efforts and coaching conducted by partners on prevention approaches, laws and policies around violence against women, the use of social accountability tools, social media campaigns and community sensitization, as well as institutional strengthening opportunities for CSOs.

Africa

During the reporting period, 84 partners (lead CSOs and their co-implementing partners) have implemented initiatives and actions in EVAWG, including SGBV and HP. Overall, these efforts have led to over 25,000 women and girls directly accessing essential survivor-entered services, including legal and judicial services, psychosocial, and health services, including youth friendly and sensitive responses.

The impact of this influence through advocacy efforts and interventions is evident in local planning, new commitments, by-laws and implementation of policy.

Specifically, in **Nigeria**, 74 CSOs (including government service providers) have reported having greater influence and agency to work on ending SGBV in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states. 12 community-based social mobilization networks and groups in targeted communities have engaged with government authorities and policymakers with a total of 11 joint advocacy actions. These organizations have witnessed the assenting of the Violence Against Person's (VAPP) Act into law in both Yobe and Borno States, achieved through the continued multi-stakeholder advocacy to traditional leaders, religious leaders and government officials.

In **Uganda**, as a result of strengthened capacity among duty bearers, host and refugee communities advocating for EVAWG and the safety of women, new commitments were made in Yumbe District, following the alarming numbers of teenage pregnancies, including local authorities vocalizing the need for police to adequately investigate and bring perpetrators of GBV before the law. In Adjumani the local chairperson noted his support

for the draft GBV ordinance, stating, “I will support this ordinance towards reducing the high prevalence of GBV in Adjumani district”. The ordinance is being fronted by the district women councillors (women caucus).

In addition, the efforts of CSOs to support populations that are traditionally excluded have led to increased access to social services for female sex workers through ‘security talks’ and sensitization among female sex worker associations, health workers, police, and local government authorities. District officials from Mukono, Kalangala and Buikwe have committed to supporting female sex workers to access justice and services and agreed on three key recommendations to be implemented jointly, even after the end of the project period. These include the increased uptake and access of SRHR services through outreach facilitated by the public health workers in targeted health facilities; prosecuting perpetrators of violence against female sex workers as a strategy to reduce violence against them; and targeted training to police in efforts to reduce violence against female sex workers. As a result FSWs have been able to access life-saving ARTs, test for STIs and receive SRHR services in more accessible ways.

CSOs in **Malawi** have had significant influence in ensuring justice for survivors through enhanced joint monitoring and case follow ups which has ensured timely access to legal services, and whereby **758** CSOs and CBOs have had direct influence. Overall, through the case management committees and other stakeholders in the GBV referral pathways, over 2,080 GBV cases, 321 of which were processed through mobile courts, were handled through the projects with 82% of these cases concluded where judgements were given out either through the courts, CVSUS and traditional leaders forums. Outstanding cases by the end of the project are still under processing by police. Purple Innovation, for instance, also supported 2,871 women activists in the design, implementation and monitoring of VAWG programmes and conflict prevention through various community platforms such as community victim support units, mother groups, Child Protection Forums, Community Policing Forums, among others. As a result, case management has improved, leading to systematic case management working with and through the District Gender Offices for both Mzimba and NKhatabay. Over the course of the programme, **762 child marriages were also annulled** and 80% of these girls have returned to school.

And, in the **D.R.C** 63 autonomous social movements and civil society organisations working towards ending VAWG, including SGBV/HP, and promoting SRHR, strengthened their impact and improved the mental health of women and girls. Community members including traditional leaders and political-administrative authorities, young people as well as marginalized women (themselves) were mobilized and actively and progressively engaged in the promotion and defense of women's rights and the fight against SGBV. Further, an informal legal framework and advocacy plan was established by ‘AFPE’ for inclusive services and action for indigenous and local women in the Mai Ndombe province.

Moreover, awareness-raising, advocacy, and training actions to prevent violence against women and girls were initiated across countries in the region, contributing to improved perceptions and understanding of SGBV of community members, government authorities, service providers and local duty bearers, and engaging communities to end it. For example:

- In the **D.R.C**, CSOs have successfully influenced local, regional and national authorities and duty bearers through targeted actions. For example, LOFEPACO conducted workshops with local authorities and communities leaders for the continued coordination and awareness raising on EVAWG. As a result, an estimated 72% of these stakeholders are now involved in the fight and denunciation of SGBV.
- In **Nigeria**, implementing partners influenced stakeholders to make sustainable commitments to ending SGBV in humanitarian contexts. Four radio stations have signed MOUs for continuous streaming of radio programs and jingles as well as committed to improve on programs that improve awareness on

gender-based violence, and the local government in Potiskum in Yobe State signed a memorandum of understanding for the procurement of reusable sanitary pads from the established women's groups.

- In **Malawi**, the use of social media as a tool for awareness raising has been instrumental. In addressing cultural issues, cultural communication media events through mobile vans were conducted reaching thousands of people. This resulted in community dialogues involving local leaders, girls and young women on how to address the existing harmful cultural practices and systems such as lack of inheritance for women.

In addition, these efforts have influenced young women and adolescents to be more actively engaged in their communities and to fight against deep rooted norms. For example:

- Female students in **Nigeria** ran for Student Council Government Elections after training organized by the project on the "Importance of Women/Girls Participation in Student Council and National Governance", focused on the importance of female representation in schools and government leadership in Grand Gedeh County. In addition, INOL, through the support of GBV clubs in male secondary schools has raised male gender champions against gender-based violence on women and girls. Their voices have driven change within the school environment and communities by impacting their peers through conversation and dialogues. Fatima Adamu Ibrahim, an adolescent girl from CCRDN's intervention, expressed her newfound understanding of GBV, which had previously been limited to the concept of rape, *"the intervention gave us a better view of what GBV is and how to prevent and respond to GBV," she said, noting her proactive role in educating her peers*".
- Young people in **Malawi** were trained and engaged in safe spaces leading to increased demand for information and SRHR services. The area as a result saw significant reductions on reported cases of SGBV was also noted in some of the project target areas such as Traditional Authority Mposa in Machinga where a 20 percent drop on reported cases was registered in 2022. Much of this was because of various factors such as increased awareness on effects of harmful practices and negative social norms; empowerment of local structures with knowledge and capacity to manage cases; adoption of community bylaws and their enforcement by local structures; among others. Over the course of the programme, a total of 762 Child Marriages were annulled and 80% of the girls rescued from such marriages were supported to go back to school.
- Increased knowledge on SRHR in **Uganda** of 540 students through sex-education training, including topics of sexuality, gender, early pregnancy, forced marriage and menstrual hygiene has not only increased girls' confidence, self-esteem and life skills, but has resulted in trainees disseminating knowledge to their peers. 30 of these girls also started to make sanitary pads from local materials as a source of income.

In addition, women's rights organizations have enhanced the availability of quality data and disaggregated information to inform planning and influence decision-making by key stakeholders, as well as service provision. For example, Grassroot Researchers Association (GRA) in **Nigeria** strengthened the IT-based Clearing House Data Management System (CHDMS) for functionality across communities for the reporting of incidents and case management documentation. And, Purple Innovation in **Malawi**, maintained a GBV actors database at the district level which has facilitated in data consolidation of cases in Nkhatabay and Mzimba and providing access to service providers to support in service delivery and programming.

Haiti

Over the course of the programme, 442 CSOs reported having greater influence and agency to work on preventing and ending SGBV, well as contributing significantly to the improvement of human rights, safety, security and mental health as well as participated in briefings of humanitarian coordination mechanisms in the country.

At the organizational level, through institutional funding as a key to women's movement building in crisis settings, five organizations are better equipped, and mobilized to respond to emergencies and different impacts of violence against women and girls. The capacities of these organizations have been strengthened to adapt and improve their responses to women and girls, as well as strengthen their strategic capacity, and their visibility and advocacy ability to intervene through concrete actions. This includes (i) strengthened management systems (staff training, access to workstation & materials, management experience), governance (emergence of new female leaders, knowledge, and resource management) and fund-raising capacities (financial management experience with international structures), (ii) improved premises and service locations for women such as offices and health blocks, access to radio broadcasts, publication of awareness-raising tools in the field, etc.

Moreover, institutional funding has supported women's rights organizations to sustain themselves for an average of 12 months each with 517 staff and volunteers retained during the reporting period through remuneration and stipends. They have also developed and/or adopted adaptive strategies, tools, or systems, for continuity of their operations including development of risk management and contingency plans. This has improved staff performance and efficiency and has increased the role of women's organizations making them more equipped to respond to women and girls needs in crisis contexts and contributing to building women's movements and networks.

PNG

A total 8 local women's rights organizations strengthened their operational and technical capacity, through staff trainings on referral and case management of survivors of violence, acquiring IT equipment and transportation to enhance their reach within local communities. Institutional funding contributed to strengthening women's organizations staff confidence and their relationships with local stakeholders to implement their projects. Moreover, as a result of core funding, 81 staff and volunteers were retained through salaries or monthly stipends for the critical work they carry out in supporting survivors of SGBV. For example, Kafe Urban Settlers Women Association (KUSWA) extended its office space and was able to provide stipends for 20 focal points in charge of accompaniment of survivors. This has been critical as in the past survivors were housed in volunteer homes while they waited for space in shelters or access to services. This expansion has resulted in KUSWA influencing perceptions of the organization as being more credible and professional.

Programmatically, 16 CSO partners in PNG have also been able to influence key decisions and actions in remote communities. For example, KUP Women for Peace through its extensive outreach and advocacy efforts have positively influenced response by local police. Moreover, skills building and advocacy on various laws in PNG with duty bearers, through the 'Law Toolkit' on laws such as the Family and Sexual Violence Act, Children Protection Act and Sorcery Accusation Related Violence (SARV) Act has improved referral pathways and appropriately ensuring survivors reach specific services. Moreover, CSOs like Voice for Change (VfC) have greatly influenced peace processes in their community while simultaneously advocating for the prevention of SGBV. VfC facilitated the first peace treaty between the Ramui and Dry Wara communities in Western Highlights – resolving a conflict that has lasted over 25 years between the two tribes.

Reporting on SRHR

In Malawi, WPHF – SI grantees have reported notable progress on SRHR. Over the reporting period "Partners in Action for Sustainable Development" has reached 1,119 adolescent girls enabling them access to SRHR information and services. This also includes training that has built their capacity to report and support the community and their peers in the fight against SGBV/HP. In addition, "Karonga Debate Club" led a total of 37 interventions contributing towards raising awareness and also stimulated demand for SRHR services. 72 key gatekeepers such as traditional leaders, male champions, and mother groups' chairpersons, have also been key in the engagement with adolescents through their existing structures in addressing the critical barriers they face in accessing SRHR services and information. As such, these gatekeepers have been able to interact with the adolescent girls and

women on SRHR creating a free and safe environment for girls and young women to access SRHR services and information. The grantee reached 8,979 (6,944 girls below 18 and 7,772 above 18) through dialogues and discussions on SRHR at district and community levels in schools and target communities through community dialogues, arts competitions, awareness rallies/campaigns, and engagements with community level groups. As per the District Health Office records in 2021, this has resulted in an increased uptake of SRHR services of 290% (from 1,159 to 4,517) by adolescents and young women. In Haiti, as a result of WPHF-SI partners interventions during this reporting period, 65 female adolescents aged 12 to 17 years, and 81 women aged 18 to 35 years have accessed SRHR services and information, including training on GBV and STI/STD prevention, mentoring, and support for girls; facilitating access to specialized SRH services; and the development of prevention programs with educational sessions for young women and men on sexuality and their rights. They also received key techniques to strengthen their professional and personal development (self-esteem in mental and emotional health).

Rights Holders (“Beneficiaries”)

Since 2019, WPHF-SI partners across eight countries, reached 453,955 direct beneficiaries, of which 290,220 (64%) were women and girls. Overall, 45.2% were women above the age of 18 and 18.8% were girls and young women below the age of 18. Different age and intersecting population groups were reached, including 18% of projects that worked with women who are forcibly displaced, 31% with women and people living with disabilities, 20% with child or single mothers and widows, 3% other groups at risk, and 8% with indigenous and ethnic minorities. An estimated 5 million indirect beneficiaries were also reached. Almost half of the partners are receiving funding for the first time through the UN (44%), showing the ability of WPHF to reach local and grassroots organizations that had not been previously supported by the UN.

Indicative numbers	Direct (2020-2023)	Indirect (2020-2023) ⁹
Girls (0-17 years)	85,183	
Women (18 years and above)	205,037	
Boys (0-17 years)	58,239	
Men (18 years and above)	105,496	
TOTAL	453,955	5,013,751

Challenges and Mitigating Measures

During the programme, several challenges occurred leading to project revisions and adaptations to ensure continued implementation and achievement of results.

In Uganda, while the last restrictions due to COVID-19 were lifted in 2022, the Ebola outbreak in the second half of the 2022 required partners to adjust their activities slightly to ensure Ebola Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) were observed. UN Women Country Offices (COs) stayed in close contact with all CSO partners to secure flexibility and support. Since the outbreak was contained quickly and the reach was limited to a few areas, project implementation did not suffer delays.

The Taliban takeover in Afghanistan in August 2021, severely impacted and threatened women and women’s rights organizations in the country. On December 24th, a new decree was issued by de facto authorities barring women from working in CSOs. WPHF partners continued implementation, while still ensuring the protection and well-being of their personnel, but activities did require to be either adjusted or paused, as female staff worked online or from home.

⁹ WPHF does not collect disaggregated data for indirect beneficiaries.

During the programme period, inflation also skyrocketed further and led to increased costs in the implementation of projects. WPHF and UN Women COs continued to guide partners closely to discuss possible strategic changes in implementation and provided the necessary flexibility to make adaptations in the project designs and budgets.

In addition, the volatile security situation in the D.R.C, Nigeria and Haiti continued to challenge project activities as well as capacity building efforts. The insecurity and prevalence of armed groups in project areas affected access to beneficiaries and made it necessary to postpone meetings, trainings, and workshops to ensure safety. In the D.R.C for example, the state of emergency continued throughout the implementation period in three Eastern provinces, leading to the instalment of military governments leaving little room for women's organizations to bring forward their concerns and demands. The security risks were however mitigated through a strategic selection of activity locations, travel times and access routes. Most importantly, all activities were paused if there were any risks for partners or beneficiaries, and adaptation and flexibility was provided to CSO partners. In Haiti, insecurity resulted in travel restrictions and violent demonstrations, delaying activities to ensure staff and beneficiaries remained safe.

Severe floods in Malawi challenged project implementation as well as monitoring efforts by the UN Women CO. During the floods, partners however continued to implement their activities as much as possible, despite having to postpone several events due to road blockages and heavy rains. The UN Women CO stayed in close contact with the CSO partners to ensure support and quick actions as needed.

The remoteness and rural nature of CSOs in PNG also continued to challenge project monitoring and follow up. WPHF and UN Women CO in collaboration with its partner CARE International carried out joint monitoring missions, held a joint in-person reporting and M&E session and leveraged online and WhatsApp messaging groups to provide support to partners.

Finally, UN Women at the country level continued to ensure due diligence of project implementation despite the challenges. Several cases of concern regarding corruption/financial mismanagement were brought forward: two in Uganda, one in Nigeria, one in Malawi and one in the D.R.C. All projects underwent investigation, screenings and quality checks and in all cases, funds were reallocated to successful ongoing activities or partners. An additional five cases among WPHF-SI partners were recorded in PNG, and the UN Women CO is in process of recuperating the funds.

Lessons Learned and New Opportunities

The WPHF-SI generated several important learnings from the rich array of project implementation experiences across the eight countries. Central to its adaptive learning approach, WPHF is committed to a continuous assessment and adaptation of its approaches and practices in the interest of more effective and efficient support to women civil society organizations operating in crisis settings.

Adaptation and Flexibility in hostile environments for women's rights organizations

Throughout the implementation period, several conflicts and crisis contributed to severe instability in countries such as Afghanistan and Haiti. Threats to the fundamental rights and movement of women and girls, LGBTIQ+ communities and other marginalized groups were also on the rise during the implementation period with conflicts and humanitarian emergencies exacerbated by the global climate crisis, food insecurity, violent extremism, the deadliest global pandemic in a generation and growing number of populations facing forced displacement. Despite these threats and challenges, women's rights organizations have adapted to their environments by using new working modalities such as telework and use of online platforms and provided tools to personnel to work from home or engaging male confederates and supporters in their advocacy efforts. In cases where continuation of work would pose additional risks, rescheduling or stopping activities for a time

was a key strategy and remaining flexible and adaptable within crisis settings is critical. In addition, iterative and flexible funding modalities for CSOs in crisis and conflict settings is critical. In Afghanistan, where women led CSOs have been unable to continue their programming due to escalating violence and conflict, WPHF has employed flexible approaches in its modalities to ensure these organizations can continue despite the challenges and restrictions they face. In 2023, WPHF allowed for the reallocation of funds from programmatic interventions to institutional ones for four CSOs to ensure the continuity of the organizations.

Ensuring spaces for self-care and well-being of women’s rights organizations and women human rights defenders

The contexts in which CSOs and activists are working poses increased risk factors of exhaustion, burnout and trauma. They are systematically targeted, threatened and face retaliation as a result of their work, and in traditional spaces are expected to continue without complaint or time for themselves. Many CSOs have also included safeguarding the physical and mental well being of both their staff, and in their programmatic approaches through healing circles, safe spaces for critical dialogue, psychological first aid, and easier access to essential services through mobile teams. For example, in Haiti, YWCA has integrated relaxation sessions into programme activities to allow beneficiaries to improve their stress management and find a moment of relaxation in a safe space taking into account the mental health of the population. As part of WPHF’s Strategic Plan (2023-2025), the safety and wellbeing of women civil society leaders working in WPS-HA is a key cross-cutting area of focus, and it will continue to provide funding opportunities and spaces for protection and self-care, while supporting initiatives covering psychosocial assistance for CSO partners, development of internal policies for staff protection and healing, with particular focus to locally innovative approaches to trauma-healing.

Country-to-country peer exchanges is a key strategy for learning on movement building. As a follow up to the WPHF-SI global event on Movement Building held in 2021, WPHF organized two additional peer exchanges in 2022 and 2023 involving organizations from six countries to share their best practices in terms of movement building. CSO partners from Uganda exchanged with peers in Malawi, organizations in Liberia with CSOs in Nigeria, and partners from the D.R.C with Haiti. These facilitated dialogues conducted in small, intimate settings involving only two countries at a time, were found as an optimal environment encouraging lively discussions that were conducive for participants to share their own experiences and dive deeper into best practices. WPHF plans to build on this approach and organize additional country-to-country peer-exchanges in 2024, along with summary documents capturing key lessons and promising practices to be shared with and potentially benefiting CSOs from other countries.

Early direct support to strengthen CSO project management capacities are critical for successful implementation. Having identified capacity gaps among CSOs, particularly those from PNG, regarding project documentation, monitoring and reporting, a partnership with CARE International was established to provide direct capacity building to local organizations on financial management, reporting and implementation during Round 2 of Spotlight Initiative. In addition, WPHF carried out a mission to PNG and conducted a practical and participatory gender sensitive monitoring, evaluation and reporting workshop with all CSO partners in efforts to improve the demonstration of results. While these efforts certainly helped to improve reporting in 2022, it was noted that timing of such efforts need to be done at the project onset and during CSO onboarding to be better capitalized during the implementation period. This would help preventing implementation delays, ensure completion of reporting and provision of appropriate documentation. WPHF and UN Women will assess different ways in which it can integrate this approach moving forward.

Institutional Funding to strengthen CSO capacity and cover the costs of adapting to COVID-19 and other crisis. In the face of the gendered impacts of COVID-19 and the lack of funding posing existential risks for local women’s organizations, WPHF established a new funding stream to support the strengthening of CSO capacity and ensure their continuity. This provided the opportunity for local women’s organizations to receive

both institutional and programmatic funding to strengthen their capacity and cover the costs of adapting to COVID-19 (technology for telework, safety, hygiene kits, internet costs, etc.) and simultaneously having time to focus on their advocacy and train their staff in proposal writing to ensure future funding and sustainability of their actions. Based on this experience, WPHF has integrated this approach across the Fund and continued to support CSOs outside of the SI and in other crisis setting to restructure their programmatic activities to institutional ones in setting which would put them at risk for continued implementation, while ensuring their continuity.

Innovative, Promising or Good Practices

Throughout the implementation period a number of promising and good practices as well as project innovations surfaced that can serve as inspiration for further programming and learning opportunities.

WPHF-SI structures and approach as enablers of collaboration and systemic transformation. Over 3,300 CSOs, women's groups across eight countries have coordinated advocacy efforts and strengthened their collective influence in addressing systemic barriers for women and girls. This result has been possible thanks to a unique combination of establishing dedicated WPHF and Spotlight Initiative country-level coordination structures intentional in supporting collective action and movement building to prevent and respond to SGBV and ending VAWG. This dual approach has facilitated a better understanding of the causes, impact, and response to SGBV among the broader community and duty bearers. WPHF's own processes requiring the designated UN Management Entity to assume programmatic accountability in accordance with the multi-stakeholder national steering committee has also contributed to increased partner coordination. For instance, UN Women Country Offices have brought partners together for knowledge exchange and better coordination among them, including via virtual meetings and one-on-one follow-ups with CSOs.

Capacity strengthening through WPHF's Global Learning Hub (L-HUB) as a key resource to expand project's impact and sustainability. The capacity strengthening opportunities made available by WPHF's Global L-HUB have proven to be a good practice in enhancing CSO partners' capacities in strategic areas affecting project implementation and sustainability. Over the course of the programme, 73 capacity building webinars and knowledge exchanges were conducted on various topics including on measuring coalition building for women's movements, prevention and response to sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse in CSOs, digital safety and security for women activists and civil society leaders, UN mechanisms for human rights for the work in WPS-HA, and peer exchanges on child marriage, leaving no one behind and preventing and responding to CRSV. This also provided space for several WPHF-SI partners to share their experiences in mobilizing women's groups against GBV and measuring the effects of coalition building to eliminate GBV. In March 2023 a peer exchange between DRC and Haiti CSO partners involved representatives of 10 CSOs who shared examples of motivating and supporting grassroots women's groups to bring forward their needs and recommendations to end VAWG. Similar peer exchanges were held in 2022 with WPHF-SI partners from Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria and Uganda. A closing event for the WPHF SI partners was also conducted, featuring 8 CSO participants from seven countries (Afghanistan, the D.R.C, Haiti, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, and Uganda). Through online interactive discussions, they shared insights on their projects' achievements, strategies and good practices related to ending VAWG, as well as their plans for ensuring long-term project impacts. Based on WPHF's 2023 Annual CSO Survey, 82.5% of partners who participated in these initiatives reported using new knowledge and skills, and CSOs have been inspired to use new approaches in project implementation and create new partnerships and synergies at local level. Moving forward, WPHF will continue to use this mechanism not only provide spaces for exchange, but as a key resource to expand CSO's visibility, foster networking and collaboration among organizations and showcase continued impact and sustainability.

Diversity of civil society actors brings more reach and richness. In line with previous years' experience and

knowledge, WPHF has noted as a good practice that expanding the number, diversity and inclusiveness of civil society actors – and stakeholders in general – gives the space for a wider array of inclusive perspectives, which lends itself to more holistic and effective approaches to EAWG in fragile settings and addressing the specific needs of the most marginalized. For example, the network established in Afghanistan comprising of 25 women's rights groups, autonomous social movements, and civil society organizations and activists was key to make information and services accessible in remote locations, leading to more cases of GBV and psychosocial counselling being referred in these areas. In Haiti, a coalition of 13 organizations which joined forces against GBV allowed to address both prevention and response from multiple lenses including increased efforts in community sensitization, new skills for health providers at local facilities and in nursing colleges, adolescent-friendly counselling sessions, strengthening reception centers, income generating activities of survivors living with disabilities, and skills building with local CBOs and disability person organizations (DPOs) to carry out advocacy initiatives

Investing in income generation and economic empowerment as an entry point to enhance engagement and accountability in EAWG. The programme saw six countries (Afghanistan, D.R.C, Haiti, Liberia, Malawi, and Uganda) use income generating opportunities as an entry point and way to demonstrate the importance of economic independence and its role in deterring VAWG and enhancing women and girls' agency and coordination. Community structures such as Village Saving and Lending Associations (VSLAs) and access to entrepreneurship opportunities have increased women's savings and income, build their confidence in speaking out against violence, contribute to advocacy efforts and taking up leadership positions in their communities. For example, CSO partner Uganda Change Agent Association (UCAA) implementing an initiative that supported VSLAs noted that the resulting increase in income for women members, enhanced their resilience and their ability to engage in efforts to end VAWG, as well as their confidence in advancing accountability systems in their communities.

Engaging men and boys, including boys' school clubs against SGBV transforming harmful social norms in Nigeria. A project-specific best practice is from Nigeria, where three SGBV clubs in male secondary schools have proven to be a viable approach to addressing SGBV among youth groups, using youth male vanguards advocating against VAWG. The clubs, comprising 40 boys each, have been institutionalized in male secondary schools with the theme “stop violence against women and girls” as extracurricular activities. Supported by a teacher acting as a coordinator and supervisor, each club identifies and develops inclusive and equitable activities promoting gender equality and protection against GBV, by facilitating conversations within their peers geared towards shifting attitudinal change and positive masculinities, addressing bias and negative social norms and fostering an inclusive culture. The boys also exchange ideas and experiences with local women groups and advocates in the communities and they work closely with other local structures to garner further support and synergies. Club members are well accepted by traditional and community leaders and regarded as good ambassadors of youth in the community. When the club members transit from secondary schools, a ‘recruitment’ mechanism will be established to ensure continuity through enrolment of new club members to continue with club activities.

Use of technology for increased accountability and access in preventing and responding to SGBV

In Liberia, the WPHF and SI partnership supported the work of Foundation for Community Initiatives (FCI) on a project to reduce all forms of violence against women and girls in Montserrado, Grand Gedeh and Lofa Counties. In the framework of the project, FCI developed the SAVApp for the collection of data on VAWG and the VAWG reporting. This app will be important for the use of school going girls who are constantly faced with multiple forms of abuses at home, in the communities and at school. Not only is the app expedient of its use at community level, but it will be linked to the national data collection system and feed information to that database. A similar app is also being developed by the partner for the blind and visually impaired. The data for the SAVApp is managed by Girls for Change Institution, a women's rights Community Based Organisation, and ongoing engagement is underway for a wider extension to introduce the

App to Gender Justice Clubs, Men Champions, and stakeholders to other counties. The App is currently on Apple Store (<https://sav-app.com/#>) and is opened for feedback and modification based on users' review. It is currently being tested by the Gender Justice Clubs in Grand Cape Mount, Bomi and Margibi Counties. The Reporting App for the visually impaired is almost finalized. Validation of the app will be complete before the end of March 2021.

Communications and Visibility

Throughout the WPHF-SI partnership, the WPHF Secretariat executed a wide range of strategic communications and public advocacy initiatives aimed at driving enhanced visibility for the WPHF-SI partnership while amplifying the central role of the EU as a generous donor, and the voices and transformative impact of women civil society leaders working to end SGBV in crises contexts. A number of key opportunities and public events were conducted to advocate for their recognition, enhance their visibility, shape policy and mobilize financing for their critical work.

The WPHF and SI communications teams worked in close coordination to develop and amplify a range of complementary communications initiatives that enhanced public awareness of the WPHF-SI partnership and the critical work of its civil society partners - building on a strong foundation of strategic collaboration that continues to effectively shift public narratives of women from passive survivors to active agents of change, centering the critical contributions and voices of local women's rights organizations in crises settings working at the forefront of SGBV prevention and response.

Throughout the project implementation period, the WPHF Secretariat reinforced among its partners and managing UN Women CO focal points the WPHF-SI Communications and complementary branding guidelines, which outlines comprehensive guidance on co-branding, logo usage, social media best practices and standard language used to effectively communicate on the unique WPHF-SI partnership across both entities' various communications, web and social media channels.

The WPHF Secretariat also leveraged its growing social media presence across its Twitter (now X), Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn channels (WPHF successfully grew its social media audience from 29,415 followers in 2022 to 37,311 at the end of 2023, resulting in a 26.8% net growth in total social media followers from the previous year) to enhance the visibility of interventions, new funding opportunities for local women's rights organizations in crisis contexts, and the impact of its partners on the front lines. In close coordination with the Spotlight Initiative, the global communications team, highlighted key initiatives across its social media channels, including the active promotion of joint WPHF-SI calls for proposals, and leveraging various global events such as the International Day to End Violence Against Women and the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence campaign to drive broader awareness of the impact of WPHF-SI CSO partners and local women's rights organizations' efforts to end sexual and gender-based violence in crises settings across the globe.

WPHF also developed a series of engaging video interviews amplifying the voices and impact of CSO – including WPHF-SI-supported – partners as part of its #InvestInWomen Global Campaign, while working closely with its UN country office focal points to develop a series of impact stories to further advocacy and visibility efforts of WPHF-SI projects at country, regional and global levels.

Campaigns and Visibility

Various advocacy campaigns and opportunities for visibility were carried out during the programme. In 2023 WPHF launched its Invest-In-Women Global Campaign to accelerate support, amplify the voices, unlock the power and scale up the impact of frontline women's civil society groups – including civil society organizations and activists preventing and responding to SGBV in crisis settings. The new campaign, aligned with the

UNSG's Transformative Measures on Women, Peace and Security, is calling on the world to mobilize USD 300 Million to support and scale up the impact of frontline women's groups by the end of 2025, aiming to accelerate support to more than 3,500 local women's organizations on the front lines and to directly transform the lives of approximately 13.5 Million people worldwide.

Human Interest Stories

Afghanistan

For Berezira¹⁰, a mother of three children, the organization's community engagement has impacted her life directly through awareness sessions in her community in Nuristan Province. Below she tells her story, in her own words:

"I was forcibly married in exchange for money to an aged person as his second wife, I was faced with discrimination and violence in my family and I was considered like an animal purchased in exchange for money, I do all my housework, work in agricultural lands, collecting firing wood from the nearby mountains and bringing water from early morning until late night. Like other women here, I did not ever know that a woman can have some rights as a human being. An elder of our community told my husband to let a woman from our household to attend the session organized by the organization on December 04, 2022. I attended the females' session, and my husband attended the males' session on the same day, both of us have been informed during the sessions that a Muslim woman can have some basic human rights given by our religion, this was a good understanding for me, and I was in hurry to return home and talk with my husband regarding it, as I knew he can't deny religious guidelines because he is a strict follower of Islam. I returned home and crying for my existence as a woman who has been sold in exchange for money and have no rights to be respected by a husband. My husband came home and lovingly asked me about the reason for my sadness and about what the session was like. I responded that the session was about women's fundamental Islamic rights that you have never given to me as your wife, men here just misuse a woman for doing work, giving birth to children and using a wife for lust purposes who are always victims of violence deprived of their basic human rights, I wish that the organization had told this lesson to you too, so that you could know a woman's human being and the basic rights given by our religion. He smiley said that he attended the session too and he has just been informed about women's Islamic and fundamental human rights and his mindset was positively changed towards women, he regretted from what he used to do and said ((I was a stupid and ignorant person that I did all with you opposed to our religion, I am sorry for what I did, I am really regretted for the violence I did against you)). Since then, his attitude towards me has been changed and we have been having a loving life cooperating with each other and this was basically because me and my husband knew about women's basic human and Islamic rights and reason for the positive change was conduction of the awareness raising session organized by the organization. I am therefore thankful to them for organization the session and I am thankful to UN Women and WPHF for financially supporting the initiative which can have life changing positive impact on the lives of hundreds of victim women like me."

Nigeria

Asabe¹¹ was 16 years old when her father removed her from school and forcefully married off to a man 65 years old. "I have never seen him before in my life and I didn't love him at all" she recounted. When she was taken to his house, she met three other wives old enough to be her mother. The man was brutal and sexually assaulted and raped her continually. Every night he forced himself on her resulting in severe pain and bruises, causing physical and emotional harm. Whenever she tried to resist, she would be beaten severely. She attempted running back to her parents but was sent back by her father with strong warning that she no longer belongs to them.

Asabe managed to escape from sexual abuse and slavery to a new community with the help of a community leader. As a result of community engagement efforts, INOL was invited to intervene in her case. After a careful review, the case was referred to the International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) for additional support. FIDA took the case to the court and the marriage was successfully dissolved, both father and husband were charged for sexual assault and child abuse and jailed for 2 years with a fine of NGN 200,00 (approximately 500 USD).

Asabe gained her freedom and has been rescued from her violent environment. She attended skills acquisition training in tailoring and fashion design for the period of twelve months at the Women and Girls Dignity Center Damaturu. She also benefitted from the empowerment and livelihood support by the Ministry of Women Affairs Yobe through the Lake Chad Basin project which was implemented with support from UN Women. Asabe was supported with a sewing machine and cash support to engage in income generating activities. As a result of her new skills and professionalism, she was employed as an instructor for other survivors training at Women's Empowerment Hub to build their capacity and strengthen their resilience and improved economic status. Asabe uses her experience to counsel other survivors coming into the center on human rights and access to justice.

Uganda

"My name is Mirembe¹², I am 32 years and I have three children. Two of them are twins. And I have been a sex worker for 13 years."

¹⁰ Names and community name has been changed to ensure protection and security

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Ibid.

Mirembe is one of the female sex workers who have benefitted from a project financed through the WPHF-Spotlight Initiative partnership. Women’s Organization Network for Human Rights Advocacy (WONETHA) works with the women to improve their access to justice and health services. When joining the project, Mirembe was chosen as a peer educator by her fellow sex workers.

“In the past when I was starting sex work, we worked in bars. That is where you would get customers. You would work in the bar but also sell sex and our boss was selling us. Sometimes a customer would come but pay the owner of the bar and I wouldn’t get paid. So, I worked only for food and accommodation. I didn’t even know how to use a condom and got HIV. Fortunately, all my children are negative,” Mirembe explains.

Mirembe’s story is very common and female sex workers face a lot of exploitation and violence in Uganda. WONETHA educates women on sexual and reproductive health and rights, Ugandan laws and on their human rights. The peer educators like Mirembe are in key roles as they reach out to other sex workers to form groups, educate them and connect them with health workers and the police. This creates a movement among sex workers to stand up for their rights.

“Before this project, we had no voice, and we were taken as mere sex workers. Now the ladies can come and speak for themselves. WONETHA has taught us about our rights and how to protect ourselves better. As a peer educator, I go around and try to understand how my peers are doing and help them with getting medication and assist them with contacting the police when their rights are violated.”



*Photo 1: Mirembe is one of the peer educators trained by WONETHA.
(Photo: Laura Silver, UN Women Uganda)*

Getting help from the police is sometimes challenging for the sex workers. Sex workers face a lot of violence and talking to the police is not easy. Sex work is illegal in Uganda and many people have many the preconceptions about sex workers. WONETHA brings the women together to form groups that are led by the peer educators. The groups protect one another and assist each other when one of them needs help.

Some of them have also started savings groups to generate other income as a strategy to leave the trade, *“We help each other out. We have been taught not to lock our rooms when one of us has a customer. If a client tries to be violent you can call for help and the others come and help. Before this wasn’t the case. We help each other out, we are stronger together.”*

Papua New Guinea

KUSWA is tucked on the second floor of a building, no signs or markings to ensure women can enter safely. Established in 2001, they are a survivor-centered organization which provides case management services to survivors of SGBV. They are part of an extensive network of other organizations that work in this area and are often provided referrals from INGOs or NGOs as well as local police, and work with other WPHF grantees such as VfC, KUP and HRDANG. On average they see 5-8 clients a week and provide them with referrals to legal support or health care, access to safe shelter, meals, and develop action plans with them so they can become self-sufficient. The organization is small and the majority of women of KUSWA are volunteers and themselves survivors. In 2021, KUSWA received institutional funding from WPHF which specifically went to expanding their space with the rental of a new room. This was a significant and important thing as previously there was no private space for women to meet with staff. The room is large enough to also have meetings. Rent in Goroka is extremely expensive (1,200 PNK (about 550USD a month) and the grant will cover 12 months. In addition as a result of funding they have also developed new HR policies and are able to provide small stipends to the volunteers.



Photo 2: KUSWA head office demonstrating new data collection forms and processes (Photo: Erica Stillo, WPHF)

Papua New Guinea

Mr. Bana from Muglwaku Kar tribe lives in Simbu Province which borders Simbu and Jiwaka. Simbu is associated with high rates of intimate partner violence where, 68.4% women aged 15 to 49 years old reported to have ever experienced physical, sexual or emotional abuse from their partners (PNG DHS 2016). Mr. Bana was a perpetrator of violence, exacerbated by his use of alcohol and drugs, and domestic violence was common in his household as he came home after drinking. One of the community leaders said that the wife feared reporting her abusive husband to the police because she feared losing him and feared community wrath.

However, the Spotlight initiative helped to change Mr. Bana's behaviour and attitude towards his wife. He began taking part in all community initiatives and awareness sessions

carried out by Kup Women for Peace, on ending violence against women and girls. Mr. Mick said about himself, "I used to be a violent man, beat my wife and children daily".

Ms. Bana's sister was also used to seeing her sister being abused, and equally afraid to report it. She didn't have the knowledge of what she could do and feared reprisals from the community. After participating in a series of GBV prevention workshops and awareness raising sessions, she decided to protect her sister from Bana. She reported the case to the police and Mr. Bana was arrested two days. She says, "my younger sister's husband was a perpetrator; I took my sister to Family Support Unit, and they arrested her husband. Since then, he became a better person."

Kup Women for Peace provided joint counselling services and awareness raising sessions to Mr. Bana and his wife at their home. The information improved his understanding on gender-based violence, gender equality and human rights. He is now respecting his wife, budgeting, and working with her on all family issues. Moreover Mr. Bana became a male advocate and family mediator in his community, mobilizing other men to end violence against women and girls.

Testimonials

"This project has helped me forget the pain I went through when relatives of my husband took away all the property from me after his death. I can do business because I was trained under his project. I accessed start-up capital through the revolving funds Purple Innovation gave us with the funds from WPHF. Today I can provide for my household raising my four kids. I am now able to manage business and I run several of these because I have the knowledge. As a GBV survivor, the support I received through this project came at the right time."

Ethel Mphande, Nkhatabay district, along the northern shores of Lake Malawi, Project beneficiary from Wukani Project by Purple Innovation, Malawi

"Our donors are shocked that this WPHF funding is providing to us the much-needed funds for our organization to operate, buy our equipment and stationery, pay for our rental including our power and water bills. WPHF allowed a very small amount that we could not survive without as an organization. How can we go out and work with our women and girls when we ourselves and our office does not have enough funds. We have now convinced one of our donors to continue supporting the rental for this expanded office. We now have the data, the evidence, to prove that the office expansion has been beneficial to not only the staff but the survivors who continue to seek our support. We are extremely grateful to WPHF for allowing funding for our organisations operations as through this, we are able to support the very many who are still out there and suffering."

Staff member, KUSWA, Institutional Funding WPHF partner, PNG

"Since we started Sirri Care organization, we have not fully participated in any form of capacity building program that is as impactful as this one implemented with funding from the WPHF/EU supported project. As a team leader, when I started attending some of the activities on this project, certain humanitarian principles became clearer to me than ever before and now I have greater knowledge of GBV and GEWE which I am already applying in my work. Four of my

program staff now have demonstrated enhanced competencies in program design and have already utilized knowledge gained from the training on program management to design a grant winning project proposal”

Susan Binwie Tanwie, Executive Director of Sirri Care Foundation, a national non-governmental organisation working in northeast Nigeria. Sirri Care Foundation is a beneficiary of the WPHF project implemented by DCR Ambassadors)

Photos (2020-2023)



*Photo Credit: UN Women Malawi
Young women advocates from Kasungu districts captured during their community mobilization engagement.*



Photo credit: © 2022 Fondation Femme Plus

Photo caption: Berthe, Laurette, Mado and Carine get ready to serve food at their restaurant, which they opened after attending a training organized by Fondation Femme Plus in Kananga, Democratic Republic of Congo, with support from the United Nations Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) and the Spotlight Initiative.



Photo credit: © 2022 WPHF/Erica Stillo

Photo caption: CSO KUP Women for Peace in attendance at the in-person workshop facilitated by WPHF and support of the Spotlight Initiative, on gender-sensitive and feminist monitoring, evaluation and reporting in PNG in September 2022. All 14 CSOs attended the three day participatory workshop.



Photo credit: © 2022 Nègès Mawon
Photo caption: A group of women, all of them former inmates, show their dancing abilities during a workshop organized by Nègès Mawon, a local organization based in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, as part of a reintegration project supported by the United Nations Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) and the Spotlight Initiative. This project uses dance and theater to enhance the protection and reintegration of formerly incarcerated women into their communities, raising awareness on women's rights and gender-based violence.



Photo credit: © 2022 Solidarity of Refugee Women for the Social Welfare
Photo caption: A young student takes part in a workshop on school-related sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) organized by Solidarity of Refugee Women for the Social Welfare (SOFERES) in Dzaleka Camp, Malawi's first refugee camp. With support of the United Nations Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) and the Spotlight Initiative, this project aims to increase the number of adolescent girls completing their education while changing the attitudes and behaviors of community members in relation to girls' right to education, gender, and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).

Looking Forward: Sustained Contributions

On the global level, sustainability of financing is a key priority. Particular attention is paid that WPHF interventions in every country continue to bridge funding gaps for local women's rights organizations. WPHF strives to sustain investment in countries that have benefitted from WPHF- Spotlight partnership funding. A total of 10 CSOs supported through the WPHF-Spotlight partnership received further funding through other WPHF calls for proposal and windows leveraging existing results achieved. In Liberia and Uganda four CSOs received further funding from UN Women Country Office through its WPS programme.

Similarly, Spotlight Initiative funding has allowed WPHF to open allocations in new countries. These allocations were sustained through other sources of funding in Malawi, Haiti and Afghanistan. In Afghanistan one WPHF-SI Grantee received funding under the forced displacement funding window, one partner in Malawi under the Call for Proposals on Conflict Prevention and in Haiti three WPHF-SI Grantees received funding through an additional WPHF allocation to Haiti.

Further on the global level, through the Global L-Hub, which fosters exchange opportunities for WPHF CSO partners, the sharing of best practices on women's movement building in 2023 generated significant interest in WPHF-Spotlight Initiative funded projects with the entire WPHF community ensuring that the best practices are being replicated and applied in other countries. Many best practices and lessons learned are also documented in knowledge briefs ensuring that the knowledge generated is available for further learning and guiding if WPHF CSO partners.

The global WPHF Secretariat has also provided substantial programmatic and operations support to the UN Women COs to successfully close the projects by 31. December 2023 through regular update calls and email. Together with the UN Women COs. WPHF global secretariat additionally supported COs to develop comprehensive exit and sustainability strategies.

At the country level, UN Women offices through the National Steering Committees have guaranteed that selected projects align with already ongoing activities ensuring that projects are not being implemented in a vacuum but continue to the sustainability of wider programmes and plans. For example, in Uganda it was ensured that the WPHF-Spotlight Initiative supported projects contribute to the implementation and sustainability of the National Action Plan on the Implementation of UNSCR 1325.

At the project level, sustainability was a core element and evaluation criteria to be selected for WPHF-Spotlight Initiative funding. Projects were vetted towards their sustainability plan of its project and supported by the UN Women Country Offices, who act as Management Entities for the WPHF in country to integrate sustainability throughout the entire project implementation period. From the beginning CSO partners were requested to build strong relationships with local authorities and other CSO networks. Together with the UN Women Country Offices, CSO partners were guided to aim at institutionalizing structures, groups and networks established throughout the project activities to ensure continuation of these structures even after the project ends. In Uganda for example, peer support groups of Female Sex Workers that have been established by a WPHF-Spotlight Initiative CSO partners have registered at the sub-county and district level and officially recognized and can access government resources aimed at empowering vulnerable groups especially women. In Nigeria, the Boys Clubs that were established in 3 all male secondary schools have been taken up as extracurricular activities in the school programmes. Further attention was paid that tools such as the mobile SAV app that was developed in Liberia to capture and report real-time data on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) cases are shared with other organizations ensuring their widespread usage beyond the project period.

ANNEXES

Annex B: Risk Matrix

Annex C: CSO Engagement Report (separate)

Annex D: Innovative, Promising or Good Practices Reporting Template

Annex B: Matrix

Risk Assessment			Risk Monitoring		Did the Risk Occur?	Addressing the Risk:	Responsible Person/Unit
Risk Please include all risks planned for (or faced) over your programme's entire duration	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	YES or NO If YES, please include a brief explanation of what happened	Please include the mitigating and/or adaptation measures planned for/taken	
Contextual risks							
Resistance from family, community, traditional and religious leaders	4	4	Quarterly	Calls between the WPHF Secretariat and COs	Yes, overall partners encountered resistance through while aiming at the empowerment of women such as from male and family members, religious or traditional leaders, etc.	Strong engagement of men especially from family, community elders, traditional and religious leaders at the programme level. Sensitization and empowerment of women, traditional and political leaders to understand, mobilize against, and stop HP, such as FGM and Child Marriage. Ensuring local ownership and buy-in from local authorities is evaluated during the technical review of proposals and monitored throughout the project. In the case of Afghanistan, risks and mitigation measures for each projects are developed to ensure safe implementation for both the CSOs and beneficiaries.	WPHF Secretariat UN Women Country Offices
Lack of political will at senior decision-making levels within the UN and governments	3	4	Weekly/Monthly	Emails and Calls between the WPHF Secretariat and COs	No	WPHF uses and leverages existing structures and mechanisms to ensure the buy-in of all relevant stakeholders, including through Spotlight Initiative NSCs and PBF JSCs. In the cases where Spotlight Initiative NSCs are not established yet, close coordination is undertaken at the national level to establish a joint WPHF-Spotlight NSC. In the case of Afghanistan, the government is no longer part of the NSC following the Taliban takeover.	WPHF Secretariat UN Women Country Offices
COVID19 pandemic	4	4	Quarterly	Emails/Calls between the WPHF	Yes, COVID19 restrictions	COVID19 delays have increased the risks for the timeline of implementation. WPHF Secretariat in consultation with SI Secretariat	WPHF Secretariat

restrictions and health risks				Secretariat and COs	such as prohibition of meetings of several people in an indoor setting or curfews occurred.	has developed adaptation guidelines for CSOs and UN Women Country Offices to ensure safe delivery of activities and do no harm approach. The UN Women Country Offices are in close contact with partners ensuring safety of partners and beneficiary through applying the respective SOPs.	UN Women Country Offices
Lack of security, high levels of instability and complex political dynamics in focus country	5	4	Quarterly	Emails/Calls between the WPHF Secretariat and COs	Yes, several countries faced high levels of instability such as political unrest foremost Haiti and Afghanistan. Also the conflict with armed groups in the eastern DRC intensified.	The WPHF Secretariat liaises closely with UN Women Country Offices and Regional Directors to be apprised routinely of the evolving contexts in focus country. Timelines are adapted as needed to ensure Do No Harm approach at all levels and to ensure security of partners and staff is ensured. In the case of Afghanistan, risks and mitigation measures for each projects are developed to ensure safe implementation for both the CSOs and beneficiaries.	WPHF Secretariat UN Women Country Offices
Programmatic risks							
Insufficient funding available to reach WPHF’s goal	2	4	Quarterly	Emails/Calls between the WPHF Secretariat and COs	NO	WPHF Secretariat is leveraging the current Spotlight Initiative funding to mobilize additional resources for each country.	WPHF Secretariat
Civil society organizations do not deliver on the planned interventions	3	4	Quarterly	Emails/Calls between the WPHF Secretariat and COs	NO, except with some challenges in PNG due to low capacity of organizations the focus was put on capacity building which reduced the ability to	Quality control of prodocs, close monitoring in country and a quarterly cash advance system to assess progress will allow to mitigate the risks. The National Steering Committee will also be able to suspend or put an end to a project should it fail to deliver. Flexible guidance was developed by the WPHF Secretariat to monitor and approve changes in alignment with overall outcome area. Additional capacity building and support will be identified by WPHF in consultation with Country offices to support smaller organizations with limited capacity. In the case of Afghanistan and PNG, where there	WPHF Secretariat UN Women Country Offices

					deliver the original planned interventions.	are more significant delays and challenges, a no cost extension was approved by the Spotlight Initiative. In PNG, specific actions for identified CSOs were developed, as needed.	
Institutional risks							
Weakened civil society	4	4	Quarterly	Emails/Calls between the WPHF Secretariat and COs; WPHF Survey on risks for civil society	Yes, this is the case in Afghanistan due to the restrictive laws of the DFA.	Institutional Funding stream in 3 countries (Afghanistan, Haiti and PNG) is helping strengthen civil society institutions. The development of COVID19 adaptation guidance aimed to ensure flexibility and adequate support to civil society to ensure safe delivery and Do No Harm approach. WPHF-SI grantees have access to additional resources and trainings to build their organizational capacity through the WPHF-C Community of practice. In addition, the UN Women COs provide trainings and regular support to each organization to ensure quality delivery and reporting. The selection of projects at the national level encourages support to a diverse group of CSOs representing groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of violence and discrimination.	WPHF Secretariat UN Women Country Offices
Lack of results-based management and reporting knowledge limiting the monitoring and evaluation of results and impacts	3	3	Quarterly by the WPHF at least bi-weekly by the CO	Emails/Calls between the WPHF Secretariat and COs and partners Quarterly implementation reports and regular	YES, results based reporting has been a challenge to identify the great results achieved by the partners, reports from CSOs had to	UN Women Country Offices provide technical guidance and capacity building measures to partners on country level to strengthen partners in RBM and Reporting online and as much as possible in person. The WPHF Secretariat liaises closely with UN Women Country Offices to provide additional support to the capacity COs. The WPHF Secretariat provides additional guidance and training through tip sheets and capacity building sessions on M&E	WPHF Secretariat UN Women Country Offices

				monitoring visits and calls	undergo several revisions and corrections with the guidance of the UN Women Country Offices		
Lack of absorption capacity of women's rights organizations in the target country	3	3	Quarterly	Emails/Calls between the WPHF Secretariat and Cos Quarterly implementation reports and regular monitoring visits and calls on the country level	Yes, the lack of capacity in particular in PNG lead to challenges in absorbing all the funds and a considerable amount of time had to be invested to strengthen their capacity.	Technical and capacity building support to women's organizations ensure financial absorption while providing quality interventions. Experience has shown in the past significant needs for civil society.	UN Women Country Offices WPHF Secretariat
Fiduciary risks							
Corruption and misuse of funds by civil society organizations, or accusations of terrorism linkages.	2	5	Quarterly	Emails/Calls between the WPHF Secretariat and COs Quarterly implementation reports and regular monitoring visits and calls on the country level	Yes, overall 10 cases were discovered.	Capacity assessments undertaken by the UN Women CO and UN Women financial reporting procedures are in place and capacity building on anti-corruption is included in the WPHF-C global capacity building plan. If an organization is accused of corruption or misuse of funds, the WPHF and CO acted according to the zero-tolerance policy on fraud and corruption of UN Women; and joint decisions with the NSC was made on how to proceed and end the contract. The WPHF Secretariat has keep the SI Secretariat informed.	UN Women Country Offices WPHF Secretariat

Programme		UN WFPF		CSRG Budget (2023)															Vulnerable/Marginalized Populations Supported by Award									
Region	Spotlight Programme	Outcome	Output	Name or Recipient ID (Organizational ID/UNEP/ID/Granting org. ref.)	Country	Name of Civil Society Organization (CSO)	Type of CSO	Modality of Engagement	Total award amount (USD)	Out of the total amount awarded, how much has been disbursed to the CSO (Contracted by 31 December 2023)	Is the award part of the award being sub-granted/contracted to other orgs?	If yes, what percentage of this award is planned for sub-granting or sub-contracting?	What is the estimated number of sub-grantees or sub-contractors?	Percentage of the Award going to women's rights organizations (WROs) if relevant	Is the CSO a new or existing partner?	Addressed girls	Elderly women	Indigenous women and girls	Persons with disabilities	Sex workers	Women and girls living with HIV/AIDS	Women and girls with disabilities	Other	Percentage of group relevant in sub-region				
UNTF	WHPF	6	Output 1.1	WHPF	Nigeria	Muslim Sisters Organisation (MSO)	Local and grassroots organizations	Grantee	\$132,172	\$141,820	No	0%	0	0%	Yes										X			
UNTF	WHPF	6	Output 1.1	WHPF	Nigeria	Women to New Nigeria and Youth Empowerment Initiative (WNN)	Local and grassroots organizations	Grantee	\$13,526	\$13,525	No	0%	0	0%	Yes										X			
UNTF	WHPF	6	Output 1.1	WHPF	Nigeria	Grassroots Researchers Association (GRA)	Local and grassroots organizations	Grantee	\$58,658	\$11,142	Yes	4%	1	0%	Yes										X			
UNTF	WHPF	6	Output 1.1	WHPF	Nigeria	Green Concern for Development (GREENCOCODE)	Local and grassroots organizations	Grantee	\$161,970	\$13,900	Yes	27%	3	0%	No										X			
UNTF	WHPF	6	Output 1.1	WHPF	Nigeria	Initiative for the Development of the Needy, Less Privileged and Widows (INDC)	Local and grassroots organizations	Grantee	\$143,827	\$18,231	No	0%	0	0%	Yes										X			
UNTF	WHPF	6	Output 1.1	WHPF	Nigeria	Center for Community Development and Research (CCDRN)	Local and grassroots organizations	Grantee	\$186,128	\$18,128	No	0%	0	0%	Yes										X			
UNTF	WHPF	6	Output 1.1	WHPF	PNG	Coalition for Change PNG	Local and grassroots organizations	Grantee	\$30,000	\$29,947	No	0%	0	100%	Yes										X			
UNTF	WHPF	6	Output 1.1	WHPF	PNG	Kup Women for Peace (KWFP) - Stream 1	Local and grassroots organizations	Grantee	\$29,971	\$29,971	No	0%	0	28%	Yes										X			
UNTF	WHPF	6	Output 1.1	WHPF	PNG	Kup Women for Peace (KWFP) - Stream 2	Local and grassroots organizations	Grantee	\$14,819	\$0	No	0%	0	100%	Yes										X			
UNTF	WHPF	6	Output 1.1	WHPF	PNG	Touching the Untouchables (TTU)	Local and grassroots organizations	Grantee	\$200,000	\$184,818	No	0%	0	0%	Yes										X			
UNTF	WHPF	6	Output 1.1	WHPF	PNG	Voice for Change (VIC) - Stream 1 and 2	Local and grassroots organizations	Grantee	\$230,000	\$160,783	Yes	27%	1	100%	Yes										X			
UNTF	WHPF	6	Output 1.1	WHPF	PNG	Eeds Employment	Local and grassroots organizations	Grantee	\$97,239	\$47,577	No	0%	0	0%	Yes										X			
UNTF	WHPF	6	Output 1.1	WHPF	PNG	Kafa Urban Settlers Women's Association (KUSWA)	Local and grassroots organizations	Grantee	\$29,844	\$29,844	No	0%	0	100%	Yes										X			
UNTF	WHPF	6	Output 1.1	WHPF	PNG	Imbonga Rural Women Empowerment Program Inc. (IMBONGU) - Stream 1	Local and grassroots organizations	Grantee	\$29,960	\$1,607	No	0%	0	100%	Yes										X			
UNTF	WHPF	6	Output 1.1	WHPF	PNG	Imbonga Rural Women Empowerment Program Inc. (IMBONGU) - Stream 2	Local and grassroots organizations	Grantee	\$29,960	\$0	No	0%	0	14%	Yes										X			
UNTF	WHPF	6	Output 1.1	WHPF	PNG	Care International PNG	National	Grantee	\$200,000	\$168,429	Yes	0%	0	0%	Yes										X			
UNTF	WHPF	6	Output 1.1	WHPF	PNG	Equal Playing Field (EPF)	Local and grassroots organizations	Grantee	\$30,000	\$15,000	No	0%	0	100%	Yes										X			
UNTF	WHPF	6	Output 1.1	WHPF	PNG	Kirapim Sautei Halkers Association	Local and grassroots organizations	Grantee	\$148,373	\$0	No	0%	0	0%	Yes										X			
UNTF	WHPF	6	Output 1.1	WHPF	PNG	Stream Rio Foundation Inc. (SRFI)	Local and grassroots organizations	Grantee	\$18,000	\$0	No	0%	0	0%	Yes										X			
UNTF	WHPF	6	Output 1.1	WHPF	PNG	Highlands Women Human Rights Defenders Movement (HYWHRDM)	Local and grassroots organizations	Grantee	\$30,000	\$15,000	No	0%	0	100%	Yes										X			
UNTF	WHPF	6	Output 1.1	WHPF	PNG	Human Rights Defenders Association of Papua New Guinea (HRDAPNG) - Stream 1	Local and grassroots organizations	Grantee	\$30,000	\$30,000	No	0%	0	100%	Yes										X			
UNTF	WHPF	6	Output 1.1	WHPF	PNG	Human Rights Defenders Association of Papua New Guinea (HRDAPNG) - Stream 2	Local and grassroots organizations	Grantee	\$117,375	\$0	No	0%	0	17%	Yes										X			
UNTF	WHPF	6	Output 1.1	WHPF	PNG	Community Development Agency of PNG	Local and grassroots organizations	Grantee	\$155,000	\$145,102	No	0%	0	0%	Yes										X			
UNTF	WHPF	6	Output 1.1	WHPF	Uganda	Coalition for Action on 1325 (CAACT)	National	Grantee	\$160,000	\$160,000	Yes	18%	1	0%	Yes										X			
UNTF	WHPF	6	Output 1.1	WHPF	Uganda	Extend a Life Initiative Uganda (ELI)	Local and grassroots organizations	Grantee	\$40,000	\$11,700	No	0%	0	0%	Yes										X			
UNTF	WHPF	6	Output 1.1	WHPF	Uganda	Yiso Women Peace Activists (YEWPA)	Local and grassroots organizations	Grantee	\$83,182	\$81,192	No	0%	0	0%	Yes										X			
UNTF	WHPF	6	Output 1.1	WHPF	Uganda	Umbrella of Hope Initiative (UHOPI)	Local and grassroots organizations	Grantee	\$167,382	\$167,312	No	0%	0	0%	Yes										X			
UNTF	WHPF	6	Output 1.1	WHPF	Uganda	Uganda Women's Network (UWONET)	Local and grassroots organizations	Grantee	\$91,221	\$91,221	No	0%	0	0%	Yes										X			
UNTF	WHPF	6	Output 1.1	WHPF	Uganda	Women's Organization Network for Human Rights Advocacy (WONETHA)	Local and grassroots organizations	Grantee	\$150,726	\$150,726	No	0%	0	0%	Yes										X			
UNTF	WHPF	6	Output 1.1	WHPF	Uganda	Women's International Peace Center (WIPC)	Local and grassroots organizations	Grantee	\$150,000	\$150,000	Yes	0%	0	0%	Yes										X			
UNTF	WHPF	6	Output 1.1	WHPF	Uganda	Slum Aid Project (SAP)	Local and grassroots organizations	Grantee	\$81,137	\$81,130	Yes	0%	2	0%	Yes										X			
UNTF	WHPF	6	Output 1.1	WHPF	Uganda	Uganda Change Agent Association (UCAA)	Local and grassroots organizations	Grantee	\$58,292	\$58,284	Yes	7%	1	0%	Yes										X			
TOTAL									\$12562,077	\$11,170,511																		

* The data provided above is an informal financial update that has been prepared using unrecorded data.

Annex D: Innovative, Promising, Good Practices and Knowledge Products

Section A: Innovative, Promising and Good Practices

Title of the Innovative, Promising or Good Practice	Boys Clubs (2022)	Mental Health (2023)
<p>Provide a description of the innovative, promising, or good practice. What pillars/principles of the Spotlight Initiative does it address? (<i>When did the activity begin? When will it be completed or is it ongoing?</i>)</p>	<p>A good practice was recorded in Nigeria, where Sexual and Gender-based Violence against women and girls' clubs in male secondary school have proved to be a viable approach to addressing GBV among youth groups, using the youth as male vanguards advocating against gender-based violence against women and girls. The boy clubs are established in all male secondary schools with the theme "stop violence against women and girls" and have around 40 members. A coordinator and supervisor, who are teachers in the school, support the boys in planning activities. The clubs identify and initiate opportunities for developing diverse inclusive and equitable activities that promote gender sensitivity, equality, and protection against GBV, by facilitating productive conversation within their peers and are leading conversations aiming at attitudinal change and positive masculinities. They also created a club social media group to exchange ideas and pass information on issues related to GBV and brainstorm on more ideas to reach their peers. Their voices drive strategic change within the school environment and communities by impacting their peer groups, critical knowledge, and skills to address bias and negative social norms to foster an inclusive culture. After the success of the first club two further clubs were established successfully. All three clubs are now implementing activities.</p>	<p>Taking into account the socio-political problems of Haiti and their consequences on the mental health of the population, the partner YWCA has rethought the programming of activities by inserting small relaxation sessions to allow beneficiaries to improve their stress management and find a moment of relaxation in a safe space.</p>
<p>Objective of the practice: What were the goals of the activity?</p>	<p>Ending SGBV through engaging young men and boys at school</p>	<p>Often the mental stress of populations in countries in crisis and conflict is overlooked. However mental stress can influence their lives negatively and so their ability to fully participate in trainings and workshops and ability to stay focused.</p>
<p>Stakeholders involved: Who are the beneficiaries or target group of the practice? Describe how all relevant stakeholders were engaged.</p>	<p>The target group are young men and boys at secondary schools. However, the boys also exchange ideas and experiences with local women groups and advocates in communities. The boys' clubs are working closely with other local structures within the communities to garner support for women and girls in their communities. The networks include women's groups and other advocacy committees to ensure a synergy in their approaches towards ending violence against women and girls. Traditional and community leaders are also aware of the existence of the club and members of the club are well accepted and regarded as good ambassadors of youth in the community.</p>	<p>The beneficiaries of the practice were the initial direct target group of the respective training or workshop in which the relaxation session were included.</p>
<p>What makes this an innovative, promising, or good practice? Identify distinguishing</p>	<p>This good practice has been implemented in Nigeria. After the success of the first club two further clubs were established successfully. All three clubs are now implementing activities.</p>	<p>The idea of including relaxation sessions in programmatic activities such as workshops or trainings has not been reported previously by a WPHF-Spotlight</p>

feature(s) that make this an innovative, promising or a good practice in the efforts to EVAWG and/or in the context of the UNDS reform.	The club helped in building collaborative capacity of youth groups to develop strong resistance against cultural norms and practices that condone gender-based violence using social media platforms.	Partner. The feedback from the beneficiaries was positive as it allowed them to relax and feel save to be able to then focus again on the workshop or training that they took part in.
What challenges were encountered and how were they overcome?	No specific challenges were encountered because INOL is very well connected in the communities and the planning and setting up of the clubs was in coordination with all relevant stakeholders, including traditional leaders.	There were no grave challenges, however it is important to explain the aim of the relaxation time to the participants and create a safe space where participants feel save enough to relax.
Outputs and Impact: What have been the results thus far? Do they contribute to long-term impact?	The clubs unravel deep rooted cultural beliefs and practices that continue to undermine gender equality efforts as well as emerging gender concerns. Key club members of the clubs received training and capacity building by the WPHG-SI CSO partner INOL on SGBV Prevention, Response and Referral Pathways. The training participants returned to their schools to cascade the knowledge to other club members by retraining them. Through this modality the knowledge reached all boys within the clubs, who are now using their knowledge to become allies in ending violence against women and girls and actively support the promotion of the rights of women and girls in their community. The boys not only shared the knowledge in the schools but also extended their activities to the community - among their friends and relatives, who now have enhanced knowledge of SGBV particularly rape.	Participants had higher concentration during the workshop or training leading to a stronger uptake of the content shared and allowed to release stress contributing to mental health.
Adaptable (Optional) <i>In what ways can this practice be adapted for future use?</i>	N/A	This simple but effective practice can be adapted to all context and settings as well as age groups of participants.
Replicable/Scale-Up (Optional) <i>What are the possibilities of extending this practice more widely?</i>	This simple but effective good practice can easily be implemented in all schools as it is low cost and gives youth especially young boys the opportunity to belong to a club, initiate activities with friends etc.	Since it is a practice that is neither time intensive nor costly it can easily be taken up by other organizations.
Sustainable <i>What is needed to make the practice sustainable?</i>	The clubs have to become institutionalized in schools as extra activities that the boys can sign up to and a supportive environment has to be set in place by the schools ensuring that the clubs keep existing and implementing activities. When the members of the clubs transit from Secondary School to Tertiary Institution or University, a 'recruitment' mechanism is put in place to ensure continuity/Sustainability through enrolment of new club members who will also continue with club activities in the school.	Mental health of affected population has to be seen as a crucial element to ensure sustainability of any activity and project. Hence there has to be a clear commitment from the donors and the implementing organizations to allow and to include mental health activities such as this practice in project activities. The relaxation sessions have to be integrated in the planning of an activity from the beginning to ensure their proper timing and that an environment that allows participants to relax can be created.
Validated (for a good practice only): Has the practice been validated? Is there confirmation from beneficiaries/users that the practice properly addressed their	The practice has been validated as three different boys clubs are now up and running. The schools are: i. Government Day Senior Secondary School Potiskum ii. Government Day Secondary School Gashu'a	The feedback received from the organization concerning the integration of the relaxation sessions has been positive and has been appreciated by the beneficiaries.

needs and is there expert validation?	iii. Government Secondary School, Damaturu	
Additional details and contact information: Are there any other details that are important to know about the innovative, promising, or good practice? <i>Please provide contact details of a focal person for this practice as well as any additional materials including photos/videos.</i>		Katrin.fischer@unwomen.org

Section B: Knowledge Production

Title of Knowledge Product	Product type(s)*	Brief Description & Purpose	Date completed	Link to Knowledge Product
Audio visual field study for the for the Promotion of Justice for Women and Girls' Rights (P4SD, Liberia)	Research	The audio-visual research collected data violence and marginalization women and girls in urban and rural communities. The study identified key social, cultural, religious and political barriers to women accessing justice under the dual legal systems in Liberia and identified alternative means of justice at the disposal of women and girls, and thus use the. The research was implemented through a mixed method using audio mobile evidence-based-research approaches and documented the experiences of women and girls against negative social and cultural norms while at the same time identifying solutions to fight SGBV and all forms of human rights violations.	2021	N/A
SavApp (FCI, Liberia)	Tools	The SavApp is a Mobile App that allows girls to report cases relating to Rape, Physical Violence and Domestic Violence. The expected results of the SAV-APP is to improve the quality of data collection through an APP that will make it easier and faster for women, girls, and families to be able to report SGBV cases and maintaining appropriate SGBV data collection in Liberia for reporting purposes only. In the future, through advocacy, this APP can be upgraded and become a tool to support legal cases and actions against perpetrators.	2020	https://sav-app.com/about-us.php
Position Papers (CoACT 1325, Uganda)	Position Papers/Thematic Strategy Briefs	3 position papers have been produced by CoACT together with 21 local CBOs. They include recommendations on EVAW in Kumi, Kyegegwa and Kamwenge. The recommendations of the Kumi position paper have been integrated into the Local Action Plan on 1325.	2021	N/A
Research (UHOPI, Uganda)	Research Papers	The market research enabled the organization to establish a baseline for its income generation activities to ensure they are linked to the market needs in Gulu, Uganda.	2020	https://asrjetsjournal.org/index.php/American_Scientific_Journal/issue/archive

Dashboard (Purple Innovation, Malawi)	Tool	The Dashboard aims to capture data from the 3 Traditional authorities where they are implementing the project with potential scalability to cover the entire districts of Mzimba and Nkhatabay adopted by the district authorities. Currently the database is able to capture and filter data to show number of cases, categories/forms of cases reported and also resolved, per district and also per Traditional Authority (TA), among other categories. Availability of data has been a persistent challenge in the districts and this innovation is aimed at addressing data gaps so that various stakeholders undertake evidence-based interventions in addressing SGBV/VAWG and HP.	2021	https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=243134307719881
WPHF Monitoring and Evaluation Guide for Grantees	Tool & Capacity Building	Guide which provides technical guidance to CSOs on various M&E topics and approaches and includes definitions and computations for impact level indicators, covers topics of feminist M&E and do no harm approaches, qualitative methodologies, sampling, etc. It also includes a compendium of sample data collection tools which grantees can use/adapt for their projects.	August 2021	https://wphfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/ME-Manual-for-WPHF-Grantees_ENG_16082021.pdf
Measuring Coalition Building for Women's Movements: M&E Tip Sheet	Tool & Capacity Building	A tip sheet/guide produced by WPHF for CSO partners in approaches for measuring quality, process and impact of women's coalitions and movements, providing example indicators, etc. Produced in English, Arabic and French	February 2022	https://wphfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Tip-Sheet-Measuring-Coalition-and-Movement-Building_FINAL-28-Feb2022.pdf
Scoping Study	Research	Baseline/scoping study and mapping of women's rights organizations and social accountability mechanisms and tools on ending SGBV/VAWG in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe State	2022	N/A
Dashboard (GRA, Nigeria)	Tool	The Dashboard aims to capture data from the 3 Traditional authorities where they are implementing the project with potential scalability to cover the entire districts of Mzimba and Nkhatabay adopted by the district authorities. Currently the database is able to capture and filter data to show number of cases, categories/forms of cases reported and also resolved, per district and also per Traditional Authority (TA), among other categories. Availability of data has been a persistent challenge in the districts and this innovation is aimed at addressing data gaps so that various stakeholders undertake evidence-based interventions in addressing SGBV/VAWG and HP.	2022 completed	https://dashboard.purpleinnovation.org/dashboard/
Success Story	Visibility Material	The story about a beneficiary showcased the power in groups and the necessity to build movements and join forces.	2022	https://africa.unwomen.org/en/stories/feature-story/2022/12/there-is-power-in-groups-story-of-mirembe

Advocating for Women's Rights (WPHF and Spotlight)	Brief	This brief is the outcome of a peer exchange session organized by the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) and Spotlight Initiative that brought together more than 220 participants from over 120 civil society organizations (CSOs) across 33 countries. It builds upon the insights and reflections of local women peacebuilders, humanitarian and feminist activists as well as grassroots CSOs working to prevent conflict and end VAWG.	2022	https://www.spotlightinitiative.org/publications/peer-exchange-brief-key-steps-coalition-building-evawg
Training Manual (CSO 9, Afghanistan)	Training Manual	It includes various modules on GBV and PSS step by step. More specifically, the first module provides information on the women rights in Islam and the explanation of gender-based violence as well as its many types and causes. These understandings formed the foundation for the rest of the course. The second module explores framework and some key approaches needed to understand and design appropriate and effective gender-based violence prevention and response interventions. Modules 3 and 4 are designed to support participants enhance their understanding of the wide range of consequences of GBV –and sexual violence in particular - and its immediate and long-term impact on survivors, their families, and communities. Further the Modules offer participants a framework for response at the individual, community, and services level, which includes key considerations for health professionals.	2022	N/A
Informational, Communication, and Educational (ICE) materials. (CSO 10, Afghanistan)	Informational, Communication, and Educational (ICE) materials.	CSO 10 developed Informational, Communication, and Educational (ICE) materials. This was done with an aim to provide written messages and pictorial instructions for both literate and illiterate project audiences on women's rights in Islam, SGBV, and positive masculinity in the targeted communities Brochures were developed and used for distribution while visiting households in the door-to-door awareness campaigns, while posters were distributed in awareness campaigns during small- gathering sessions in the targeted location. A total of 15,000 posters and 15,000 brochures were developed by the team.	2022	N/A
Summary of the peer-to-peer exchange between WPHF CSO partners from Haiti and the DRC	Brief (Peer Exchange)	Brief highlighting the key messages from the peer exchange between WPHF CSO partners from Haiti and the DRC, on practicing coalition building with grassroots women's groups to EVAWG.	2023	WPHF CSO partners



Spotlight Initiative

Initiated by the European Union and the United Nations:

