



**Initiative  
Spotlight**

*Pour éliminer la violence  
à l'égard des femmes et des filles*

## Annual Narrative Programme Report

# Programme Title: Spotlight Country Programme In The Kyrgyz Republic

Programme start date: 01 January 2020

Reporting period: 01 January 2020 – 31 December 2020

Initiated by the European Union and the United Nations:



**Programme Title & Programme Number**

**Programme Title:** Spotlight Initiative  
Kyrgyzstan

**MPTF Office Project Reference Number:<sup>1</sup>**  
00119461

**Recipient Organization(s)**

UN Women, UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNODC

**Programme Cost (US\$)**

**Total Phase I approved budget as per the  
Spotlight CPD/RPD:** 5,396,071 USD

**Phase I Spotlight funding:<sup>2</sup>** 4,700,000 USD

**Agency Contribution:** 696,071 USD

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

Name of RUNO	Spotlight Phase I (USD)	UN Agency Contributions (USD)
UN Women	1,261,996	84,120
UNDP	1,181,114	120,248
UNFPA	901,529	174,504
UNICEF	1,078,910	228,282
UNODC	276,451	88,918
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>5,396,071</b>

**Priority regions/areas/localities for the programme**

12 target municipalities from 6 districts located in 3 provinces

**Key Partners**

*General Prosecutor's Office of the Kyrgyz Republic*  
*Ministry of the Internal Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic*  
*Ministry of Labour and Social Development of the Kyrgyz Republic, Ministry of Justice of the Kyrgyz Republic, National Statistics Committee, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Culture and Tourism.*  
*Local and national CSOs, international NGOs*

**Programme Start and End Dates**

**Start Date:**  
01.01.2020

**End Date:**  
31.12.2022

**Report Submitted By:**

Samara Papieva, Spotlight Initiative Programme Coordinator, RCO

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- 1 The Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) Office Project Reference Number is the same number as the one on the Notification message. It is also referred to as "Project ID" on the project's factsheet page the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#).
  - 2 The Spotlight Contribution refers to the amount transferred to the Recipient UN Organizations, which is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#).

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## Acronym List

<b>ACRC</b>	Aigine Cultural Research Center
<b>BoS</b>	“Bus of Solidarity”
<b>CPC</b>	Criminal Procedure Code of the Kyrgyz Republic
<b>CSIRG</b>	Civil Society Interim Reference Group
<b>CSNRG</b>	Civil Society National Reference Group
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organization
<b>DRCU</b>	Essential Services Package
<b>ESP</b>	Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia - Tajikistan
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>EVAW</b>	Ending Violence Against Women
<b>ERPP</b>	Unified Registry of Crimes and Misdemeanors
<b>GALS</b>	Gender Action Learning System
<b>GES</b>	Gender Equality Strategy of Kyrgyz Republic 2021-2030
<b>GPO</b>	General Prosecutor’s Office of the Kyrgyz Republic
<b>GTWG</b>	Government Technical Working Group
<b>GTG</b>	UN Gender Theme Group
<b>GBV</b>	Gender-Based Violence
<b>IMAGES</b>	International Men and Gender Equality Survey
<b>IMWG</b>	Inter-Ministerial Working Group of the MLSD
<b>IP</b>	Implementing Partner
<b>KM</b>	Knowledge Management
<b>LCPDVs</b>	Local committees on the prevention of domestic violence
<b>LoA</b>	Letter of Agreement
<b>ME</b>	Ministry of the Economy
<b>MIA</b>	Ministry of the Internal Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic
<b>MLSD</b>	Ministry of Labour and Social Development of the Kyrgyz Republic
<b>MoJ</b>	Ministry of Justice of the Kyrgyz Republic
<b>MoES</b>	Ministry of Education and Science
<b>MP</b>	Member of Parliament

<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>MSR</b>	Multisectoral approach mechanisms
<b>NSC</b>	National Statistics Committee
<b>HP</b>	Harmful Practices
<b>OSPA</b>	Oxford Scenario Planning Approach
<b>OVPM</b>	Office of the Vice Prime Minister
<b>PCU</b>	Programme Coordination Unit
<b>RUNO</b>	Recipient United Nations Organisation
<b>RTTI</b>	Republican Teacher Training Institute
<b>SI</b>	Spotlight Initiative Kyrgyzstan Country Programme
<b>SGBV</b>	Sexual and gender-based violence
<b>SGLA</b>	Law on State-Guaranteed Legal Aid
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Populations Fund
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>UNODC</b>	United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime
<b>UN RC</b>	United Nations Resident Coordinator
<b>UN Women</b>	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women
<b>USP</b>	Union of Social Pedagogues
<b>VPM</b>	Vice-Prime-Minister
<b>WGR</b>	Women's and Girls' Rights

## Executive Summary

This report presents key achievements of the Spotlight Initiative Kyrgyzstan Country Programme (SI Programme) in 2020, highlighting successes in programmatic efforts, stakeholder engagement and partnerships, communications, and the application of innovative methods to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls in the Kyrgyz Republic. The report additionally reflects on lessons learned, possible opportunities for the future, and the broader contextual shifts that have affected programming over the past year.

Over the reporting period, the Covid-19 pandemic wrought dramatic changes in the Kyrgyz Republic, exacerbating women's and girl's vulnerability to violence and precipitating political, economic, and social instability. Indeed, this instability came to a head with protests following the results of Parliamentary elections in October 2020, which resulted in the resignation of the President and reorganization of the Government, with serious implications for SI Programme implementation slowing down some activities. Within this rapidly evolving context, the SI Programme team switched to remote work requiring significant adaptation, and had to re-evaluate program activities to continue achieving gender-transformative results across different spheres of society, engaging with a wide range of stakeholders and partners, and coordinating across the five UN Agencies working as direct implementing RUNOs as well as the UN RC Office.

Despite these challenges, the implementation in all six SI Programme pillars is on track. The Spotlight Initiative team and its partners made a concerted effort to accelerate implementation, adjust its programming to emerging needs resulting from COVID-19, and to establish the preconditions necessary to achieve gender-transformative results. The Programme was instrumental in supporting the Government to develop a multi-sectoral response to sexual and gender-based violence, and to organize the national response to the dramatic rise in domestic violence during the Covid-19 lockdown. These response measures included enhancing the quality of online support and hotline services for GBV survivors, creating safe spaces for women and girls, and establishing rapid-response mobile groups to respond to reported GBV cases. The Spotlight Initiative additionally supported women's rights organizations to amend the Criminal Procedure Code (CPC), putting in place provisions for domestic violence offenders to be detained for up to 48 hours. The adopted amendments have become essential in the conditions of lockdown, when many women and girls remained in compelled isolation with the aggressors, as they improved protection of the survivors of domestic violence ensuring that victims have the necessary time to plan for their safety.

This has been essential given the rise in domestic violence just as more women and girls are confined to their homes due to quarantine measures. An overarching review of legislative and policy frameworks to address VAWG has been launched. The review will contribute to identifying legal inconsistencies, loopholes and discriminatory provisions related to gender equality, child marriage, and VAWG, thereby facilitating legislative changes and improving legal protections that ensure the safety of women and girls. To improve oversight of these VAWG-related legislative

changes, a permanent Council on Women’s Rights and the Prevention of Gender-Based Violence was established, thanks to extensive lobbying by the SI team and its partners.

To further improve the quality, accuracy, and availability of data on violence against women and girls (Pillar 5), the SI Programme team supported the General Prosecutor’s Office to upgrade existing data-collection systems and thereby enable them to meet minimum requirements for sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) indicators as developed by the UN Statistical Commission.

In one of the most innovative practices to be implemented during the SI Programme’s 2020 work, new tools such as adaptive leadership, positive deviance, and the Oxford Scenario Planning Approach (OSPA)<sup>3</sup> were integrating into the process of drafting the Gender Equality Strategy of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2021-2030. OSPA created space for key Government leaders and experts to engage in strategic conversations around the subject of gender equality and on the factors and scenarios that may affect the implementation of the GES going forward. More information on this practice may be found in Annex D.

Moreover, in 2020 the SI Programme Team dedicated significant time and efforts to building strong relationships with programme partners and stakeholders, especially with EUD in order to ensure responsive, accountable, and comprehensive programming.

Finally, in 2020 the SI Programme Team made significant strides in adapting to the new way of working in the spirit of UN Reform, under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator (RC).

## Overall and specific objectives

### Overall and Specific objectives of the programme:

The goal of **Spotlight Initiative** is for all women and girls, particularly those most vulnerable, to live a life free of violence and harmful practices, including child marriage.

It is built around **six pillars** developed after an extensive global theory of change exercise.

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<sup>3</sup> The Oxford Scenario Planning approach is based on plausibility. By recognizing the part of uncertainty that is unpredictable and by actively exploring the sources of the turbulence and uncertainty, the goal is to iteratively and interactively generate new knowledge and insights to help organizations re-perceive their circumstances. During periods of turbulence, unpredictable uncertainty, novelty, and ambiguity (what the Oxford scenario planning approach refers to as TUNA conditions), organizations frequently experience serious challenges that threaten existing values, communities, and even whole fields of endeavor. Such conditions can be unsettling and destabilizing on many different levels. But they also present opportunities for organizations to reframe their strategies and innovate.

Outcomes by six pillars:

**Outcome 1:** Legislative and policy frameworks in line with international human rights standards on VAWG and harmful practices are in place and translated into action.

**Outcome 2:** National and sub-national systems and institutions plan, fund and deliver evidence-based programmes that prevent and respond to SGBV and harmful practices, including in other sectors

**Outcome 3:** Gender equitable social norms, attitudes and behaviours change at community and individual levels to prevent SGBV/HP

**Outcome 4:** Women and girls who experience SGBV and harmful practices use available, accessible, acceptable, and quality essential services including for long term recovery from violence

**Outcome 5:** Quality, disaggregated and globally comparable data on different forms of violence against women and girls and harmful practices, collected, analysed and used in line with international standards to inform laws, policies and programmes

**Outcome 6:** Women's rights groups, autonomous social movements and relevant CSOs, including those representing youth and groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization, more effectively influence and advance progress on GEWE and ending SGBV

## Contextual Shifts and Implementation Status

Over the reporting period, the Kyrgyz Republic experienced widespread social unrest, a political uprising, and a stalling economy, all of which was exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic and related health measures. These events, and the uncertainty and turmoil they wrought, constituted major contextual shifts that have had resounding repercussions for the SI Programme. Domestic and gender-based violence surged, with a 62% rise in the number of domestic violence cases reported by the Ministry of Internal Affairs in the first quarter of 2020 over that of 2019, while overall some 8,337 cases of domestic violence were recorded from 1 January to 1 December 2020, a 12% increase from the same 11-month period in 2019. Meanwhile, key government counterparts were lost first to Covid-19, with one of the main gender experts at the Ministry of Labour and Social Development (MLSD) succumbing to the disease, and second to the political turmoil. Moreover, all high-level executive positions were vacated in the wake of the overthrow of government in October 2020, which required the SI Programme to restart the process of engaging government counterparts on the Spotlight Initiative's work. SI Programme leadership, technical team members, implementing partners, and their counterparts across the country have



all worked tirelessly to overcome these obstacles, which has contributed to a smooth launch of Programme activities despite the challenging context.

The year 2020 began with Members of Parliament debating on a so-called ‘foreign-agent’ law to severely restrict the activities of civil-society organizations that receive donations from foreign entities. Ultimately, it was voted down on its second hearing (by 65 of 111 MPs who participated), but only under significant pressure from civil society organizations and international development actors. The UN RC and EU Ambassador in the Kyrgyz Republic, for example, had conveyed their official stance on the draft law in-person to the responsible parliamentary committee, urging MPs to ensure non-discrimination and compliance with Kyrgyzstan’s human rights obligations.

Against the backdrop of public debates on the ‘foreign-agent’ law, groups of masked men attacked women’s and LGBTQ rights activists who were holding peaceful demonstrations in Bishkek, the capital city, in honour of International Women’s Day on March 8, 2020. Videos of the subsequent police response showed numerous peaceful activists being beaten and taken away, some of the masked men instructing the police on whom to arrest, and those who incited the violence walking free. Ultimately, six female activists were charged with administrative fines while no investigation was conducted into the police response or the identities of the masked men. Both this incident and the support for the ‘foreign-agent’ law by certain groups constituted troubling reminders of the risks to the SI Programme’s civil society partners and continued backlash against the women’s rights movement.

On March 18, 2020, the first case of Covid-19 was reported in Kyrgyzstan, and the government declared a state of emergency starting on March 24, 2020. The resultant stay-at-home orders, suspension of public transport, and shutdown of crisis centres hindered VAWG survivors’ ability to access support including first aid, justice, health care, psycho-social care, and social protection. Women’s rights organizations reported a marked increase in calls to helplines from women seeking psychological and humanitarian aid. As already noted, 2020 saw a 12% increase in DV over 2019, a figure that may not capture the full extent of the increase given the inadequate police and judicial response, limited services such as shelters, and survivors’ greater challenges in escaping both their abusers and the social pressure to remain with them while schools and workplaces are closed.

In response, the SI team undertook a number of interventions as part of its COVID-19 Response Plan in close collaboration with national partners, development partners, and civil society organizations. A Rapid Gender Assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on women and men, including on vulnerable groups, was conducted jointly with CSO partners. The findings from this assessment were used to inform SI programming in order to ensure activities were carried out in keeping with the principle of “leaving no one behind.” The SI team also shared these findings with the Vice-Prime-Minister (VPM) and members of selected line ministries, resulting in collaboration with the MLSD and civil society organizations to develop, introduce, and endorse multisector approach mechanisms (MSR) to SGBV in emergency situations, improve the quality of online

support and hotline services for GBV survivors, create safe spaces for women and girls, and establish rapid response mobile groups for GBV cases. SI additionally supported women's rights organizations in developing amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code (CPC) for a 48-hour detainment of perpetrators of domestic violence, which has become essential given the spike in DV, coupled with the high number of people quarantining at home. The adopted amendments have become essential in the conditions of lockdown, when many women and girls remained in compelled isolation with the aggressors, as they improved protection of the survivors of domestic violence ensuring that victims have the necessary time to plan for their safety and seek support from qualified service providers. The SI team consulted with the EUD in Bishkek throughout the process of elaborating its COVID-19 Response Plan, and the EUD offered valuable inputs in ensuring the response was targeted, in high-quality, and keeping with the Spotlight Initiative's Theory of Change.

On October 4, 2020, Kyrgyzstan held parliamentary elections that resulted in mass protests, as citizens voiced their opposition to what they saw as corrupt results favouring incumbent parties. The post-election protests soon escalated to violent confrontations, notably experienced not only in the capital but in other parts of the country, with female (and male) politicians of all levels reporting threats, violence, and harassment. In response to this situation, the Central Election Commission annulled the election results, the previous Parliament was re-installed in a caretaker role, the President resigned, and a new Acting President was voted into office by the caretaker MPs. National elections and a referendum are to be held in January 2021 that will generate an entirely new cadre of ministers and cabinet members. These events have considerably slowed SI program implementation and undermined national stakeholders' engagement, shifting the timeline of some activities. For instance, all activities to build the capacity of Parliament members are now postponed to mid-2021, after parliamentary elections are held, while the process of elaborating a Gender Equality Strategy of the Kyrgyz Republic was rescheduled twice due to political unrest and cabinet reshuffling.

Despite these challenges, implementation in all six pillars is on track, thanks to extensive coordination across RUNOs and with partners. The Spotlight Initiative team and partners made a concerted effort to accelerate implementation, including through joint reflection on "Pathways of change",<sup>4</sup> finding possible avenues for reinforcing cross-pillar coherence, and requiring follow-up actions and close work with technical staff of partner institutions.

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4 "Pathways of Change" - series of online discussions to reflect on issues to be addressed, intermediate results, indicators of success, and unpacking of key concepts. The overarching goal was to come to a shared understanding by discussing the details of Programme interventions, thereby better understanding of each RUNO's activities and interlinkages within and across pillars.

## **Programme Governance and Coordination**

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

The National Steering Committee (NSC) was formed in March 2020 in close collaboration with Office of the Vice-Prime-Minister (VPM). Its original membership consisted of 26 individuals (representatives of Parliament, deputy ministers/directors, representatives from UN, EUD, media and civil society organizations), co-chaired by the Vice-Prime-Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic for Social Issues and the UN RC. Civil society represented at least 20% of the NSC's membership. Due to COVID-19 limitations, the first meeting of NSC was replaced by an online questionnaire, conducted over March and April 2020, containing questions on draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the NSC, a draft Joint Work Plan for 2020 to 2021, and geographic targeting of program interventions. The overarching responsibilities agreed upon were in-line with the standard ToR, but unfortunately did not result into practical engagement due first to challenges related to Covid-19 (which surged in Kyrgyzstan in June and July, 2020, precisely when NSC members may have been re-convened) and then due to the political turmoil that took hold of the country in the fall. As a result, no in-person NSC meetings were held in 2020.

The political unrest and turnover that resulted from the elections – described in the previous section – resulted in the loss of numerous members of the initial NSC, including the VPM and deputy ministers. Given that government reform and reorganization is still ongoing, a second iteration of the NSC has yet to be formed, as key partner positions are still unfilled. That said, SI Programme leadership is maintaining close contacts with national counterparts and intending to revise the list of NSC members, with the goal of convening a new NSC session by April 2021.

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

The Civil Society Interim Reference Group (CSIRG) was established in October 2019, during the programme development process. It was instrumental in providing advice, comments, and inputs during programme design and development and took part in several dedicated consultations organised by the programme team. For instance, the CSIRG members suggested considering the development of a comprehensive action learning program demonstrating an integrated criminal justice response to GBV cases with involving all relevant actors. This suggestion was further incorporated into the Country Programme Document (CPD). The group remained engaged during the programme kick-off stage by providing consultations on geographic targeting of the Programme.

Subsequently, the permanent Civil Society National Reference Group (CSNRG) was established in November 2020. As agreed with CSNRG members at the initial introductory session (one meeting in 2020), meetings are planned to be held on a regular bimonthly basis. At the same time,

there is a common vision that the group's engagement should not be limited to regular meetings and, in pursuance of this, members are engaged in discussing and conceptualizing programme interventions (e.g. the media plan on Free Legal Aid/FLA campaign) and in providing comments and recommendations on research methodologies and reports (e.g. the methodology for the legal review and ethnographic review). One method that the SI team has used to ensure that CSNRG members are aware of the Programme's day-to-day priorities and how the group's mandate fits into implementation is to share monthly work plans indicating the CSNRG's role, a practice that has been in place since December 2020.

The CSNRG approved its work plan for January to June 2021, which consists of two parts: (1) overall coordination and monitoring, and (2) engagement in Programme components. A planning workshop/retreat will be organized in early 2021 with CSNRG members to deepen a shared understanding of the Programme, identify their expectations from the Programme and vice versa, and agree on working principles to ensure meaningful engagement and further details of plans. The approximate budget for the CSNRG was calculated and is to be included in the next budget revision for the SI programme.

Following guidance from the Global Secretariat, the CSNRG was formed through a competitive selection process. The advertisement and call for submissions for involvement were released in the 2020 summer, unfortunately during the peak of the COVID-19 crisis. Few applications were received, likely both because of the impact of Covid-19 and because EVAWG experts, being in high demand, are accustomed to being invited to such positions rather than requested to apply (and may have found the application process onerous). A second round of announcements were made in the autumn and several applications were received. Even with this additional advertisement, the number of applicants were limited. In spite of this, 12 CSNRG members were selected from among the applicants. The Programme still has to select 3 members to ensure an LNOB approach (particularly by securing representation from more grassroots organizations, youth and LGBTQ organizations), which will be done in early 2021. Currently, CSNRG consists of 12 members – 1 male and 11 female – who represent human rights organizations, women-led NGOs working on community empowerment and EVAWG, national NGOs working on EVAWG, crisis centres, and NGOs focusing on issues of elderly, among others. By ensuring an inclusive CSNRG membership, the SI team will improve the Programme's reach, responsiveness and accountability to rights holders. Moreover, the CSNRG will be critical in allowing the SI programme to better engage with national and grassroots partners, including feminist and women's rights organizations moving forward.

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

The Programme has tapped into both the internal UN Gender Theme Group (GTG) and extended GTG consisting of donors and organizations that contribute to or have projects that promote

gender equality. SI leadership has kept GTG members updated on programme plans during monthly joint meetings. Moreover, during the preparation for the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (16 Days Campaign), the SI Programme team played a coordinating role in drafting and presenting a joint contextualized concept note and action plan both to the internal and extended GTG platforms, helping to coordinate overall efforts and mobilize funding to cover the costs of some initiatives by the UNiTE Women's Network. Finally, the SI Programme has effectively collaborated with the UN communication group while conceptualizing and developing key messages focusing on behaviour change communication. Thus, SI Programme has benefitted from this engagement by gaining increased visibility (details described in communication part of the report) and identifying new joint efforts, for instance with the Swiss Embassy on 16-Days Activism Against GBV.

Additionally, in 2020, the SI team implemented several mechanisms and practices to operationalize the new way of working under UN Reform. Substance-wise coordination and coherence has been increased through series of 'Pathways of change' talks where teams have identified not only intra-pillar linkages but also across pillars. Examples of operation collaboration include a joint-tendering process that was organized (by UNDP, UNFPA, and UNODC) on conducting a holistic review of VAWG/GBV legislation. Another example of such collaboration was in the design of a simple application process to select partners for community-level work on C4D, with the goal of facilitating engagement with civil society. The simplified application templates generated by the team were used and distributed through email lists, and based on the applications, two CSOs were invited to attend a workshop on C4D during which they developed C4D roadmaps and a joint work plan to address social norms supporting VAWG and the practice of child marriages in particular.

## Programme Partnerships

### a) Government

The SI programme has closely collaborated with the Office of the Vice Prime Minister (OVPM), the highest Government institution dealing with the issues of gender and VAWG, to ensure national ownership of the Programme. The OVPM provided support in setting up the National Steering Committee in the spring of 2020, reviving the National Gender Council by extending its membership to include civil society activists, and organizing a meeting with representatives from relevant ministries to hear the results of the Rapid Gender Assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on women and men. This assessment informed the prompt measures plan of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic on prevention of domestic violence during COVID-19 lockdown.

Challenges were experienced in working with the OVPM, on the one hand due to COVID-19, which significantly increased the workload of Government partners and caused widespread illness among key personnel, and on the other, due to the high turnover experienced in the OVPM (as in all of Kyrgyzstan's highest executive offices over 2020). The VPM was replaced twice in 2020, meaning that the SI Programme needed to re-establish contact and collaboration and handle with the lack of institutional memory. SI Programme continuously informed new leadership on the Programme progress and plans by holding presentations and brief updates.

Additionally, the Ministry of Labour and Social Development (MLSD), which is mandated with overseeing Kyrgyzstan's gender and EVAWG responses, has been a key partner. This Ministry played a lead role in convening and drafting the new Gender Equality Strategy of Kyrgyz Republic 2021-2030 (GES) and initiating a multi-sectoral response (MSR) to EVAWG. Under the leadership of MLSD, separate inter-ministerial working groups were created to develop the GES and MSR, involving more than 16 lines ministries, government agency<sup>5</sup> and province and city administrations in these processes. Finally, the Programme worked closely with the MLSD on its efforts to respond to the rising number of GBV incidents, and particularly to provide emergency support services.

## b) Civil Society

In 2020, the SI Programme worked with more than fifteen civil society organizations, of which five are grassroots organizations (or have branches at the grassroots level) and five are organizations focused on EVAWG, GEWE and women's rights. Local CSOs are engaged as Implementing Partners in conducting a legislative review (Pillar 1), publicly monitoring legislative implementation (Pillar 1), mapping traditionalist groups (Pillar 3), reviewing and analysing judicial cases of child marriages (Pillar 3), developing an interactive game that challenges bride kidnapping (Pillar 3), designing and implementing advocacy campaigns at the national level (Pillar 3), working with the media (Pillar 3), mapping GBV services (Pillar 4), and providing support to women and girls who are GBV survivors during the COVID-19 lockdown (Pillar 4). Three organizations – two international companies (NormannPartners, WIN) and a national CSO – are working closely to apply the Oxford Scenario Planning Approach (OSPA) to elaborate the Gender Equality Strategy (GES) under the direct leadership of the Inter-Ministerial Working Group (IMWG) of the MLSD. Another area of joint work of an international company (EuroPlus) and a national CSOs is in conducting a gender assessment of justice and law enforcement institutions. Meanwhile, the SI programme worked to ensure that the principle of “Leaving No One Behind” crosscuts different implementation areas. For instance, the mapping of GBV services took into account the perspectives of GBV survivors

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5 Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Finance, Ministry on emergency situations, Defense Ministry, Ministry of Interiors, Ministry of culture, information and tourism, food industry and melioration, Ombudsmen Institute, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, State Personnel Service, State commission on Religious Affairs, State Agency on Local Self-Government and Interethnic Relations, National Statistics Committee

from different backgrounds, and the process of GES elaboration is inclusive with the participation of diverse organizations. It is expected that the mapping will increase understanding of the critical gaps in service provision as well as raise sensitivity of service providers on intersecting forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls usually left behind.

The SI Programme works to ensure meaningful partnerships with CSO partners in two core ways, engaging them (1) across pillars to reinforce cooperation and information-exchange on cross-cutting themes, and (2) in the conceptualization of activities from start to implementation, giving them space for more meaningful participation and leveraging their on-the-ground expertise to generate well-adapted and grounded activities. For example, the experience and data accumulated by one IP during its mapping of services (Pillar 4) was applied in the design and implementation of the legislative and policy review (Pillar 1). This practice gives our partners a broader vision and deeper understanding of the Programme and their role in it. The SI team will work to further expand these practices and strengthen coherence and coordination across different IPs' activities to enable more meaningful engagement of CSOs.

The SI programme's work with civil society is critical to its goal of achieving sustainability for EAWG efforts in the country. Moreover, the engagement of civil society has ensured that programming responds to the changing needs on the ground throughout Kyrgyzstan. For example, CSOs engaged in Gender Equality Strategy process helped to bridge the gap between policy and practice by linking Inter-Governmental Working Group with regional actors representing broader CSOs (also performing consolidating role); CSOs engaged in service mapping ensured access to survivors of S/GBV (usually they avoid interviews both from security and public pressure concerns); CSOs working at the grassroots level and being keenly aware of the cultural context and the specific needs of local women and girls proposed adjustments of ethnographic review methodology.

### **c) EU**

Throughout 2020, the SI team collaborated closely with the EU Delegation, who acted as an essential programme partner in sharing technical expertise, supporting high-level decision-making, and meaningfully engaging national stakeholders. The SI team and EU Delegation collaborated on strategic programmatic discussions, especially when reflecting on adjustments needed to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The UN RC and Heads of RUNOs held strategic and high-level communications with the EU Delegation, as well as more frequent progress check-in meetings across technical teams.

The EU Delegation was regularly invited both to high- and technical-level meetings organized by the SI Programme team, such as sessions with the Vice Prime Minister, meetings of the National

Council on Women’s Issues and Gender Development, and meetings of the Civil Society National Reference Group (CSNRG) with the participation of SI Technical Team.

Beyond their participation in formal meetings and events, EU Delegation colleagues were engaged in discussing strategic documents produced within the Programme via online communication, providing feedback and suggestions to improve the quality of products. Moreover, there have been cases where the SI Programme team coordinated with other EU funded programmes, for instance with the Rule of Law Programme<sup>6</sup> on the improving the availability of SGBV data and providing free legal aid to SGBV survivors. This collaboration allowed the SI Programme to create synergies with existing work in the country and avoid duplication of efforts to maximize the impact on women and girls.

Additionally, the Programme will leverage the results of UN Women’s the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)-funded project<sup>7</sup> to develop and integrate new implementation strategies. This project successfully tested different approaches such as community e-monitoring, virtual communication with adolescents, community videoblogging, and inter-generational communication, which will be replicated within and beyond the Gender Action Learning System (GALS)<sup>8</sup> framework. In target communities that both participated in the UN Women–EIDHR project and are now part of the SI, GALS champions will play the role of positive deviants and will be instrumental both acting as role models and engaging in peer-to-peer exchange.

#### d) Other Partners

A Letter of Agreement (LoA) was signed with the Ukuk State Enterprise (SE “Ukuk”), solely mandated by the General Prosecutor’s Office (GPO) to modernize the Unified Register of Crimes and Misdemeanours (ERPP), developed by the EU funded Rule of Law programme (see above). Under this LoA, SE “Ukuk” is responsible for the development and integration of new functions that allow for streamlined collection and analysis of SGBV data, meeting the minimum set of indicators established by the UN Statistical Commission.

6 ACA/2018/396-673 (EC) “The Rule of Law Programme in the Kyrgyz Republic – 2nd phase (ROLPRO 2)”

7 EIDHR project n. 2017 / 393-561 “Across Generation and Gender Borders - Communities Combatting Gender-Based Violence in Kyrgyzstan implemented by a consortium led by UN Women between January 2018 and August 2020.

8 Gender Action Learning System (GALS) is a community-led empowerment methodology that uses principles of inclusion to improve the quality of life of rural people in a gender-equitable way. It positions women and men as drivers of their own development rather than victims, identifying and dismantling obstacles in their environment, challenging service providers and private actors. It has proven to be effective for changing gender inequalities that have existed for generations, strengthening negotiation power of marginalized stakeholders and promoting collaboration, equity and respect between value chain actors.



## Capturing Broader Transformations Across Outcomes

As the COVID-19 pandemic caused an outbreak of violence against women and girls, the Programme team invested tremendous efforts in elevating these issues to different strategic platforms. In the Parliament strategic conversations resulted in legislative amendments (48-hour detainment of the perpetrators) and creation of a Gender Council as a platform for public to voice their EVAWG concerns. At the urgent meeting of the National Gender Council under the Government chaired by the Vice Prime Minister Programme representatives appealed to GC members to shift the issue of violence from one of social protection into the nation's security agenda and contributed to plan of immediate actions to respond to acute cases of violence. The programme has also provided a platform for UNiTE civil society network to coordinate response across all network and partners.

The nation's COVID response plan has been effectively built into its already existing Disaster Response Platform, which has advanced response systems in place as the country is prone to disaster risks. However, this pandemic uncovered gaps in the state's service-provision sector, creating a shift in stakeholders' attitudes and providing an impetus for them to voice their needs for knowledge and training, resources and equipment. Civil society, the Government, and the general public began to view emergencies from a new angle, seeing (and experiencing first-hand) how the virus and related lockdown measures were a natural and societal disaster, trapping people in their houses and putting them at risk to both their health and their lives, whether in their houses (where risks of violence increased) or outside (where risks of viral exposure were heightened). Meanwhile, the bodies responsible for supporting SGBV survivors (the MLSD, Ministry of Interior, and crisis centres) were unable to provide the support needed due to a lack of knowledge, information, and resources. The Spotlight Initiative was well-positioned to fill these gaps, due to its capabilities in accessing solutions and expertise and its relatively streamlined bureaucracy for procuring resources. The MLSD and its new SGBV department identified needs for the development of proper response mechanisms such as its new hotline service, evaluation, and development of the SGBV response plan for 2021-2025 and the National Gender Strategy 2021-2025. The same ministry identified needs in enhancing service provision and building the capacity of its staff to prevent and respond to SGBV. This change in attitudes and beliefs happened when decision makers found themselves, relatives, and friends in hospitals, or reading and observing cases of violence and suicide, or becoming members of oversight bodies (for example, the Vice Prime Minister actively engaged in the development, implementation and monitoring of the Plan of Prompt Measures against SGBV cases) over the domestic violence cases. Additionally, the Programme organized shelters in Bishkek and Osh to serve the surge in VAWG survivors and their children, going above and beyond foreseen SI outcome results.

Uncertainties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the nation's political crisis challenged both the UN and national partners to re-visit and re-think earlier applied strategies. Therefore, innovative and transformative methodologies and tools such as adaptive leadership, positive deviance, and the Oxford Scenario Planning offered by the Programme have been well accepted by the government counterparts and the expert community engaged in drafting the new Gender Strategy.

In light of the above challenges, the Spotlight programme acted in a more coherent and coordinated manner when addressing pressing country needs and demands. In particular, the Programme quickly mobilized and repurposed around USD 200,000 to adapt interventions and support response plans of both the Government and civil society actors to address violence against women and girls in the context of the pandemic, while ensuring that interventions remained aligned with and contributed to the Spotlight Initiative's objectives. While planning and implementing interventions as one UN, the Programme incorporated the views of diverse stakeholders in its decision-making processes and based on the findings of the Rapid Gender Assessment, which was built on the 'Leave No One Behind' principle.

Responding to broader contextual transformations has required continually better coordination and leadership from the Programme team. The team has made initial steps in this direction by mobilizing and uniting efforts when representing and positioning the Programme at high-level strategic meetings, facilitating CSO conversations to better coordinate and complement their responses, and by providing expertise and policy advice to national stakeholders. Efforts to further strengthen team coordination continue through online 'Pathways of Change' discussions, inter- and intra-pillar talks, and work to build the TEAM around a shared goal and strategic vision.

## **Capturing Change at Outcome Level**

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

Thus far, the SI Programme has worked to improve legal-regulatory frameworks in three core initiatives: by conducting research to better understand the existing issues and gaps in VAWG-related legislation (and to centre the perspectives of VAWG survivors in that research), by supporting the process of improving existing laws and by-laws – as well as filling in regulatory gaps – by generating guidance and policy documents, and by lobbying for effective institutional structures to better implement these new legal frameworks.

Under the first initiative, an overarching review of legislative and policy frameworks to address VAWG has been launched. The review will contribute to identifying legal inconsistencies, loopholes and discriminatory provisions related to gender equality, child marriage, and VAWG, thereby facilitating legislative changes and improving legal protections that ensure the safety of women and girls. Consultation tools (surveys and focus group discussion guides) were developed to meaningfully engage survivors in this legislative review and will be rolled out in the next SI Programme phase. The tools are intended to facilitate the incorporation of survivor viewpoints and perspectives, and particularly to leverage their insights on existing bottlenecks in EAWG protections and procedures at the community level to ensure that new policies are more effective on the ground. Moreover, a review and analysis of judicial practices on child marriages, and specifically implementation of article 155 of Criminal Code of the Kyrgyz Republic, has been launched to analyse the reasons that cases are closed and to develop recommendations for all stakeholders to better protect girls. The primary objective of this initiative is to strengthen legislative and policy frameworks in order to produce proactive plans to eliminate violence against women and girls.

Due to the COVID, the programme had to switch to remote data collection, which imposed certain limitations to the research team, especially when it related to reaching out to groups facing multiple forms of discrimination. To alleviate this challenge, the team collaborated with women's CSOs working with such groups for using their established channels of communication for greater outreach.

Under the second initiative, the SI Programme team and its CSO partners have provided support and direction for improvements in the legal and policy framework, particularly on legislation relating to domestic violence, alimony, free legal aid, and the prevention of sexual harassment in the workplace:

- In April 2020, Parliament adopted amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code (CPC) due to joint efforts of the SI Programme and partners (Forum of Women, Members of the Parliament and the OSCE); these were then signed by the President in early June 2020. Notably, the new CPC Article 504 has been supplemented with the additional provisions for detaining alleged perpetrators of domestic violence up to 48 hours<sup>9</sup>. A parliamentary working group under the Committee on Public Order, Counter-Crime and Corruption (the so-called Rule of Law Committee), was established in January 2020, to develop effective measures to increase protection against domestic violence and mechanisms for its implementation. The Committee comprised 14 experts, including a gender specialist from the Spotlight Initiative team, and has promoted the revision of the Criminal Procedures Code to strengthen safety of and protection mechanisms for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence;

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6 <http://cbd.minjust.gov.kg/act/view/ru-ru/111530>

- Beginning in January 2020, the SI team provided technical support to Parliament on amending the law on alimony, including by supporting public debates between MPs, civil society and legal experts. These amendments were signed into law by the President in August 2020 and entered into force in September 2020. The law strengthens the rights of women to receive alimony and enforcement mechanisms in cases of non-payment, contributing to greater gender equality through improved family rights;
- The SI Programme team additionally provided technical assistance to amend the Law on State-Guaranteed Legal Aid (SGLA). In April 2020, the draft law was submitted to the Parliament and placed for public discussion, with a specific provision ensuring for the first time ever that state-funded free legal aid be also available for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence. Due to the political turmoil, the law hearings were postponed to 2021. The SI team is closely working with the group of bill initiators and women's CSOs to get the bill passed in the first half of 2021.
- Starting from October 2020, the SI Programme worked jointly with ILO to support women's rights organizations to develop a set of amendments in the Labour Code on combatting sexual harassment in the workplace. In December 2020, the draft law was developed along with a plan for a nationwide campaign to raise awareness of the ubiquity of workplace-based sexual harassment and its impact on the status of women in Kyrgyzstan. Elements of behaviour change communication have been integrated into these strategies, in conjunction with other pillars.
- Moreover, the SI Programme has supported the development of guidance and policy documents in key EVAWG areas. For example, the team has supported the drafting of a legal framework that envisages the establishment of a register of free legal aid lawyers qualified in providing services to girls and boys who have suffered violence and trauma. This system of free legal aid would provide children-victims of violence with the assistance of a lawyer who has the legal knowledge and skills, communication techniques, and psychological abilities to work with children victims of violence, including girls. The guidance is comprehensive in how it requires specialized assistance to children depending on their specific needs, including children with disabilities, children left behind by migrant parents, etc. To further institutionalize knowledge on the specifics of age- and gender-sensitive legal aid provision, the existing Guidelines have been updated with the inclusion of an additional module on the specifics of child-friendly legal aid to victims of violence, with a focus on girls. This additional module is pending approval by the Ministry of Justice.
- Finally, the SI team provided technical support to elaborate the new national Gender Equality Strategy for 2021 – 2030. The SI Programme has challenged the 'business as usual' approach by including adaptive, scenario-envisioning, and evidence-based strategizing to the planning process. Since the Ministry of the Economy (ME) sets the standards for national strategic documents, a separate presentation was organized for the ME on

the Oxford Scenario Planning Approach and its comparative advantage in situations of uncertainty, turbulence, novelty, and ambiguity. To make the process more participatory, the Programme advised the Inter-Ministerial Working Group (IMWG) to engage more national and local stakeholders and topical experts (on issues such as politics, religion, and cross-sectionality through a gender lens, e.g. gender and law enforcement). Though the official IMWG consists of 12 people, by the end of 2020 the group of those contributing to GES increased to 62 people representing more than 16 line ministries and agencies, province and city administrations, civil society organizations, gender experts, and the donor community.

Under the third initiative, the SI Programme team has additionally worked on establishing the institutional structures and procedures to more effectively implement the above-mentioned legal changes. As already mentioned, the so-called Rule of Law Committee was established in January 2020 to ensure effective implementation of new CPC provisions, including enhanced domestic violence protections. Additionally, in June 2020, the Speaker of the Parliament signed an order to officially establish a permanent Council on Women's Rights and the Prevention of Gender-Based Violence within the Parliament to work on women's rights and issues and VAWG within the national legislative and policy agenda. The Council, established after extensive lobbying by the SI Programme team and its partners, is tasked with ensuring communications between the Parliament and other stakeholders on women's rights and sexual and gender-based violence issues; developing proposals for legislative amendments; monitoring implementation of legislation in the area of gender equality, gender-based violence and discrimination; and representing the Parliament on these issues. The Council has become instrumental in providing civic engagement platforms for women's CSOs and individual activists in the discussion of laws on VAWG- and GEWE- related issues. The Council also accelerated the adoption of amendments to CPC and Alimony Law.

In sum, the efforts of the SI team and its core partners have thus far contributed to the amendment of four laws (those relating to domestic violence, alimony, state-guaranteed legal aid, and workplace sexual harassment), establishment of two new institutional structures for better implementation of these laws (the parliamentary Rule of Law Committee and permanent Council on Women's Rights and the Prevention of Gender-Based Violence within the Parliament), and ongoing development of two new guidance documents (on legal representation of child victims of violence and the national Gender Equality Strategy for 2021 – 2030). Perhaps just as meaningful as the eventual promulgation of these new laws and policies are the SI Programme team's efforts to change the processes and perspectives that underlie these legal frameworks, lobbying for the integration of the perspectives of survivors of GBV in legal-change efforts and encouraging the use of adaptive, evidence-based approaches in governmental policy planning.

## Outcome 2: Institutions

When a drastic rise in GBV cases was observed after COVID-19-related restrictions came into force, the Programme team conducted a series of meetings to review the situation and understand how to adjust to the new context. A Rapid Gender Assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on women and men, including on vulnerable groups, was conducted jointly with national and CSO partners and presented to the Vice Prime Minister (VPM) and members of selected line ministries. As a result, the Programme team, national stakeholders, and the GBV sub-cluster of the UN Disaster Risk Coordination Unit jointly identified a number of interventions to enable a coordinated response by state institutions and crisis centres. One intervention, for example, has been to establish an interagency working group across the Ministry of Health, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Emergency Situations, General Staff, and Ministry of Education to develop a unified, multi-sectoral response (MSR) to SGBV in humanitarian settings, overcoming the lack of a pre-existing regulatory framework for coordinating the national-level institutional response to GBV during states of emergency. Additionally, three webinars were conducted for 111 Hotline operators and more than 40 representatives of key institutions (law enforcement agencies, psychologists, crisis centres, and CSOs) on a unified approach to working with SGBV survivors during the COVID-19 pandemic. These sessions covered applications of the Istanbul Protocol, communication with survivors, legal support, healthcare challenges, and psychosocial service support. Finally, the MLSD and its crisis headquarters were supported by three dedicated gender experts to mainstream gender issues into the government's social crisis response and communications.

Another activity currently being developed to increase the gender sensitivity of service providers is a participatory gender assessment of justice and law enforcement institutions (MIA/Police, Bar Association, GPO/Prosecution, the Supreme Court/Judiciary) and the development of action plans to deepen and improve their gender responsiveness. By addressing and reducing internal institutional barriers, the plans are being designed to improve the ability of institutions to address SGBV and deliver survivor-centred programmes. As of the reporting date, the assessment team has developed the methodology outlining key approaches and research tools, which will be further refined in consultation with technical-level focal points appointed by each of the selected institutions.

In coordination with other stakeholders, the Spotlight Initiative also launched work with the Police Academy to develop a mandatory police training programme in Kyrgyzstan, with the aim of enhancing institutional gender-sensitive and survivor-centred criminal justice practices. As of the reporting date, an Inter-Agency Working Group has been established and tasked to collectively design the outline of the mandatory training course. Members of the Inter-Agency Working Group will undertake a desk review of best practices available both regionally and globally and devise a road map for developing and institutionalizing this course as a mandatory part of the Police Academy curriculum.

In addition, the existing mobile application “My community police officer”, which provides user-friendly and easily accessible communication between citizens and the police, was updated with new functions such as the ability to directly call available emergency hotlines to report violence.

### **Outcome 3: Prevention and Norm Change**

Pillar three interventions are complex, involving multi-faceted work with a wide array of individuals and groups at the community level to promote gender-equitable social norms, attitudes and behaviours. Conducting such community-based VAWG prevention requires a deep understanding of the unique social fabric, channels of interaction, and power dynamics of each community, including identifying the ‘positive deviants’ and influencers specific to each. To that end, during the reporting period the SI team developed the methodology for and launched a so-called ‘Ethnographic Review’ (ER), a qualitative study that applies action learning research principles to actively involve community members not only as research objects, but also as equal and active partners. For each community, three to four members are included as part of the research team and participants of the co-creation process. In the next stage of the research, those members will reach out to their broader communities to engage them in focus-group discussions. SI will continue working on the Ethnographic Review in 2021, using the results to inform Programme interventions and especially its implementation of the Gender Action Learning System (GALS) methodology and ensure these efforts are evidence-based, participatory, and in the spirit of “leaving no one behind.”

The SI Programme aims to raise women’s and girls’ awareness of and capacity to exercise their rights, both by increasing their knowledge of existing legal aid mechanisms (such as the state-funded legal aid system coordinated by the Free Legal Aid Coordination Centre) and by expanding their access to justice via alternative mechanisms. One such mechanism is the “Bus of Solidarity” (BoS), a mobile legal services program run by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) that brings lawyers to under-served communities across the country. Under the SI Programme, women’s rights organizations and members of the CSNRG have been engaged to re-conceptualize and adapt the BoS program to the VAWG context. This has included developing a media plan (completed during the reporting period), adapting services to the VAWG context by, for example, prioritizing the confidentiality and security of survivors, and considering how to best access a wide range of women and girls, including those facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and marginalization. The re-conceptualized BoS will be rolled out in the next reporting period, once lawyers and other experts involved in its work complete a series of trainings on key principles of service-provision to SGBV survivors and gender-transformative experiential learning sessions aimed at changing their individual gender beliefs and attitudes. These trainings will allow the SI Programme to maximize the impact of the BoS in supporting survivors of VAWG. Unexpected results are being achieved within this activity as it is expected that the BoS will contribute to the results planned under Pillar 2. Staff of ministries and agencies (Ministry of Justice, Bar Association,

Training Centre for Lawyers) involved in the joint re-conceptualization of the BoS will undergo GALS trainings to improve their gender responsiveness, paving the way for institutional mind shift.

The SI Programme additionally works with adolescent girls and boys to educate them about their rights and influence their attitudes and behaviours toward 'ala kachuu', i.e. forced abduction for marriage. For example, a mobile game, "Spring in Bishkek," was co-funded by Sigrid Rausing Trust and Soros Foundation Kyrgyzstan under the SI Programme and uses C4D strategies to demonstrate alternative behaviour models for girls, boys, and adults. Players are asked to name the heroine, choose a pet, and personalize other features, while visuals of widely known public spaces in Kyrgyzstan are depicted, building a personal connection, self-identification, and empathy with the game characters, whose fates are ultimately decided by the players. These characters gradually change their perceptions, attitudes, and behaviours towards gender equality as the game progresses. "Spring in Bishkek" has quickly gained popularity, being downloaded more than 117,000 times from PlayMarket and iOS PlayStore with an average rating of 4.7 to 4.8. It is played across Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Russia, Ukraine, and in some other countries. Players have provided inspirational feedback on the game's social media accounts, while one case of 'ala kachuu' was reported by a player who approached the game's Instagram account for support. The two most frequently selected reasons among players as to why they are playing the game were: (1) because the game raises an important issue, and (2) because it contains useful information in the notes.

Activities were also developed to support school-aged girls and boys, all of whom were put at increased risk of violence by COVID-19 quarantine orders, concomitant school closures (which went into effect in April 2020), and the heightened stress of parents suffering from the economic and emotional fallout of the pandemic. In response to these challenges, the programme team built a partnership with the Union of Social Pedagogues (USP) to train these professionals on how to inform parents and school-age girls and boys on the existing Helpline for Children (111), and how to help girls and boys at risk of violence during the COVID-19 quarantine. The training reached 376 social pedagogues, i.e. schoolteachers tasked with taking care of at-risk children, and 18 district-level officials who oversee the work of these social pedagogues. The partnership demonstrated the great potential of social pedagogues to continue supporting children, including adolescent girls at risk of SGBV. A total of 11,616 children aged 7 to 14 (6,963 girls and 4,653 boys) have been reached by the trained social pedagogues. This is the total number with whom the teachers interacted. The Programme team also launched strategic discussions on the originally planned education activities with the Republican Teacher Training Institute (RTTI), agreeing with the RTTI Director to design, develop, and introduce a new online teacher training course (approx. 8 hours) on the prevention of SGBV in schools as part of a mandatory teacher training package, which all teachers must go through every five years. Finally, as part of the measures to prevent SGBV and violence against children, the Programme team and a local NGO developed materials for parents and caregivers on how to talk with children about sexual violence. The materials are in the process of testing and translation into the Kyrgyz language and will be widely disseminated after completion.



In addition, C4D interventions roadmap to change social norms touching on child marriage are being developed, with two CSOs selected during the reporting period to attend a three-week online course on C4D on child marriages. The participants acquired C4D knowledge to conduct a rapid participatory assessment with adolescents, parents, local leaders, social workers, juvenile inspectors, and others and developed an action plan on changing social norms regarding child marriage. The roadmap includes a comprehensive set of interventions at individual, interpersonal and community levels, which reinforce the positive changes at all levels, including changes in knowledge, attitudes and practices. The programme will also engage and build on the positive deviants and practices identified through ethnographic review in target communities.

The media is critical both in shaping and de-mystifying social norms and in coining new norms. To challenge business as usual, the Programme has explored a media self-assessment tool that was successfully implemented by the UN Women Moldova office. This tool was designed based on UNESCO materials and participatory peer-learning and reflection exercises. Following a series of consultations with the UNESCO regional office in Almaty, local media organizations were offered various training opportunities and, as a pre-bidding exercise, the Public Fund “Media Support Centre” (a local NGO) has been identified and contracted to contextualize this tool and processes to the Kyrgyzstani media environment.

## **Outcome 4: Quality Services**

In-line with the Pillar 4 goal of making high-quality essential services more available to survivors of violence, the SI team launched a series of assessments to inform capacity-building and coordination-improving efforts with local service providers, engaged with legal service providers on SGBV-sensitization and the provision of pro bono representation, and began work on a case-management system to better coordinate services to children at risk of domestic violence.

To inform its work in target communities across the country, the SI Programme team worked to map key services and gaps; explore shortcomings in existing regulations, mechanisms, and practices; and gain a better understanding of the service context within each target community (and, by extension, the nation). The mapping covered 45 villages from SI target communities (almost all target villages under the SI Programme), using an online survey and virtual interviews with women and girls who have survived SGBV or face intersecting forms of violence and disability (these remote methods minimized the risk that participants and staff would be infected by Covid-19 as a result of their participation in the study and thus, while not ideal, were deemed to be necessary to a ‘do no harm’ approach). The research and analysis generated insights for improving the work of key local service providers – such as health workers, the police, and members of the justice and social support sectors – which will be used to further inform programming under Pillar 4. Notably, many service providers were negatively impacted by the political turmoil in wake of the October 4, 2020 parliamentary elections, with some key local officials dismissed and the delivery of needed resources either delayed or halted. These challenges impacted the research, making

it harder to contact and collaborate with local counterparts. At the same time, they underscore the necessity of such a mapping exercise and support for local SGBV service-providers, making the results of this research all the more relevant.

A second, closely linked, assessment is being conducted to inform the design and pilot of a “one-stop” crisis centre for victims of violence, in-line with global standards. Such a centre is intended to provide coordinated, integrated SGBV response services and to thereby reduce the risk of secondary victimization that can result from fragmented support. This second assessment thus entails additional analysis of the capacities of key service providers (healthcare workers, law enforcement officers, legal support providers, and psychosocial service providers), how they coordinate their SGBV services within their localities, and the opportunities, challenges, and financial considerations entailed by a one-stop crisis centre. Once completed, the results of this assessment will be shared with key government institutions such as the MLSD, Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA), Forensic Service (FS), and others, to engage the government in piloting and supporting such a center, thereby enhancing its sustainability.

Work was also conducted under the SI Programme to enhance the quality of legal services available to SGBV survivors. Along with the MoJ, women’s rights organizations, and crisis centres, the SI team developed guidelines on standards of SGBV legal service delivery and considerations for lawyers who engage in this work. The guidelines were the basis of a 1-day training on SGBV service-delivery with over 120 lawyers and other experts involved in the work of the “Bus of Solidarity”, the previously mentioned mobile legal services program. They will be printed and disseminated to localities across the country and promoted on social media. Meanwhile, a scope of work was finalized to engage private law firms and attorneys in providing pro bono legal services to SGBV survivors, and to create a referral mechanism such that those in need of representation (as well as service providers working on their behalf) can find these high-quality advocates in a simple, reliable way.

Finally, to establish more effective coordination and coverage of services provided to girls and boys, the SI Programme team began work on an integrated case management system to effectively identify children and families in difficult life situations and refer them for relevant services. The proposed database will improve the means of identifying girls and boys subjected to violence, and will identify cases of domestic violence through an assessment of their home environment. Child protection and family support plans will be drafted by respective units of the MLSD to meet the specific needs of children and families identified in this way.

## **Outcome 5: Data**

During the reporting period, the Programme team worked with the General Prosecutor’s Office (GPO) and the National Statistics Committee (NSC) to ensure that high-quality, disaggregated data is collected, properly analysed, and made available on key SGBV indicators. Specifically, support

was provided to the GPO to create an inter-agency working group and, together with independent experts, analyse the reporting forms and data that military and law-enforcement bodies submit on a regular basis (bi-annually and annually). Based on this analysis, the working group developed gender-disaggregated statistical forms on gender-related crimes and misdemeanours with disaggregated SGBV data to be included into the Unified Registry of Crimes and Misdemeanours (ERPP).<sup>10</sup> To further enable gender-disaggregated data entry on SGBV crimes, the GPO and SE “Ukuk” are developing a so-called “victim card”, which contains all relevant information on the SGBV survivor disaggregated by sex, age, education, marital status and other social characteristics. Completing the card will be a prerequisite for entering the crime into the registry, allowing for the collection of consistent, comparable and reliable data on SGBV. Following these activities, the Spotlight team conducted a series of technical consultations with the GPO and SE “Ukuk”, resulting in a work plan to upgrade the Unified Registry of Crimes and Misdemeanours to better analyse and compile data on SGBV across the criminal justice chain. A number of consultations were held with leadership of the National Statistics Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic (NSC) to discuss SI Pillar 5 plans. The EU funded Rule of Law programme phase 2, leading the work on the ERPP, contributed to this work and continues to do so. A small working group consisting of NSC personnel from the Department of Social Statistics, IT, and Communications was gathered to discuss plans, needs for improving SGBV data collection methodologies, and available capacities within the NSC. A Terms of Reference, titled “Strengthen the collection and analysis of administrative and criminal data on SGBV and harmful practices”, with clear deliverables was one of the results of these consultations. The ToR covers updating the NSC’s data-sharing policy, integrating ethical protocols and guidelines, upgrading the NSC mobile application, and creating a digital hub of all SGBV data. One of the activities additionally suggested for inclusion in the ToR is the development of a training module on gender data analysis – including SGBV data – to improve statisticians’ knowledge and capacities to analyse and develop reports on SGBV and gender topics. Improvement of knowledge and skills at the National Statistical Committee will enable dissemination of quality analytical documents based on unified data collected from national data holders to better inform the Government, CSOs, academia, mass media and others on SGBV situation in Kyrgyzstan.

## Outcome 6: Women’s Movement

As described in the section on “contextual shifts” in this report, on March 8, 2020, members of Kyrgyzstan’s women’s movement were attacked during a peaceful protest to mark International Women’s Day. Many of the masked men who committed this attack shouted ethno-nationalist

<sup>10</sup> As part of the broader process of reforming the law enforcement system, which has started in 2016, the General Prosecutor’s Office (GPO) of the Kyrgyz Republic became responsible for maintaining records of criminal statistics, analyzing, developing measures and forecasting the delinquency. A new system of Unified Registry of Crimes and Misdemeanors (ERPP) came into force in 2019 and the GPO is the main holder and coordinator of ERPP. The system is still in the transition stage of its development and does not allow to extract all necessary information on domestic violence and crimes against women and girls.

slogans as they did so, and the groups believed to be responsible (such as Kyrk Choro, or Forty Horsemen) espouse ‘traditionalist’ models that claim Kyrgyzstan society must return to a more “authentic” past, one where women and men adhere to strict gender roles. To better understand these narratives and resuscitate a more gender-inclusive concept of “traditions”, the SI Programme team engaged the Aigine Cultural Research Centre (ACRC), a non-profit that works to maintain and apply the cultural heritage of the peoples of Kyrgyzstan. ACRC staff conducted a series of focus groups discussions with 40 non-conventional actors, i.e. individuals holding nationalist and conservative views, to better understand the values they hold and their perceptions of violence against women and girls, and identify possible entry points for challenging their perceptions. Building from the results of these discussions, ACRC staff suggested that the Programme incorporate moderate (i.e. non-feminist) civil society actors into some activities, thereby integrating and recognizing their perspectives while generating the opportunity for reconsideration and co-creation (rather than direct confrontation) with women’s and feminist groups. The Programme will consider engaging groups identified via this mapping in relevant Programme interventions.

Meanwhile, the Programme has launched a series of strategizing discussions with broad range of civil society actors, women’s movements and civil society organizations representing various groups, including UNiTE, to co-create the Pillar 6 activities. The planning has been anchored in the co-creation approach in order to bring in the voices and expertise of the CSOs and ensure sustainability and effectiveness. Cross-cutting goal of the Pillar 6 is to strengthen the connections between organizations and movements working on EVAW, those of well-established and more new actors as well as to create new spaces for conversations and knowledge sharing.

As Covid-19 and related mandatory quarantine rules came into effect in late March, 2020, funding from this Pillar was directed toward supporting the women’s movement to respond to heightened levels of GBV, and in particular the rising incidence of domestic violence against women and children. The Programme team supported the UNiTE women’s movement in creating and conducting a country-wide public awareness campaign on amendments to the Kyrgyz Republic Code on Misconduct (under which domestic violence offenders may be sentenced to up to 15 days of administrative detention), on how women can protect themselves from domestic violence, and on the availability of crisis centres and how to contact them. Moreover, a package of instructions on how to respond to S/GBV during the pandemic was developed and delivered to crisis centres across the country.

The Programme team additionally focused on leveraging IT mechanisms to end violence against women and girls, using crowdsourcing and participatory methods to do so. For example, the IT community was mobilized (as a broader civil society actor) through a hackathon to co-create IT-based solutions to GBV. Within 48 hours, 53 developers worked on 4 thematic issues: violence against women, violence against children, violence against children of migrants, and the safety of people with disabilities. The hackathon resulted in 18 IT products out of which 3 teams were awarded with financial support from the Spotlight Initiative to develop their products. These are: (1) SmartJomok (smart fairy tale), a web resource for parents on how to read fairy tales with their

children and help them to analyse and draw lessons. The selected tales also promote gender equality and non-discrimination and help parents nurture these values in their children. (2) Chatbot, an app that provides information on how to access help if you are facing GBV, with contacts of crisis centres and law enforcement bodies; and (3) Map of wishes, an Android application that connects people in need of support with those who are willing to provide it, increasing the access of those hit hardest by the lockdown and pandemic to material, financial, and emotional support. Additionally, the Programme provided basic materials for 80 young women and girls – identified jointly with local self-governments as being at risk of domestic violence and discrimination during the COVID quarantine – to learn digital and IT professions.

In sum, the Programme continues to work with the UNiTE women’s movement and members across the moderate spectrum of Kyrgyzstani civil society to develop strategies for more effective and meaningful support to women’s right groups, autonomous social movements, and individual CSOs to influence and advance progress on gender equality, women’s empowerment, and EVAWG.

## Rights Holders (“Beneficiaries”)

Indicative numbers	Direct for 2020	Indirect for 2020	Commentaires / Justifications
Women (18 yrs. and above)	45,972	2,086,822	
Girls (5-17)	6,963	44,700	
Men (18 yrs. and above)	11,040		
Boys (5-17 yrs.)	49,353		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>113,328 (+117,000) =230,328</b>	2,131,522	<i>“Spring in Bishkek” game has been downloaded 117,000+ times, meaning its messages have reached at least 117,000 young girls and boys across Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Russia, Ukraine and a few other countries. But no disaggregated data on the users is available.</i>

## Challenges and Mitigating Measures

Since the COVID pandemic has evolved in distinct ways across different stages in 2020, the SI Programme has systematically reviewed its operations and adapted programme interventions to the changing context. Though most of the field level activities were postponed until 2021, the Programme continued remote strategizing, co-creating, and training of CSO implementing partners in media self-assessment, GALS, and C4D. The research component, which had entailed in-person participatory methods, required an urgent adaptation given travel restrictions during the pandemic and quarantine. Ultimately, a redesigned methodology was produced, using telephone interviews, hiring a company to contact a randomized sample of respondents, and sensitizing interviewers to interviewing women and girls on the SGBV topic at the grassroots level. Additionally, the IP hired supervisors to conduct an inventory of service providers' brick-and-mortar sites, visiting each site, interviewing staff, and taking pictures. The program also adapted activities with the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) to mitigate the risk of heightened SGBV and violence against children during quarantine, building the capacity of social pedagogues who then provided consultations over the phone to quarantined girls and boys. Many families struggled to use unfamiliar technologies and devices for remote school classes during quarantine, and this effort had the added benefit of supporting the MoES to ensure continuity of children's education.

Activities not requiring physical interactions were moved to online platforms after extensive IT training and awareness-raising about available free platforms (Miro, Mural, Zoom, Skype for business, Google platforms, etc.) among Government counterparts and CSO partners. Thus, most of the kick-off and exploration workshops for the Inter-Ministerial Working Group developing the new Gender Equality Strategy were facilitated remotely by international consultants from NormannPartners and Oxford University using the Mural platform, allowing for simultaneous online interactions between groups.

The political changes that began in October and continuous Cabinet reorganization thereafter have further impacted the Programme, with much of the government's institutional memory of the Programme lost. This has affected the implementation timeline for activities with national-level state partners, particularly those in law enforcement, a sector that has faced higher turnover rates compared to others. Programme implementation was therefore accelerated from November 2020 onwards by re-engaging national counterparts on a bilateral basis. The team also maintained relationships with district authorities to counter delays in implementation at the national level caused by the Cabinet changes.

Within this challenging context, the team has made considerable progress in advancing the One UN agenda and reaping its benefits. As the RUNOs adjusted to the new way of working in light of Spotlight's transformational agenda, the team was able to overcome a number of minor stumbling blocks in coordination and communication. These initial hurdles included delays in

the recruitment and onboarding of the Secretariat and some RUNO staff, whose roles were related to filling coordination and programme implementation gaps, and creating a coordinated approach where almost 70% of staff members were new. To accelerate inter-agency coordination and coherence and address this latter challenge, the Programme Coordination Unit (PCU) conceptualized and launched so-called “Pathways of Change” online talks to come to shared understanding of programme theories of change and EVAWG principles, to unpack concepts, to understand details of activities planned by each RUNO, and to map out change pathways under each Pillar. Additionally, dedicated pillar-leads coordinated programmatic activities, while terms of reference (TOR) for programme activities and other conceptual work was done by a joint technical team. One UN visibility and communications are also used to ensure that the Spotlight Initiative programme is seen as a united team within the UN system in the Kyrgyz Republic. Peer review of TORs has led to joint procurement whenever it adds value. These elements of joint delivery under UN Reform have led to greater efficiency, internal cohesion, and communication, both within the team and with external partners.

## **Lessons Learned and New Opportunities**

### **a. Lessons Learned**

Over the reporting period, key lessons were learned regarding the capacities of government partners and the need to provide them with further support; the challenges of implementing innovative methods that are new to the project team itself; and the need to expand the scope of experts involved in the program.

During the SI Programme design phase, it was assumed that key government partners would have the necessary sensitization to gender concerns, EVAWG, and democratic principles to recognize the value of and immediately engage in activities upon project launch. Early SI work with some of counterparts revealed that this was not the case, even for state partners that had been engaged in EVAWG and GEWE before. For example, staff of the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and lawyers engaged in the ‘Bus of Solidarity’ lacked a concept of the full scope of concerns involved in representing trauma survivors, and particularly VAWG survivors. Meanwhile, many Members of Parliament and staff of the Office of Parliament were not familiar with civic engagement principles and did not see the value in having members of the public participate in policy-making. The early stages of SI Programme implementation thus involved a realization, on the part of the SI Technical Team (TT), that the values and principles underlying the SI Programme were not necessarily shared across core counterparts, while gaps in skills and knowledge needed to be addressed.

To overcome these unexpected setbacks, the SI team provided gender-transformative experiential learning programs for the staff of beneficiary ministries, with an orientation toward practical, on-the-job implementation of the lessons learned. For example, staff of the Ministry of Justice were trained on the full scope of gender and EAWG concerns entailed by providing legal aid, with on-the-job coaching included to make the lessons more concrete. In 2021 and beyond, the Spotlight Initiative will prioritize strengthening the interface between Parliament and the public and will continue to work with MPs and Parliamentary staff to orient them toward gender equality theories, principles and values, facilitating this process to help MPs and parliamentary staff to see the value in public participation. Ultimately, the SI Programme team has derived from these experiences the lessons that: (1) ideally during the programme design phase – but if not, then as early in program implementation as possible – assess counterparts to see if they share the values of the program and have the skills and knowledge necessary for implementing activities; (2) integrate into the program design a plan/series of concrete activities (and corresponding budget and time) to bring counterparts up to speed with core programmatic values and knowledge while maintaining the program’s overall momentum; (3) involve a wider group of individuals in program design.

Similarly, staff of the PCU and RUNOs have sometimes struggled to implement the innovative and transformative methods described in the Project Document, given that for the most part of SI TT this is the first time using the named methodologies and tools. One of the strategies being used to address this issue is to “learn by doing”, with direct engagement by RUNO and PCU members in implementing the transformative practices named in the Programme Document (e.g. the Oxford Scenario Planning Approach). A second strategy is to hold regular “innovation talks”, which provide team members a chance to discuss and reflect on innovative methods and are to be held on a regular basis beginning in 2021. Ultimately, a core lesson has been that when innovative and transformative methods are being used, team members and leaders must recognize that the methods are unfamiliar and thus that internal investment, understanding, and mutual support is needed for staff to properly learn and apply them.

Based on this, the Programme team and leadership at the Ministry of Labour and Social Development (MLSD) are exploring available expertise and have invited experts specializing in religion, traditional culture, and political research to planning sessions. Six experts agreed to join the process, which is to be continued in 2021.

## **b. New Opportunities**

The challenges encountered when working with the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), described above, have created the unexpected opportunity for the Programme to work with the MoJ in a participatory re-thinking of the Bus of Solidarity to tailor this intervention to the needs of SGBV survivors and to strengthen survivor-centred approaches in legal aid service delivery. This envisages a series of co-creation and brainstorming sessions engaging the Ministry of Justice as a key coordination



body, the Ministry of Health and Social Development and all other relevant stakeholders, including at the community level. The co-creation process will be accompanied by the roll-out of a gender transformative experiential learning system for lawyers and other experts involved in the work of the Bus of Solidarity, allowing them to critically assess and eventually change their own gender beliefs and attitudes. As an expected outcome, the Bus of Solidarity will transform into a new scalable model to promote legal awareness as a tool to challenge discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes, and to contribute to an increased capacity of women and girls to claim equality before the law. This new model will pave an important groundwork for building institutional capacities and leading institutions to work toward removing institutional and organizational barriers and power imbalances that prevent effective work toward EVAWG.

## **Innovative, Promising or Good Practices**

Pillar 1 and Pillar 2 activities have used a promising practice to conduct the national Gender Equality Strategy (GES) planning process, introducing improved ways for key government actors to plan for the future and engage diverse partners in the process. Specifically, the Programme engaged the Inter-Ministerial Working Group (IWG) under the Ministry of Labour and Social Development (or MLSD, the ministry responsible for gender equality issues) to integrate new tools such as adaptive leadership, positive deviance, and Oxford Scenario planning when drafting the GES. OSPA created space for the IWG to engage in strategic conversations around the subject of gender equality, encouraged reframing of the GE concept, reduced groupthink and helped to generate fresh ideas. These tools introduced non-linear processes, self-learning, and adaptation to the MHLSD's approach, and revealed the need to engage a larger pool of experts with broader spheres of knowledge into the GES-development process. Having recognized that budget and resources will be constrained in the coming decade, evaluating strategy and plans across scenarios indicated options to perform activities differently, triggering a shift in thinking and enabling a more creative and pro-active stance. Thus, it broke the 'silo expertise' norm of engaging only 5 external experts and 12 members of the IWG, resulting in a shift towards an 'integrated approach' of engaging a broader expert community (focusing on religion, politics, economics, anthropology, and traditional culture studies, etc.). By the end of 2020, the number of people joining expert discussions reached 62 people. The overall process was facilitated by professional experts from NormanPartners and Oxford University. The OSPA tool can be a timely solution because the country was experiencing massive uncertainties caused by political unrest and the fallout from the Covid-19 pandemic, which will provide an opportunity for continuous learning and improvement of this practice.

Meanwhile, to pave the way for the MLSD's new methods – and its resulting GES – to be embraced by other government partners, the Programme delivered a separate presentation on the Oxford Scenario Planning Approach (OSPA) to the Ministry of Economy (MoE), receiving positive feedback because it enables an organization's leadership to reframe its perspectives; to re-perceive changes in its context; to surface, examine and challenge its strategic assumptions; to rehearse responses; and to better prepare for plausible and significant changes in its context. This improves the MoE's ability to adapt to the future when the context is perceived as turbulent, uncertain, novel and ambiguous – as is currently the case in Kyrgyzstan. This decision to introduce other government entities to the promising practices being instilled in our core SI Programme partner is itself considered a promising practice, as – while its ultimate results are still unproven – it has received positive testimonials and is expected to pave the way for the more adaptive Gender Equality Strategy to be adopted and implemented.

In an example of an innovative practice, individuals, resources, and methodologies from across the SI Programme have been combined to inform and re-shape the Bus of Solidarity (BoS) initiative, adapting its mobile legal services model to supporting SGBV survivors. When beginning to integrate the BoS into SI programming, the team realized that of the 30,000 rural women and men who have received legal support through the Bus of Solidarity since 2016, none have been SGBV survivors. Reflecting on why this is so, both the Programme team and staff of the Ministry of Justice came to a shared understanding that in its current iteration, the BoS cannot ensure the safety and confidentiality of survivors should they be willing to seek support from its lawyers. Given that many SGBV survivors put their health and lives at risk by help-seeking within the social context of their communities, this lack of full confidentiality presents a major obstacle both to these survivors seeing the BoS as a realistic avenue of support and to that support being provided in a way that does not expose them to greater risk of harm.

To address these issues, the Programme team and staff of the Ministry of Justice will facilitate a participatory re-thinking of the concept of the Bus of Solidarity involving a core group of 'positive deviant' gender equality champions, setting up these sessions as part of diverse community-level activities. The re-conceptualization of the BoS will be guided by a survivor-centred approach whereby the rights, needs and wishes of the survivor are paramount. Furthermore, the lawyers who will provide these critical services – and travel across the country to do so – will be trained in Gender Action Learning System (GALS) tools to foster self-reflection and understanding of power imbalances, leading eventually to real changes in attitudes and behaviours at the individual and family levels. The expected change in attitudes and behaviour will, in turn, become instrumental in co-creating the new concept of the BoS aimed at serving the needs of SGBV survivors. Notably, the GALS methodology and tools have already been tested via a UN Women – EIDHR project in Kyrgyzstan, with this planned intervention being the first application of the methodology to a central-level institutional setting and for use in generating a shared vision and roadmap for a national program (i.e. the BoS). The SI Programme team will closely monitor and document the

results of the innovative practice to determine its promise (particularly related to scalability and sustainability) for ongoing use and further applications.

This is an excellent example of the Programme team integrating 4 elements of institutional leadership on ending VAWG into programming: GALS training to key service providers so that they live the value of gender equality and apply a zero-tolerance approach to violence against women and girls; a co-creation process for effective and proactive leadership support, including the allocation of appropriate resources (Ministry of Justice has appointed a dedicated focal point person); linking to community level activities for effective coordination and coherence at vertical and horizontal level; and engaging SGBV survivors and local level GALS champions to ensure their meaningful presence and participation.

Finally, within Pillar 3, the Programme has been exploring new opportunities under the overall Communication for Development (C4D) concept. One innovative tool currently being explored is that of interactive stories for smartphones, as such methods are inexpensive to produce, have the potential for widespread outreach, are highly accessible given the prevalence of smartphones, and can be effective in shaping alternative behaviours. With these benefits in mind, the SI Programme team developed the “Interactive Stories for Girls” initiative to address inconsistencies between official legal-regulatory frameworks (i.e. domestic and international laws) that stipulate the protection of girls’ and women’s rights and attitudes about socially acceptable behaviours, gender stereotypes, and patriarchal practices, especially in rural regions of Kyrgyzstan. This led to the previously mentioned “Spring in Bishkek” game, an interactive 10-chapter animated story around a forced abduction for marriage, including 5 scenarios on positive masculinity. The prototype passed a field test among the target audience of 120 active young women in Issyk-Kul, Batken, Osh, Chui oblasts and Bishkek. The test aimed at checking if the messages were understandable for the adolescent girls and young women, if the language/ words used by the characters of the game were relevant and commonly used, if the situations described were relatable, and if the visuals used in the game were attractive for the target group in order to make the game effective. Additionally, it has been tested among volunteers from the video-production sector and gender experts. The story has been uploaded into the mobile application and transferred into the new platform, with the game receiving a 4.8 rating on average, 4,685,609 views for the entire period of advertising campaign; 2,606 users leaving positive feedback in Play Market; 117,000 downloads during 2020. Work is ongoing to assess the extent to which the game has an impact on the gender beliefs and attitudes of players (and ideally practices as well), and thus the extent to which it generates a meaningful transformation in women’s and girls’ lived experiences.

## Communications and visibility

In response to the Covid-19 outbreak and national state of emergency, the SI Technical Team and communication focal points from each RUNO jointly developed – and continually updated – a brief Communication Action Plan, which was integrated into the general *Communication and Visibility Plan 2020-2021 of Spotlight Initiative (SI) in Kyrgyz Republic*.

Throughout the year Spotlight Communication team was in close contact and cooperation with EU Delegation’s communication specialist to agree on press-releases, visibility and advocacy items to make sure EU is properly represented.

All communication and visibility activities, products developed within SI in Kyrgyzstan are in line with global Communication and Visibility objectives covering specific indicators and achieving first results:

- **Objective #1: Raise awareness of VAWG, harmful practices, child marriages and ala-kachuu and its prevalence in Kyrgyzstan.** By publicizing data and supportive facts, creative messaging to key audiences, exhibiting thought leadership on violence against women and girls, media sensitization and training.

*i. Percentage of people who think it is justifiable for a man to (subject) beat his wife/intimate partner (to violence), by sex and age.*

Due to the partnership with Kyrgyzstan’s highest-distribution newspaper and online infotainment resource Super Info, key messages to generate behavioural changes on domestic violence have reached about 100,000 readers across the country (the target audience being remote, Kyrgyz-speaking regions) and about 300,000 viewers on YouTube, Instagram and the Super Info website. In Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan’s capital city with more than 1 million residents, Billboard campaign conveyed messages on new social norms and shared GBV response hotline numbers. Both partnerships were initiated within 16-Days campaign.

Leaflets on key algorithms how to secure while facing aggressor, hotlines and other useful information have reached 15,000 domestic violence victims, medical workers and hotline consultants. This was done within the partnership with Ministry of social development.

*ii. Percentage of audience with accurate knowledge on the prevalence of VAWG*

Partnership with Super Info with approximate number of 400,000 people reached in total, billboard campaign with mayor’s office of Bishkek reached estimated number of 1 million residents, approximately half a million people were reached by the “Kyz Kiyaly” (Girls’ Dreams) TV and online programme.

- **Objective #2: Illustrate and promote the impact and results of Spotlight Initiative-supported interventions:** By finding, sharing and promoting the stories of women and

girls whose lives have been positively transformed by Spotlight Initiative-supported interventions.

*iii. Output Indicator 3.3.3: Number of new and other media stories/reports that sensitively report on VAWG and GEWE more broadly*

From May to December 2020, the Spotlight Initiative has been mentioned 125 times in local and international media outlets. This number covers 5 press-releases, 12 articles, separate media pitches on programme-related activities, and 20 TV interviews and programmes through which SI representatives and implementing partners shared their gender expertise with the public. These information and advocacy materials were covered by some of the nation's largest news agencies, with daily coverage of 100,000 people each (including social media pages) – Azattyk, Sputnik, Kaktus, Kabar, and more.

- **Objective #3: Provide communications for development support to strengthen Spotlight Initiative's programme design and implementation:** By influencing the creation and delivery of behaviour-change and culture-shift activities, campaigns and initiatives.

*i. Output Indicator 3.2.2: Number of people reached by campaigns challenging harmful social norms and gender stereotyping*

The "Spring in Bishkek" game was launched with the support of the SI Programme to prevent marriages by kidnapping, reaching 30,000 downloads in the first 10 days (the annual target being to reach 25,000 players).

The social media campaign "Letter to my 13-year-old self" became a brand-raising awareness activity that reached the general public, including social media influencers. In total, we received more than 300 motivation letters and more than 200,000 comments for the posts shared by both "regular" women and social media influencers.

Approximately half a million people were reached by the "Kyz Kiyaly" (Girls' Dreams) programme, broadcast on online platforms and the national TV channel ELTR with the aim of changing social norms by presenting young gender activists advocating for gender equality.

At least 4 big campaigns were initiated and/or supported by SI in Kyrgyzstan: 16-Days Campaign, social media campaign "Letter to my 13-years-old self", outdoor campaign with mayor's office of Bishkek and online movement "Jetishet".

- **Objective #4: Ensure visibility for the Spotlight Initiative, its donors and partners:** By coordinating consistent and coherent branding, high-profile endorsements from social influencers, top-tier media placements, organizing publicity events and campaigns.

As a first visibility milestone, a press-release on Safe spaces to protect women and girls from violence arranged as part of the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative in Kyrgyzstan was broadly disseminated in local media. This also served to publicly announce the launch of the Spotlight Initiative in

Kyrgyzstan. From this launch to October 2020, all communication activities were in support of SI activities responding to the pandemic and the needs of women and girls in the country. The last quarter of 2020 saw a further strengthening of advocacy efforts, with the Spotlight Initiative leading advocacy around key international dates (e.g. the International Day of the Girl Child and the 16-Days of Activism campaign) on behalf of the UN in Kyrgyzstan.

From May to December 2020, the Spotlight Initiative has been mentioned 125 times in local and international media outlets. This number covers 5 press-releases, 12 articles, separate media pitches on programme-related activities, and 20 TV interviews and programmes through which SI representatives and implementing partners shared their gender expertise with the public. These information and advocacy materials were covered by some of the nation's largest news agencies, with daily coverage of 100,000 people each (including social media pages) – [Azattyk](#), [Sputnik](#), [Kaktus](#), [Kabar](#), and more. Approximately half a million people were reached by the “Kyz Kiyaly” (Girls’ Dreams) programme, broadcast on online platforms and the national TV channel ELTR with the aim of changing social norms by presenting young gender activists advocating for gender equality. Thanks to the SI Programme’s partnership with Kyrgyzstan’s highest-distribution newspaper and online infotainment resource [Super Info](#), key messages to generate behavioral changes have reached about 100,000 readers across the country (the target audience being remote, Kyrgyz-speaking regions) and about 300,000 viewers on YouTube, Instagram and the Super Info website. In Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan’s capital city with more than 1 million residents, Billboard campaigns conveyed messages on new social norms and shared GBV response hotline numbers. Fifteen thousand [leaflets](#) for domestic violence victims, medical workers and hotline consultants have been produced and disseminated in support of the Ministry of Labor and Social Development. And as mentioned previously in the report, the “[Spring in Bishkek](#)” game was launched with the support of the SI Programme to prevent marriages by kidnapping, reaching 30,000 downloads in the first 10 days (the annual target being to reach 25,000 players).

#### **a) Messages**

One of the key messages of SI in Kyrgyzstan **#GirlsCan (#ДевочкиМогут)** – signifying girls’ and women’s power to free themselves from the fear of judgement and social norms – was widely disseminated through SI activities, platforms and tools to reach the general population though with a special focus on girls. A particularly successful campaign under the #GirlsCan banner was the social media challenge, “Letter to my 13-year-old self” ([#ПисьмоСебе13Летней](#)), through which young women and girls reflected on their lives and wrote letters and stories to their younger selves. This received high public engagement, conveying messages of girls’ empowerment effectively and broadly through personal stories.

The “Kyz Kiyaly” TV and online programme conveyed the same message, though with more comprehensive messaging on non-discrimination and breaking through social prejudices. The program provided success stories of young women who choose “unfeminine” professions or

overcame challenges to achieve success, triggering the broader audience to consider changing social standards toward women and girls.

For the 16-Days of Activism, the Spotlight team developed 10 key messages on changing old social norms to new standards. Through a billboard campaign and social media challenge, messages were shared to nudge the general population away from old ways of thinking to embrace new, non-discriminatory beliefs and approaches. Here are some examples of messages: *“Tomorrow depends on what we do today, now, at this very moment”*, *“Violence against me is not just my private matter, thus I speak up to obtain support and share my experience.”*, *“True Family is love, respect and mutual support.”*

While some activists suggested improvements to the visuals – i.e. to make them brighter and have stronger images of women – there was much positive feedback and recognition of the campaign among general population.

#### ***b) Media and visibility events***

For the public launch of the Spotlight Initiative in Kyrgyzstan, a press-release on support provided to crisis shelters was broadly disseminated, covered in 15 online media outlets, and via 10 TV and radio interviews with SI representatives and members of the gender equality team of the Ministry of Social Labour and Development.

For the launch of the 16-Days Campaign, the Spotlight Initiative and Super Info, the biggest newspaper and online infotainment platform in the country, organized an online concert with the participation of local celebrities. The songs and messages shared via this concert called for a stop to the violence against women and girls and for empowering and supporting every woman and girl. This online launch reached about half a million viewers on YouTube, Instagram and through the Super Info website.

Three articles and the cover page of the print version of the Super Info newspaper that were dedicated to the 16-Days Campaign reached about 100,000 readers across the country.

Thanks to a partnership with the national TV Channel ELTR, three episodes of “Kyz Kiyaly” reached about one million viewers each. “Kyz Kiyaly” was launched as part of the International Day of the Girl Child celebration in Kyrgyzstan, aimed at showcasing success stories of young women and gender activists.

With the support of Spotlight, on June 1, 2020, UNICEF-Kyrgyzstan and the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic organized a live “First Children’s Summit” on National TV, discussing how to prevent gender-based violence during the quarantine with adolescents from all regions of Kyrgyzstan. The Vice Prime Minister of Kyrgyz Republic and UNICEF Country Representative participated in the Summit, which was re-broadcasted by 15 TV channels and had more than 100 media mentions and an estimated reach of 1.5 million people.

### **c) Campaigns**

As mentioned previously, the Spotlight Initiative led the 16-Days Campaign in Kyrgyzstan with UN agencies and the involvement and visibility of other development partners, including EU and civil society. The key tagline of the Campaign was “Orange the world! Stop the violence”. The three key issues addressed in the Campaign were: the growing number of domestic violence cases (especially during the COVID-19 crisis); the lack of women’s representation in decision-making; and social norms that reinforce harmful practices and VAWG. The list of communication activities was led, supported, and coordinated by the Spotlight Communication Team, including those that were implemented by national partners. In addition to the aforementioned partnership with Super Info and outdoor advocacy, UNICEF and UNFPA produced advocacy videos on positive masculinity and women’s leadership, while UNDP organized a public fundraising event to support shelters and crisis centres, a series of guest lectures for university students, a series of human interest stories of women-leaders, and interviews with SI representatives and partners which were pitched to media.

The social media campaign “Letter to my 13-year-old self” became a brand-raising awareness activity that reached the general public, including social media influencers. In total, we received more than 300 motivation letters and more than 200,000 comments for the posts shared by both “regular” women and social media influencers.

To raise awareness on GBV-prevention and response hotlines, the Spotlight Initiative supported the Bishkek Mayor’s Office’s billboard campaign. More than 40 billboards across the city were put up, calling for a stop to domestic violence and informing citizens about the hotlines.

Spotlight supported the digital movement #Jetishet (“Enough”), aimed at stopping online harassment and discrimination against women. The campaign is jointly led by well-known gender activists and social media influencers, with Spotlight providing a platform for gender media experts sessions. This partnership was launched last year and will continue with more programme-oriented support this year.

### **d) Human interest stories:**

Human interest stories are being developed based on the stories of girls and women who are beneficiaries of the Spotlight Initiative in Kyrgyzstan, as well as interviews with local activists and gender champions who are advocating and being supported by the Spotlight Initiative. Stories are developed based on programme implementation: Story 1: Pillar 4, Output 4.2, Story 2: Pillar 3 Output 3.2, Story 3: Pillar 3, Output 3.2, Story 4: Pillar 1, Output 1.1

#### ***In the Kyrgyz Republic, lockdowns force crisis centres to close their doors. (Pillar 4, output 4.2)***

This story of Ainura, a victim of domestic violence, was published on the [global Spotlight website](#) and the UN Kyrgyzstan website. Before the COVID-19 crisis, more than one in four Kyrgyz women



experienced physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence in their lifetimes. In the capital of Bishkek, the rate of violence against women and girls has increased by more than 60 per cent compared to the same period the previous year.



Copyright UNFPA Kyrgyzstan

***How a mobile game is helping to end bride-kidnapping in Kyrgyzstan.*** This story was published on the [Spotlight website](#). The game was developed by the Open Line Public Fund to help young people learn how to deal with the widespread practice of *Ala-Kachuu*, the abduction of girls and women for the purpose of forced marriage. Meaning “to take and run away”, *Ala-Kachuu* involves a potential groom forcibly taking a young woman or girl back to his home before pressuring her to agree to marriage. Although illegal in Kyrgyzstan and punishable by up to 10 years in prison, *Ala-Kachuu* remains widespread. According to UNICEF, a total of 147 cases were reported between 2014 and 2018 across the country, although true numbers are likely far higher, with some studies estimating that one in five Kyrgyz girls is affected by bride-kidnapping.



Copyright "Spring in Bishkek"

***Bridging the gap: Kyrgyz students design a novel solution to support at-risk groups.*** This story was published on the [Spotlight website](#). Katya Shin and Sarah Niyazakhunova, both first-year software engineering students at the Kyrgyz-German University in Bishkek, watched the health crisis unfolding and knew that they wanted to help. In May, they joined forces in an online hackathon supported by Spotlight Initiative to do just that.



Copyright UNICEF Kyrgyzstan

***In Kyrgyzstan, pandemic-related domestic violence increases vulnerabilities.*** This story was published on the [UN Women regional website](#) and is currently being edited by the Secretariat to be published on the Spotlight website. According to UN Women's Gender Rapid Assessment of COVID-19's impact in Kyrgyzstan, 32% of respondents (29% of men and 34% of women) have heard of an increase in domestic violence or experienced it themselves. The number is twice as high in urban than rural areas. The gender rapid assessment was conducted with the support of the Swiss Government, European Union, United Nations joint Spotlight Initiative, and UNFPA.



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***How women are changing Kyrgyzstan's Alimony Laws for the better.*** This story was published on the [Spotlight website](#). In August 2020, Kyrgyzstan adopted amendments to its Family Code to better enable women and children to collect alimony (financial support that must be paid to a spouse before or after a marital separation or divorce). In 2018, the country documented over 40,000 alimony evaders.

The amended law increases access to alimony payments for children and mothers by strengthening the consequences for evaders and adding new criteria. The draft law was promoted by the Spotlight Initiative in close collaboration with civil activists and lawyers.

### ***e) Testimonials:***

"I am very happy with open-minded and supportive approach of Spotlight colleagues. Especially, I appreciate their innovative way of thinking. I am sure jointly we can advance gender agenda in

the country,” – Munara Beknarazarova, Head of Open Line Foundation, Implementing partner of Spotlight Kyrgyzstan.

“Gender inequality starts in our heads. I believe Spotlight team will bring comprehensive behavioral and social changes in our country,” – Benazir Kaliyeva, gender activist.

“Discrimination is not a theory. I face discrimination the whole my life because I am a girl and have disability. But I am working every day on myself and with girls around to empower us and not to let us down,” – Ukei Muratalieva, gender and civil activists.

“Girls rights are important not only for girls. As reproductive health trainer and activist I am working with girls and boys to sexual education to help everyone realize that family is about two partners,” – Uluk Batyrgaliev, representative of Alliance on reproductive health.

## **f) Photos**



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**Tolkun Tulekova**, *Director of Association of crisis centers. During the COVID-19 outbreak in Kyrgyzstan she was one of the organizers of shelters for victims of domestic violence. Shelters were supported by Spotlight Initiative. Tolkun also initiated a hotline of psychological help during the lockdown, but the line also served as a call center for any requests starting from food to medicine.*



Copyright Spotlight Initiative in Kyrgyzstan

**Tamara Bayaliyeva**, *Chief Doctor of Tuberculosis Hospital of Bishkek*. During the COVID-19 outbreak she was one of the frontline workers in a red zone working with COVID-19 patients. There were days when she didn't sleep for more than 36 hours, helping up to 185 patients per day.



Copyright Spotlight Initiative in Kyrgyzstan

**Zharkynai Taalaibekova**, school student, volunteer. She organized volunteer's groups with her friends during the COVID-19 lockdown, got special permission from local authorities and provided support to vulnerable families. She used her Instagram account to search for families who need help with food, medicine or any other special assistance.

### **g) Videos**

**Video story about the game “Spring in Bishkek” to stop bride kidnapping in Kyrgyzstan.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2CFt5Ve15Q4>

**Video story about short-term shelters for domestic violence victims opened during the COVID-19 lockdown**

[https://yadi.sk/i/9FckUI\\_zWJqyjw](https://yadi.sk/i/9FckUI_zWJqyjw)

**Advocacy video “What do safety and safe environment mean for you?”**

[https://yadi.sk/d/MEj2xdBwHYKKaQ/UNFPA\\_interview\\_rolik\\_ENG.mp4?w=1](https://yadi.sk/d/MEj2xdBwHYKKaQ/UNFPA_interview_rolik_ENG.mp4?w=1)

**Social media animated video cards with Spotlight key advocacy messages**

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1vxiXDzgbnoitie-8a3w1L9yal01ID5IK>

## Next Steps

In 2021, the team will take key next steps to advance and strengthen coherence and coordination. **Notably, the PCU, in coordination with the SI TT, will organize, launch, and continue the following:**

- A planning retreat to discuss the most pressing issues related to coordination, coherence, communication, stakeholder's engagement and Programme implementation;
- Working meetings of the CSNRG with the participation of the SI TT to discuss group plans, expectations from the Programme (and vice-versa), as well as the Programme Pathways for Change (ToCs), risks and mitigation measures; Monitoring visits of CSNRG;
- Regular meetings of the SI TT and CSNRG to discuss ongoing progress and priorities, agree on relevant action points, and keep track of the Programme's implementation in a coordinated and coherent manner;
- Regular meetings with the EUD at the technical level and at the senior management level to discuss Programme progress, challenges, ways of overcoming these challenges, and possible avenues for collaboration with other EUD projects and Programmes to generate mutually reinforcing results;
- Regular meetings of the SI TT with the RC and HoAs to discuss progress, priorities, challenges, risks and mitigation measures;
- The process of elaborating a strategy to manage the expectations of different national civil society actors towards the SI Programme, and well as the risk management strategy;
- Technical-level meetings with national counterparts and the SI TT to ensure an in-depth and shared understanding of the Programme's Pathways of Change;
- The process of reflecting on and documenting the experience of SI coordination, as part of implementing the knowledge management strategy;
- Regular TT working sessions to reflect on lessons learned and on improving coherence and joint ways of working;
- Work with RUNOs and partners to work on monitoring strategies and tools to capture qualitative, gender-transformative changes;
- Local-level presentations of the Programme to provide information about SI and its plans and goals, and to collect recommendations on how to further translate them into actions and adaptations;

- Self-assessment and reflection on the capacity-building needs of the Programme team, with involvement of relevant experts to deliver capacity-building activities based on experiential learning principles, ultimately developing a conducive environment for achieving gender-transformative results.

## **Additionally, a summary of key programmatic next steps by pillar is as follows:**

### **PILLAR 1:**

- Professionals from NonmannPartners and Oxford University will provide 3 rounds of workshops on orientation, scenario building and strategizing to help the Inter-Ministerial Working Group (IMG) to integrate scenarios into the Gender Equality Strategy. Furthermore, the draft of the strategy, action plan, and costing analysis will be presented and reviewed by regional stakeholders during public hearings in 7 provinces. After all the commenting period is completed, inputs will be addressed and the IWG will prepare and present the final document to the Government for review and approval;
- The CSO partners who led the analysis of judicial practice in child marriage cases will present their report and recommendations to judicial and law enforcement representatives, as well as other relevant stakeholders;
- The Programme team will finalize and present the report on legislative and policy frameworks to address VAWG stakeholders. Once the results are available, the Programme team will further explore opportunities to support national partners and CSOs to develop necessary by-laws, advocate for changes, and address the gaps and opportunities identified in the report.

### **PILLAR 2:**

- A company will be hired to develop a protocol and mechanisms for dealing with sexual harassment at the work place, which will be designed in-line with the draft law on Sexual Harassment currently being reviewed in Parliament;
- The GALS methodology and tools which were successfully tested at the community level during the EU-funded EIDHR project will be further reviewed and adapted to institutions at the central level. Trainings of trainers will be conducted to expand the pool of GALS trainers to further help test GALS at selected partner institutions;
- Gender audits of targeted justice and security state institutions will be completed in 2021, with key findings presented to national stakeholders. Appropriate action plans will



be developed to strengthen institutions' gender-sensitivity and improve their service delivery, in-line with international human rights standards and human rights-based, survivor-oriented approaches;

- The Programme team will support the development of educational curricula for security & justice actors (police, judges, prosecutors and lawyers) to enhance institutional gender-sensitive and survivor-centred criminal justice practices;
- Those leading the assessment of the design and pilot of a “one-stop” crisis center for victims of violence will present their results and a detailed financial costing.
- A joint tender will be launched by UNDP and UNFPA under Pillar 2 on the development and institutionalization of educational modules for security and justice actors (i.e. police, judges, prosecutors and lawyers), including a comprehensive capacity-building program to mainstream a survivor-centred approach.

### **PILLAR 3:**

- GALS catalysts workshops will be launched in 6 target municipalities to identify a Core Group of GALS champions. This process will be informed by findings of the Ethnographic Review;
  - *GALS exercises will commence in March, 2021, with the community champions identified through the Ethnographic Review;*
  - *GALS tools will be adapted and applied to train teachers and school administrators in target villages to promote gender equality in school environments. These champions will then train fellow teachers in their schools;*
- The media self-assessment tool will be contextualized to and applied by 12 selected media outlets. Gender and media trainings will be designed by a group of local trainers and provided to both print and online media outlets. Based on media self-assessment findings, response plans will be prepared by the 12 media outlets and reviewed by peers during monthly reflection meetings;
  - *The preparatory phase of the media self-assessment is finishing soon (March, 2021) with a kick-off meeting to introduce this exercise to the media outlets. The exercise will last until the end of 2021;*
- Social- and behaviour-change communication strategies will be finalized, with implementation starting in March 2021 and building on the findings of Ethnographic Review;
- The Republican Teacher Training Institute, along with the Programme team, will develop a video training for teachers on how to identify GBV and VAWG, and how to refer the

survivor for services. This is to be proposed for inclusion in the mandatory qualification course for all teachers;

- Trainings will be conducted for potential authors and staff of the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) on gender and anti-discrimination expertise, to be incorporated into their work in generating teaching and learning materials;
- An interdisciplinary, gender-transformative module will be developed to integrate the concepts of Women's and Girls' Rights (WGR), Ending Violence Against Women (EVAW) and Harmful Practices (HP) in the curricula of law faculties at selected public universities;
- The MoJ will support the Bus of Solidarity to: (a) conduct an effective public campaign on women's rights and EVAWG in rural and remote areas of target communities; (b) promote legal awareness as a tool in combating discriminatory social norms, gender stereotypes; and (c) contribute to women and girls' empowerment to claim equality before the law;
- A CSO will be contracted on a non-competitive basis to develop and integrate curricula on gender equality for use by madrasas and vocational schools;
- Consultations will be conducted with the international NGO PROMUNDO – the owner of IMAGES (International Men and Gender Equality Survey), with online trainings organized for a local research team on the methodology of the survey;
- The Programme team will design and deliver capacity-building activities for Local committees on the prevention of domestic violence (LCPDVs) to support their efforts to prevent and respond to GBV cases. Moreover, the Programme will provide support in establishing LCPDV in those areas where it has not been operational yet.

#### **PILLAR 4:**

- A Lead Expert will be hired to strengthen the capacities and set training standards of sectoral service providers on service delivery, in-line with international standards as well as localized referral mechanisms;
- A virtual reality tool will be developed based on a survivor-centered approach and utilized during the training for service providers;
- Access to justice and qualified legal aid for SGBV survivors will be strengthened based on pro-bono mechanisms, including via a partnership with private sector law firms and crisis centers;
- The inter-ministerial database on children and families in difficult life situations will be finalized and launched in target communities;

- Standard operating procedures for the Juvenile Liaison Service and neighborhood police inspectors will be contextualized based on the results of the mapping of GBV services from the perspective of survivors;
- The mapping of GBV services will be finalized in close collaboration with relevant service-providing institutions and presented. Action points to integrate its recommendations into further programming will be developed;
- To contextualize the Essential Services Package (ESP), 10 district-level seminars for service providers are planned for the second and third quarters of 2021. The seminars will be based on the global ESP tool with a focus on practical application of the MSR approach and SOPs to working with SGBV survivors and using monitoring tools;
- SOPs based on the Essential Services Package will be introduced for police, forensics experts, and prosecutors (on providing information on services, as well as guidance on interviewing the survivor victim and taking into account the psychological aspects of her/his condition and protection from secondary victimization following standards of GBV victims' treatment).

#### **PILLAR 5:**

- Capacity-building activities will be held with the General Prosecutor's Office on the 'Unified Register on Crimes and Misdemeanors' to collect and generate consistent, gender-disaggregated data on SGBV, with expected completion of these activities in 2021;
- A CSO will be contracted to launch activities under Pillar 5 to update data-sharing policies, improve data collection methodologies, and integrate ethical protocols into data collection forms.

#### **PILLAR 6:**

- The programme will support the UNiTE women's network to co-create the process 'Leading Change on EAWG' and conduct an all-staff Forum to approve the new UNiTE Secretariat and strategy;
- Another co-creation workshop will be organized for broader CSO community to develop social innovation projects which, financed by the social innovation grant portfolio;
- Interested women led CSOs will be trained in fundraising skills, inclusive and participatory project design;

- A knowledge management (KM) consultant will be hired to develop a KM strategy and document the ‘Leading Change on EVAW’ process, to be further disseminated to a wider audience of CSOs and gender advocates and enhance accountability on SGBV;
- A review of women’s CSOs, movements, and networks will be conducted in 2021 to assess their capacity-building needs;
- The Spotlight Initiative will provide strategic support to CSOs to implement multi-sectoral strategies to improve networking, joint advocacy, and partnerships for EVAWG;
- Leadership courses and hands-on sessions for adolescent girls in target communities will start in 2021, with further integration of girls’ groups and existing women’s organizations for study visits and potential coaching on effective advocacy strategies.

## **ANNEXES**

***Annex A: Results Framework***

***Annex B: Risk Matrix***

***Annex C: CSO Engagement Report***

***Annex D: Promising or Good Practices***

***Annex E: Annual Work Plan***



# Initiative Spotlight

