



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

Spotlight Programme in Tajikistan (SPT)

# Annual Narrative Programme Report

01 January 2020 – 31 December 2020

Initiated by the European Union and the United Nations:



### Programme Title & Programme Number

**Programme Title:** Spotlight Initiative in Tajikistan  
**MPTF Office Project Reference Number<sup>1</sup>:**  
 00119462

### Recipient Organisation(s)

UN Women  
 UNDP  
 UNFPA  
 UNICEF

### Programme Cost (US\$)

**Total Phase I approved budget as per the Spotlight CPD/RPD:** 5,567,038 USD

**Phase I Spotlight funding<sup>2</sup>:** 5,567,038 USD

**Agency Contribution:** 667,037 USD

### Spotlight Funding and Agency Contribution by Agency:

Name of RUNO	Spotlight Phase I (USD)	UN Agency Contributions (USD)
UNDP	1,343,275	239,864
UNFPA	1,214,127	181,897
UNICEF	1,079,059	231,014
UN WOMEN	1,263,539	23,262
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>4,900,000</b>	<b>667,037</b>

### Priority Regions/Areas/Localities for the Programme

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

### Key Partners

**Government:** Committee on Women and Family Affairs; Ministries: Health and Social Protection, Justice, Internal Affairs, Education and Science, Committee on Religious Affairs, Regulation of Traditions, Celebrations and Ceremonies; Agency on Statistics; Supreme Court, Union of Advocates; Attorney General's Office; Office of Ombudsman.

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

### Programme Start and End Dates

**Start Date:**  
 01.01.2020

**End Date:**  
 31.12.2022

**Report Submitted By:** Ms. Sezin Sinanoglu,  
 United Nations Resident Coordinator in  
 Tajikistan

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

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

# Table of Contents

List of Acronyms .....	4
Executive Summary .....	6
Contextual Shifts and Implementation Status .....	9
Programme Governance and Coordination .....	11
Programme Partnerships .....	19
Results .....	23
Capturing Broader Transformations Across Outcomes .....	23
Capturing Change at Outcome Level .....	24
COVID-19 Response .....	33
Rights Holders (Beneficiaries) .....	36
Challenges and Mitigating Measures .....	37
Lessons Learned and New Opportunities .....	38
Innovative, Promising or Good Practices .....	40
Communications and Visibility .....	41
Next Steps .....	47
Annexes .....	53
Annex A: Results Framework .....	54
Annex B: Risk Matrix .....	69
Annex C: CSO Engagement Report .....	73
Annex D: Promising or Good Practices Reporting Template .....	77

## List of Acronyms

<b>AWP</b>	Annual Work Plan
<b>CFPs</b>	Calls for Proposals
<b>CPD</b>	Country Programme Document
<b>CoWFA</b>	Committee on Women and Family Affairs under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan (RT)
<b>CRA</b>	Committee of Religious Affairs and Regulations of Traditions, Ceremonies and Rituals under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan
<b>CS</b>	Civil Society
<b>CSRG</b>	Civil Society Reference Group
<b>CSOs</b>	Civil Society Organisations
<b>CAEs</b>	Centres for Additional Education
<b>C4D</b>	Communication for Development
<b>DV</b>	Domestic Violence
<b>EFCA</b>	Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia - Tajikistan
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>EUD</b>	European Union Delegation in Tajikistan
<b>EVAWG</b>	Ending Violence Against Women and Girls
<b>GALS</b>	Gender Action Learning System
<b>GBV</b>	Gender-Based Violence
<b>GTG</b>	UN Gender Theme Group
<b>HLSE</b>	Healthy Lifestyle Education
<b>HPs</b>	Harmful Practices
<b>IEC</b>	Information, Education and Communication
<b>IPs</b>	Implementing Partners
<b>JWP</b>	Joint Work Plan
<b>KABP</b>	Knowledge, Attitude, Behaviour and Practice
<b>KM</b>	Knowledge Management
<b>LNOB</b>	Leaving No One Behind
<b>LoA</b>	Letter of Agreement
<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>MMPTF</b>	Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund
<b>MoES</b>	Ministry of Education and Science of RT
<b>MoHSPP</b>	Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population of RT
<b>MoIA</b>	Ministry of Internal Affairs of RT
<b>MoJ</b>	Ministry of Justice of RT
<b>MRLs</b>	Muslim Religious leaders

<b>MSCG</b>	Multi-Sectoral Coordination Group
<b>MTDP</b>	Mid-Term Development Programme 2021-2025
<b>NGOs</b>	Non-Governmental Organisations
<b>NSC</b>	National Steering Committee
<b>PO</b>	Public Organisation
<b>PPE</b>	Personal Protective Equipment
<b>PSEA</b>	Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
<b>PSS</b>	Psycho-Social support
<b>RT</b>	Republic of Tajikistan
<b>RC</b>	Resident Coordinator
<b>RCO</b>	Resident Coordinator's Office
<b>RCST</b>	Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan
<b>RfPs</b>	Request for Proposals
<b>ROCG</b>	Regional Open Coordination Group
<b>RUNOs</b>	Recipient UN Organisations
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SGBV</b>	Sex- and Gender-Based Violence
<b>SI</b>	Spotlight Initiative
<b>SPT</b>	Spotlight Programme for Tajikistan
<b>SRHR</b>	Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights
<b>ToR</b>	Terms of Reference
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNDAF</b>	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
<b>UNSG</b>	United Nations Secretary General
<b>VAWG</b>	Violence Against Women and Girls
<b>VSRs</b>	Victim Support Rooms
<b>WROs</b>	Women's Rights Organisations

## Executive Summary

Implementation of the Spotlight Programme for Tajikistan (SPT) commenced in January 2020 focusing initially on critical preparatory actions to ensure coordination and participation. Despite not having the Spotlight Initiative (SI) programme document has not been signed by the Government, Tajikistan has a good delivery rate and has made significant progress. During this reporting period, the SPT, under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator (RC), laid the foundation for the improved programme delivery, effectiveness and sustainability.

The engagement and partnership with the European Union Delegation (EUD), within the new way of working under the UN reform, has been instrumental. The EUD is not only engaged as a donor, but also as a critical partner from the programme design to the implementation stage. Jointly with the UN, they have been advocating with the Government for the programme approval and its successful implementation. In addition, the UN and EUD teams have established communication lines both at the political and technical levels. This arrangement has ensured both partners are in constant communication and kept abreast of the latest SPT developments.

The SPT dedicated time and effort throughout 2020 to lay the groundwork for a dynamic team, in the spirit of the UN Reform. The SPT has established a well-functioning interagency coordination mechanism through creating Task Forces with clearly defined roles and responsibilities, piggybacking on each other's expertise, and leveraging values added by each participating agency. The SPT implementation team has collaborated very closely participating in each other's reviews of draft Terms of References (ToRs) for hiring consultants and selecting CSOs and Implementing Partners (IPs) through comments and recommendations. The implementation team has also reviewed draft reports, information and communication materials that had been developed under the SPT and provided constructive feedback to each other. This has helped not only to gauge the success of collaboration, but also familiarised everyone with each other's work and prevented duplication of efforts.

In addition to the progress made on the programme foundation, the SPT advanced selected activities forward. It is crucial to acknowledge, from the onset, three challenges that have significantly impacted the programme's implementation. First was the unexpected and overarching impact of the COVID-19 pandemic which resulted in shifting focus and priorities in 2020. The Government requested to change the programme's priorities and show immediate support to the pandemic. Second was the political discussion between the EU, the UN, and the Government over the components of the draft programme document. Third were the political changes that took place in the Government of Tajikistan (following the Parliamentary election in March and the Presidential election in October), and the resulting delays in securing the new Government's full involvement in and commitment to the Spotlight Initiative Country Programme Document (CPD).

Delays due to negotiations over the CPD had been anticipated and are acknowledged in the programme's risk assessment (as detailed in the contextual risks in Annex B - Risk Management Report). However, the new Government did not make any decisions on externally funded programmes during October and November 2020, which prompted further delays in the SPT implementation.

Given these delays in the CPD approval in 2020, the SPT team was unable to implement most of the activities planned for that calendar year. However, the SPT team was able to mitigate the negative impact of the Government's delayed endorsement of the CPD by doing some of the

groundwork for the programme implementation by starting some of the planned interventions that had been incorporated into the previous agencies authorised workplans and programming with Government ministries, departments, and agencies, in addition to leading the COVID-19 response in Tajikistan. Examples of these include:

- Comprehensive assessment to determine the current state of data collection on sex- and gender-based violence (SGBV) in Tajikistan; launching the process to revise and harmonise tools and instruments for production, collection, monitoring, and analysis of the SGBV data;
- Development of the training module for Muslim Religious Leaders (MRLs) on Islam and Gender;
- Gender expertise and assessment of interim and annual reports, and of ending Mid-Term Development Programme for 2016-2020; provision of gender-sensitive indicators and recommendations for the new 2021-2025 Mid-Term Development Programme;
- Development of videos promoting positive masculinity and challenging traditional norms among young people (aged 18-21); and
- Localisation of the SGBV case management system to each of the six target districts.

## Key Results

Despite the challenges faced in 2020, the programme was able to implement key activities contributing to the following changes:

Review of key legislation related to sexual and gender-based violence in key sectors to assess gaps in prevention and response to SGBV:

- Development of a methodology **for participatory mapping and analysis of key legislation**, which has enabled the SPT to prepare for the consultations with the Government and Civil Society (after the SPT has been endorsed) on key priorities for legislation review with a view to strengthening the legal framework to eliminate SGBV in Tajikistan. Policies and procedures relevant to SGBV were developed in the justice, health, education, and labour sectors, in line with international standards, to assess gaps in prevention and response to SGBV.

Improving the quality of services through training volunteers, staff, and health care providers, and strengthening referral pathways:

- **Localising and strengthening the pathways at the district level for cooperation** among all actors involved in the referral mechanisms on rendering improved services to women and girls in line with the international human rights standards;
- **Ensuring access to a wider range of services** through the Resource Centre and the 1313 hotline, reaching **1,317 individuals, of whom 107 men and 1,210 women**, who had experienced or were at risk of experiencing violence;
- **Providing support to six NGO-run<sup>3</sup> women centres** during the pandemic so that they were able to continue functioning; 12 staff of the six NGOs offered face-to-face, online and phone psychological, medical and legal support to survivors of violence;
- **110 health professionals** strengthened their knowledge based on the **National Protocol for**

<sup>3</sup> 1) Dushanbe: NGO League of Women with Disabilities 'Ishtirok'; 2) Dushanbe/Vose: NGO Women-Lawyers for Development'; 3) Gissar: NGO Munis; 4) Rudaki: NGO Mumtoz; 5) Khujand/B. Gafurov: NGO Gulrukhsor; 6) Isfara: PO Umed

**provision of quality essential services** for survivors of rape and SGBV, and the adapted UN Essential Service package;

- **3,400 women and girls** who had faced violence and abuse including women and girls with disabilities, TB and HIV, **benefitted from localised national SGBV case management referral mechanism in the six rural pilot districts** (Isfara, B. Gafurov, Vose, Rudaki, Hissar and Yavan), and the capital Dushanbe;
- **2,291 people (1,420 females, including 160 girls** aged between 6 and 18, and **871 males**) received remote psychosocial support (PSS) provided by the remote PSS hub.

Expanding access to services through establishing additional Victim Support Rooms (VSRs) and sustaining critical services:

- The Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Tajikistan (MoHSPP) had committed to launching **10 new VSRs** in addition to the existing functioning 12 rooms, as a result of strong advocacy on the importance of short-term shelters and providing timely medical services to women and girls survivors of violence during the COVID-19 pandemic. **The newly established rooms will have the capacity to accommodate 30 women at any one time** across all Spotlight target districts, contributing to the goal of improving the availability and accessibility of essential services for women and girls who experience violence in Tajikistan.

Adapting to the changes resulting from the pandemic response such as applying new technologies and phone consultations:

- **The SPT utilised the existing structures**, such as the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan (RCST) and their work with volunteers to offer service delivery in emergencies and to strengthen the outreach to SGBV survivors and promote the help-seeking behaviour;
- **120 RCST volunteers were trained in prevention and response to SGBV; they in turn reached 596,000 people** through outreach sessions and home counselling on COVID-19 prevention and providing guidance on violence support services;
- In response to the pandemic, joint plans were developed to adapt the in-person delivery modalities for prevention, risk mitigation and gender-based violence response to remote communities; increased remote assistance to service providers, SGBV survivors and those at risk of violence in the six target districts was provided.

Raising awareness of gender-based discrimination through outreach using various media:

- **70,207 people** were reached via social media through videos that raised awareness of positive parenting practices during COVID-19 with focus on girls' development, education, and mental health. This engagement supported the SPT's goal of elevating public awareness about changing gender norms in the society.

Establishing a Civil Society Reference Group as a key partner for the SPT:

- **The interim Civil Society Reference Group (CSRG), which had** been engaged throughout the programme design and inception stages, successfully **transitioned to a permanent status**. **The CSRG** is composed of ten members representing different groups, regions, expertise and demonstrated experience in gender equality and eliminating violence against women and girls. The CSRG is SPT's key partner which ensures national ownership of the interventions, promotes accountability and oversight, and supports the programme's efforts to engage civil society more broadly continuously and meaningfully through reaching out to those left behind.



## Contextual Shifts and Implementation Status

The year 2020 was an eventful year for Tajikistan. There were number of high-level political events (parliamentary and presidential elections led to changes in key line ministries with whom the SPT team had built strong work relationships before. This challenge was compounded with the unprecedented global pandemic, COVID-19. The pandemic, which started as a health crisis, has become an economic and a ‘human crisis’, which in turn has affected the process of getting the CPD signed by the Government.

To contain the pandemic, Tajikistan closed its borders and imposed a national lockdown, economic activities were put on hold, which caused trade disruptions, thousands lost their jobs, with many falling into poverty. In addition, thousands of Tajik labour migrants in the Russian Federation lost their jobs as a result of the pandemic. The labour migrants were mainly employed in trade, service, transportation, and construction, and were among the first victims of COVID-19 in 2020. Tajikistan’s economy faced a sharp decrease in the migrants’ remittances following the pandemic. The loss of jobs and remittances left many families in dire straits. Consequently, many women faced increased economic hardship.

The SPT team quickly adapted to the new reality and prioritised those activities that could be implemented without delay to help the SPT target beneficiaries. The SPT team also established new partnerships and came up with an innovative way of delivering messages and services to the target population under tightly constrained circumstances. The SPT was able to leverage the Government’s eagerness to work with the UN on the COVID-19 response by integrating it in the Spotlight interventions (as detailed in Section 5).

This process allowed for implementation of key activities to move forward, including:

- creating safe space for the survivors of domestic violence; supporting women’s organisations and CSOs addressing the immediate needs of survivors of violence during the COVID-19 pandemic to strengthen remote case management;
- transiting the 1313 hotline to a 24/7 mode that amplified the awareness of and access to free psychological and legal support, including referral, for survivors of domestic violence;
- conducting home visits to identify households with unhealthy and violent environments in the target districts (under the partnership with the CSO Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan), and developing GBV Pocket Guide to improve quality of service delivery in response to SGBV in collaboration with the MoHSPP.

The Committee on Women and Family Affairs (CoWFA) under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan was formally appointed as the Government counterpart for the Spotlight Initiative, notably facilitating coordination between the Government institutions and co-chairing the National Steering Committee (NSC). In January 2020, new Chairwoman of CoWFA was appointed. This appointment required the SPT to restart the process of engagement – critical to ensuring political ownership - with this important Government counterpart to support the process of signing the CPD. However, after this relationship was re-established, the COVID-19 pandemic broke out. As a result, the Government directed all resources to address the crisis, which further delayed the CPD endorsement and the Government’s engagement in the Spotlight Initiative.

In June 2020, the Government of Tajikistan provided comments and feedback to the components of the CPD, which were then discussed and negotiated between the EU, the UN, and the Government, in close consultation with the Secretariat. Revisions to the CPD were agreed with the Government in October 2020 in line with the outcomes and outputs but signing the CPD was still pending due to the internal Government administrative approval processes, including withholding from making decisions on externally funded programmes.

This delay in securing the CPD endorsement, combined with the COVID-19 outbreak, related to it re-prioritisation of the Government's concerns, and imposed restrictions, affected the planned launch of the SPT and some areas of the SPT implementation. These included, for instance, limitations on engaging international consultants to carry the SPT activities forward. Restrictions on publicising the SPT activities before its formal endorsement impacted the baseline and Knowledge, Attitude, Behaviour and Practice (KABP) surveys, the assessment on the state of data collection under Pillar 5, and communication campaigns at the community level. These restrictions also led to delays in engaging the national gender experts to interact with the staff and beneficiaries of the ministries and committees under Pillar 2 on the institutional capacity needs assessment and on sectoral and national capacity building.

Finally, the SPT was able to conduct extensive preparatory groundwork on several key inception activities. These foundational processes were of utmost importance and reflected participatory, rights-based approach to programming, and are expected to contribute to more sustainable results in the longer term by, for example, strengthening national ownership and political will. The activities include:

- Establishing the Civil Society Reference Group (CSRG) and engaging the interim CSRG in the planning of activities for 2020;
- Building the capacity of the SPT implementation team: almost 85 per cent of the positions allocated to the SPT implementation are currently filled. This includes key positions such as the Spotlight Programme Coordinator, Programme Specialist, Recipient UN Organisations (RUNOs) project officers, and gender, communications, and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) specialists. It should be noted that not all these positions are fully financed by the SPT, some of them are RUNOs' staff positions that contribute to the implementation of the SPT. The remaining positions will be filled as soon as the CPD has been signed;
- Developing and internally approving the joint SPT 2020 Annual Work Plan (AWP) by the newly appointed Resident Coordinator (at the end of March) and RUNOs Heads of Agencies (HoAs). The 2020 AWP was also shared with the EU Delegation and secured their approval.
- Refining the SPT accountability structure and establishing effective internal coordination mechanisms - as detailed below.

These accomplishments were important to establish clear and effective governance, decision-making, and coordination mechanisms that ensure that the SPT effectively lays the groundwork for the interventions to be quickly implemented (once the SPT has been endorsed by the Government), while also having the mechanisms in place to operate efficiently as it seeks to accelerate implementation in order to bring about meaningful change to the lives of women and girls in Tajikistan, especially those subjected to multiple and intersectional discrimination.

## Programme Governance and Coordination

### a) National Steering Committee (NSC)

On 31 October 2019, the Government of Tajikistan appointed the Committee on Women and Family Affairs under the Government of Tajikistan (CoWFA) as the governing body responsible for overseeing the overall SPT implementation. During the CPD design process, CoWFA's Chairwoman convened and co-chaired a multi-stakeholder meeting held on November 28, with participation of the Government bodies, agencies and committees, UN RC, the EU Ambassador and RUNOs to formally present the SPT and introduce the role and mandate of the NSC.



Photo 1 - Multi-stakeholder meeting, 28 November 2019

As the highest governance structure of the SPT, the National Steering Committee (NSC) is tasked with providing strategic leadership and oversight to the programme. The NSC's role is to provide strategic advice that is aligned with SPT's objectives, approach, and scope, and is expected to guide key policy decisions, implementing partners and responsible parties in the programme implementation while ensuring effective oversight to the SPT through review of, and feedback to, strategic programme documents. Although the establishment of the NSC has been delayed, the SPT has worked with its partners and national stakeholders to lay the groundwork for this body so that it can go off the ground once the CPD has been endorsed.

The NSC composition, which follows closely the guidance provided by the SI Global Secretariat, reflects the principles of national ownership, sustainability, and inclusiveness. The following members were consulted by the Government and Civil Society, in order to get Government's final approval and establish the NSC as soon as the SPT has been formally launched:

- CoWFA (co-chair);
- UN Resident Coordinator (co-chair);
- European Union Ambassador or an EUD representative, who will have a key role in providing strategic advice to the SPT;
- National Government representatives (to be approved) including Executive Office of the President, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health and Social Protection;
- Country Representative of UN Women (or representative);
- Country Representative of UNDP (or representative);
- Country Representative of UNICEF (or representative);
- Country Representative of UNFPA (or representative);
- Civil Society National Reference Group representatives nominated two members, which constitutes 20 per cent representation of the CSRG, for an initial period of one year, on a rotational basis.

The final decision on the NSC membership will also be guided by the need to ensure that the representation is maintains a manageable size to allow for efficient decision-making. Other stakeholders may be invited to participate in planning, deliberation and monitoring roles of the Committee. This includes representatives from academic and research institutions, local communities and/or the private sector.

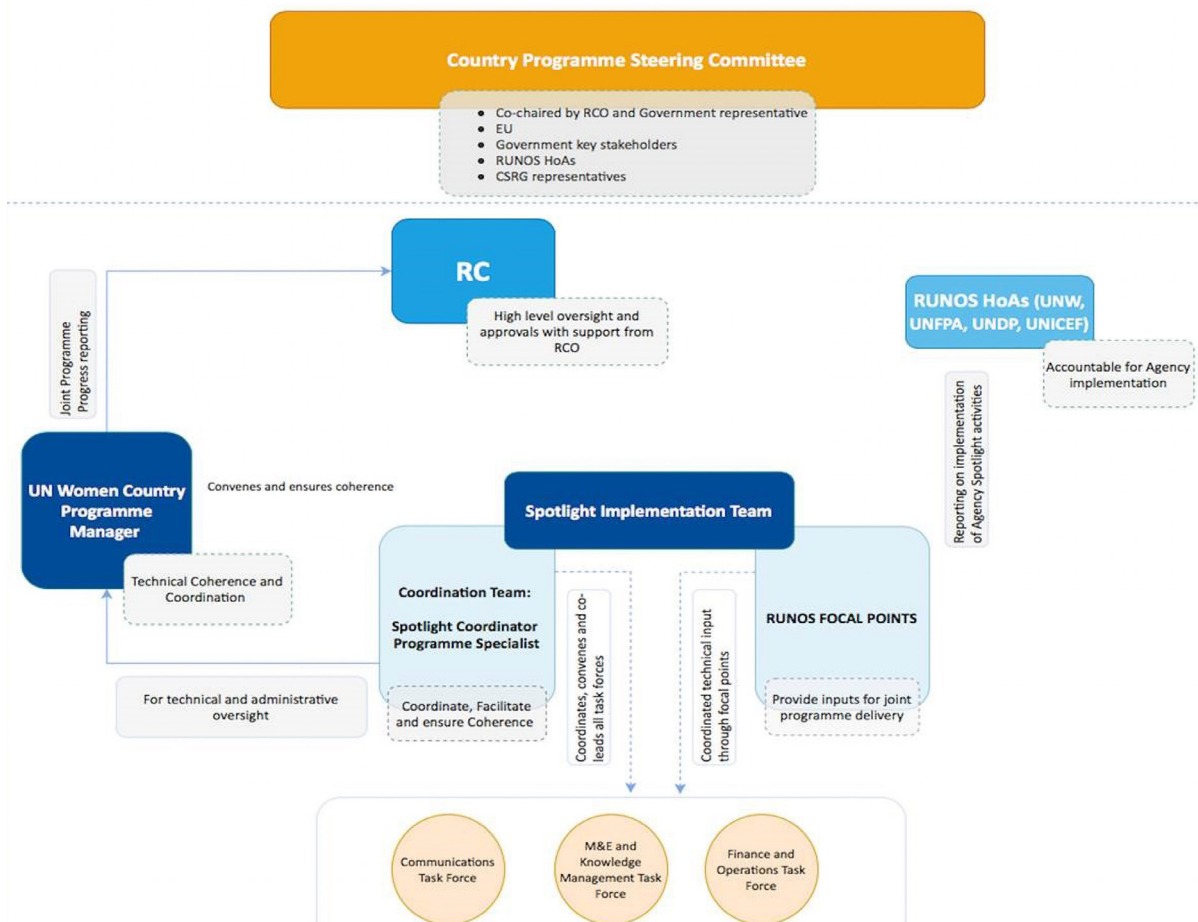


Figure 1 - SPT Governance Structure

## b) Civil Society National Reference Group (CSRG)

Throughout the CPD design process, two consultation meetings with CS representatives were held (on 27 September and 25 October 2019), with participation from RUNOs, EU Delegation and UN Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO). During the consultation meeting with the CS representatives on 25 October 2019, the participants agreed to act as the interim CSRG, mainly focusing on providing feedback on the last stages of the programme design. This included the following recommendations on priority interventions, which were taken forward in 2020:

- Investing in strengthening the capacity of the Ombudsman's Office on the protection of women's human rights;
- Strengthening the engagement of religious leaders at the community level and enhancing the capacity of police officers, lawyers and judges to work with survivors of violence; and
- Ensuring that police, lawyers and judges act in a gender-sensitive manner, taking into account the needs of women with disabilities who are often not able to report cases of violence, and who suffer from intersectional discrimination resulting from their gender and disability.

Given the urgency with which the group was formed, after the SPT approval by the Secretariat, it was discussed and agreed that the interim CSRG should be formalised. The RCO subsequently convened a broad meeting on January 28, 2020, to discuss the role of the interim CSRG, the mandate of the permanent CSRG, and the process ahead. In this meeting, the interim CSRG was formally established, and a clear agreement was reached about its mandate and the roles of its members.



Photo 2: Civil Society consultation meeting, 25 October 2019

The group preliminarily agreed about the proposed Terms of Reference (ToR) for the permanent CSRG, and subsequently recommended adjustments for selecting the permanent CSRG. The process followed the guidance note from the Secretariat and good practices shared by other country programmes, but it was adapted to the local needs and constraints. For example, it was not possible to establish a selection committee – and no individuals agreed to exclude themselves from nomination to the permanent CSRG, so this had to be addressed appropriately to balance civil society’s ownership of the process with transparency, inclusiveness and representation. It was therefore agreed that:

- the ideal number of members for the CSRG to operate effectively will be 10;
- members of the interim CSRG will be able to nominate 10 individuals (including themselves) to the permanent group following the agreed criteria (in accordance with the Spotlight Initiative Guidelines), in addition to launching an open call for nominations to ensure wider reach, transparency and accountability;
- the UN team will be responsible for launching the open call and requesting the nominees’ CVs and expressions of interest (as approved by the interim CSRG);
- a committee was formed by RCO and RUNOs with three CS members as observers;
- the interim CSRG will vote for the permanent group – but to ensure no conflict-of-interest, members will not be able to vote for themselves;
- the 10 individuals with the highest number of votes will get a seat, and the second most voted ones will be called if there is a need for replacement.

Due to the delays caused by COVID-19, the process of vetting nominations and voting had to be moved online, while maintaining ownership, participation and transparency. The permanent group voted in June and the first meeting took place on 9 July 2020.

The group is composed of nine women and one man who all have experience in gender equality and EVAWG. National geographic balance is maintained, with at least one representative from each of the SPT’s target districts. It adheres to the Leave No One Behind (LNOB) principle and unites representatives of women’s rights movement, youth networks, advocates and leaders of marginalised groups, representatives of disability rights groups, grassroots organisations, and men and boys working on gender equality and EVAWG.

The CSRG will be a critical partner in ensuring the national and local ownership of the Spotlight Initiative’s work and in offering accountability and oversight to ensure transparency, good practices and innovation - as the programme seeks to meaningfully engage CS in its work. Engaging CS will have a triple function: to advise the Initiative, to advocate and partner for the realisation of its objectives, and to hold the Initiative accountable for its commitment to promoting gender equality and supporting the elimination of SGBV in Tajikistan, reaching all women and girls, including those who face multiple and intersectional discrimination. This value has been clear during the SPT design - resulting in stronger and better-targeted interventions – and, during the inception phase, it was critical in the planning of the SPT COVID-19 response.

A budget of USD \$15,000 was allocated to support the CSRG operations and work plan implementation, which covers:

- developing recommendations and proposals for the implementation of the strategic directions for the SPT and strengthening efforts on elimination of SGBV in Tajikistan;
- active participation in SPT’s outreach, awareness raising and communication activities;
- supporting an interactive space and open dialogue and contributing to increasing the capacity of CSOs working on EVAWG, and
- supporting monitoring of the SPT implementation.

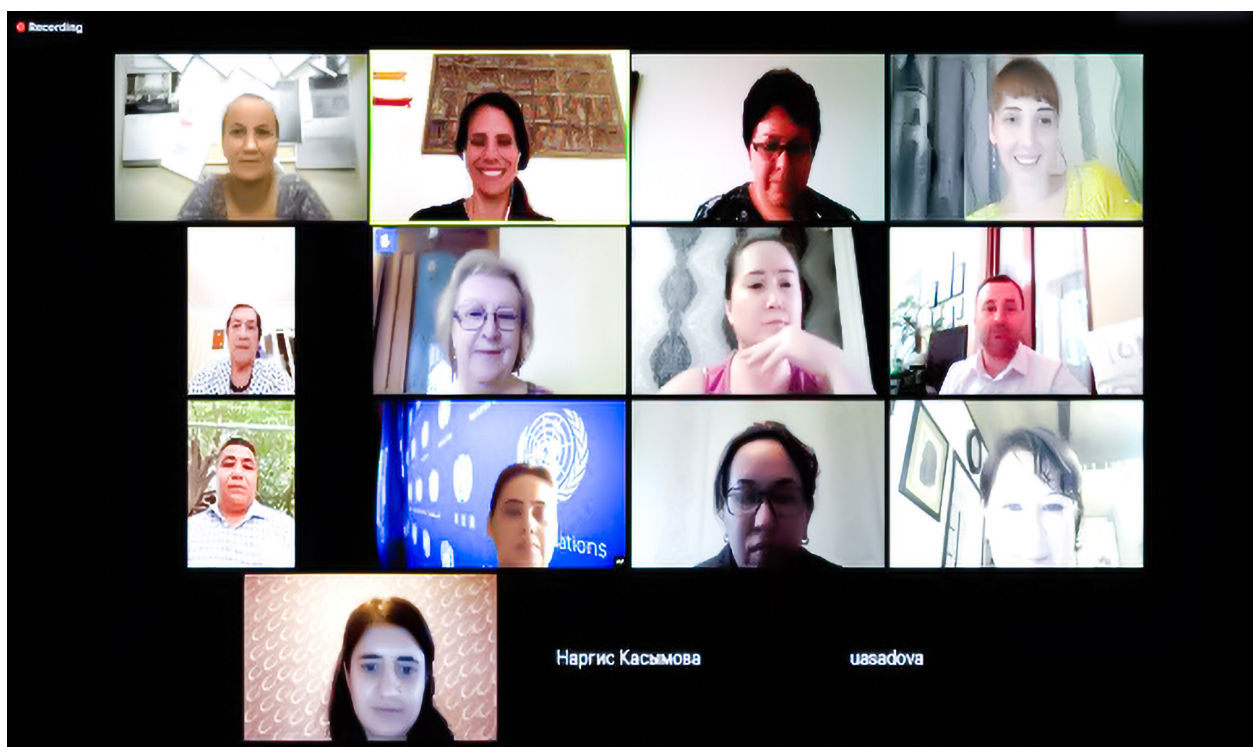


Photo 3: Civil Society Reference Group first meeting, 9 July 2020

On 9 July 2020, CSRG members had first virtual meeting. The Interim SPT Programme Coordinator, RUNOs and RCO were in attendance. At the meeting, the Interim SPT Programme Coordinator briefed CSRG members on the implemented activities under each Pillar, results and challenges. The meeting agenda also accentuated the discussion on the roles and responsibilities of CSRG, quorum and decision-making process. The CSRG at its inaugural meeting nominated Ms. Guljahon Bobosadikova as Chairperson to preside over the affairs of the group and act as the spokesperson, and Ms. Shahlo Abdunabizoda as Deputy Chairperson. The CSRG is expected to meet quarterly, with additional technical meetings called as needed. In addition, the CSRG will have a close engagement with the programme implementation by participating in relevant SPT technical meetings (notably at the level of the inter-agency task forces). The CSRG has met three times since the first virtual meeting and held one meeting on the Community of Practice with the Secretariat. A number of important issues were discussed, and the following decisions were made:

- agree on the appointment of two CSRG members to serve on a rotational basis for the initial period of one year as voting members of the NSC;
- nominate one member of CSRG as a NRG focal point for the Global Reference Group;
- maintain a close relationship with elected activists from Tajikistan and the Central Asia Regional Spotlight Programme;
- stay abreast of the ongoing discourse on EVAWG and the SPT initiatives at the regional level.

In October 2020, the CSRG endorsed their annual workplan and approved the budget. Under the CSRG workplan, the CSRG developed a temporary online repository of VAWG, GBV and Gender materials including laws, programmes, reviews, research papers, capacity building and awareness raising information materials and publications in Google Drive, managed internally by the SPT. The library will develop into a web resource ensuring wide access to all CSOs and development partners under STP Pillar 6, which will be launched in 2021 (click [here](#) to access the library). And finally, acknowledging the importance and urgency of the STP launch in Tajikistan, CSRG made a joint decision at the last convening in December 2020 to issue an appeal to the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan listing important issues including expediting the official endorsement of the SPT (the document can be found [here](#)).

The CSRG members have strengthened their capacity to network, partner and jointly advocate for progress on ending VAWG at the local, national, and global levels through online SPT and UN-led initiatives. The knowledge, skills and information materials obtained from CSRG's events are being widely shared with other CSOs and networks in the country working in the field of EVAWG to enhance their capacities and boost joint efforts on advancing women's movements and progress on ending VAWG. The events included:

- Launch of 16-Day Campaign to prevent all forms of violence against women and girls;
- A talk show on national TV with participation of three CSRG members on the implementation of the Law on Prevention of Violence in the Family;
- A meeting on Inter-Agency Response to Gender-Based Violence in Central Asia (Case Study of Kazakhstan);
- A webinar featuring an official launch of the Global Costing Tool to estimate the resource requirements for a minimum package of services;
- First SI Global Learning Session on Social Norms and Behaviour Change;
- Cross-Regional Learning Sprint on Women's Movement;
- An introductory workshop on the application of the GALS methodology in the context of Tajikistan;
- Regional conference on #DontBeSilent Movement in Central Asia - Giving Voices and a Safe Space to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Survivors; and
- Discussions on the results, good practices and lessons learned from the COVID-19 Awareness Raising and Violence Against Women and Girls Project (RCST).





Photo 4: CSRG during a talk show dedicated to the implementation of the Law on Domestic Violence in Tajikistan

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

The UN Gender Theme Group (GTG), which is composed of UN agencies, international and national NGOs, and National Women's Machinery, is the key interagency coordination mechanism on gender equality which the SPT leveraged during the inception period. When relevant, representatives of the EU Delegation are also involved. The GTG includes members of the permanent CSRG, who actively promote the SPT interventions and progress.

During the reporting period, the GTG prioritised sexual and gender-based violence prevention and response measures as its consolidated response to Covid19. The implementation of these joint measures was supported by the SPT. The GTG renewed its ToR to focus on the pandemic and established an on-line action plan to coordinate efforts and cooperate effectively in their delivery, capacity building and monitoring activity, especially on supporting selected CSOs and developing campaigning materials and knowledge products addressing the impact of COVID-19.

The GTG plays a critical role in improving the coordination, exchange of information and good practices on SGBV programming in Tajikistan, which is essential under the SPT. For example, a GTG meeting chaired by the RC and co-chaired by UN Women and UNFPA has suggested creating an online map of existing services available for women and girls who experience SGBV. This will include relevant activities on gender equality and EVAWG in the context of COVID-19 undertaken by the GTG members.

In addition, the SPT is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) implementation efforts and the respective 2016-2021 UN Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAF) and its processes at the country level. UNDAF's Outcome 5 ensures that 'women, youth, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups are protected from violence and discrimination, have a voice that is heard and are respected as equal members of society'. This alignment ensures coherence in programming across the country, with focus on similar Joint Programmes implemented by UN Agencies. The majority of SPT activities were identified in the 2021-2022 UNDAF Joint Work Plan (JWP) of the UN Country Team as an essential part of work on SGBV and EVAW.

In 2020, UNDAF was extended until 2022 to align with the new Mid-Term Development Plan (MTDP) and re-programmed due to COVID-19. The new 2021-2022 JWP was developed with the following priority areas highlighted under the UNDAF Outcome 5:

- Strengthening State partners' evidence-based knowledge to design and update legislation and policy frameworks in line with international human rights standards;
- Strengthening prevention and response to violence and discrimination, and protection of other vulnerable segments of the population;
- Enabling Civil Society to engage in programmes and policy level discussions addressing violence and discrimination.

UNDAF Outcome 5 focal points, who are also the technical focal points of the SPT, have ensured that the SPT activities are included in the 2021-2022 UNDAF JWP. Moreover, the SPT M&E Specialist was an active member of Outcome 5 working group and his expertise on SPT M&E Platform (SMART) helped incorporate and align SPT activities with the 2021-2022 UNDAF JWP.

The UN system in Tajikistan has strengthened its commitments to Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), developed a clear and comprehensive PSEA Action Plan, and the implementation is underway. The PSEA Task Force coordinated a series of PSEA-related events, including PSEA awareness-raising sessions among UN Gender Theme Group focal points (UN and non-UN), UNCT Strategic discussion and UN Town Hall PSEA meeting in Tajikistan. The activities are very timely and critical for the UN and partners' future project interventions under the SPT.

In addition, RUNOs have established a well-functioning technical Spotlight Initiative team that allows for requesting technical advice, and that taps into the different RUNOs areas of expertise where possible, instead of engaging external consultancy services.

Finally, in 2020 the SPT team implemented the new way of working under the UN Reform. The team coordinated across RUNOs to produce a joint workplan despite the uncertainty caused by the delays on the CPD signature. The SPT also implemented a 'one UN interface' whereby the RC-led team engaged with existing and prospective partners. This approach ensures that partners collaborate with the Spotlight Initiative as opposed to individual RUNOs, thereby facilitating coherence and collaboration in programming, further interagency coordination, and better supporting the visibility of the Spotlight Initiative.

## Programme Partnerships

### a) Government

Formal engagement with the highest levels of Government was limited during the reporting period due to the focus on securing the Government's formal approval of the CPD. However, the SPT has been in regular contact with the CoWFA and other key Government agencies. Importantly, the team has been able to leverage the existing partnerships with the Government actors to mitigate the challenges caused by the delay in signing the CPD. Examples of collaboration between the team and the Government include:

- Review and adoption of the UN Essential Service Package and National Protocol on Provision of Services to Survivors of Rape and establishing new VSRs in partnership with the MoHSPP based on the existing IP agreement between UNFPA and the Ministry. These guidance tools will provide greater access to a comprehensive set of essential and quality multi-sectoral services for all women and girls who have experienced SGBV. Provision, coordination and management of essential health, police, justice and social services can significantly mitigate the consequences that violence has on the well-being, health and safety of women's and girls' lives, assist in the recovery and empowerment of women, and stop the cycle of violence;
- Ensuring CoWFA's engagement at a technical level to lay the groundwork for programmatic interventions while the CPD is pending approval. The CoWFA has provided feedback on scenarios for video content of the informational and promotional products, and developed a regulation for the Multi-Sectoral Coordination Group (MSCG) on Prevention of VAWG; pre-existing partnership with the Committee of Religious Affairs and Regulations of Traditions and Rituals under the Government of RT resulted in the development of a training module for Muslim Religious Leaders (MRLs) on Islam and Gender to be used during capacity building sessions for MRLs at the district and community levels once the CPD has been approved;
- Collaboration with the Agency on Statistics of the RT resulted in a comprehensive assessment of the current state of SGBV data collection in Tajikistan through a participatory review and mapping of existing administrative data, and identification of data gaps and procedures in order to establish the areas of intervention and support the development of data indicators and procedures to create a unified mechanism of collection of GBV data across government agencies.

### b) EU

The Spotlight Team, under the leadership of the RC, considers the partnership with the EU Delegation essential for the Spotlight Initiative to succeed. Following the UN reform, the EUD has been fully engaged not only as a donor, but also as a critical partner advocating with the Government for the SPT approval and its successful implementation. At all levels, the UN has established formal and informal opportunities for coordination and exchange of information to ensure that both partners remain on the same page so that they develop joint strategies during their interactions with national stakeholders.

During the reporting period, the SPT strengthened the ongoing consultation and collaboration established with the EU during the CPD design phase. UN Women Country Programme Manager

and Project Manager for Human Rights, Gender Equality and CSO Cooperation and Development Section of the EUD have been assigned as focal points for the SPT to ensure regular coordination. Both focal points regularly communicate on implementation issues, so the EUD is kept abreast of the progress and provides timely feedback and advice. Since the end of September, the SPT Coordinator was assigned as a prime contact with the EU at the technical level. It is noteworthy that, in addition to these regular technical level meetings and communications, the RC and EU Ambassador have been personally engaged in the SPT implementation, which highlights the EU's role as an active partner and not simply a donor.

On June 10, 2020, the RC and the EU Ambassador met to discuss the challenges with the CPD signature, the formal launch of SPT, and the COVID-19 Action Plan implementation, as part of a high-level discussion on the SPT implementation. This meeting allowed for significant progress on key decisions regarding the SPT. Subsequently, the RC has updated the EU Ambassador, in writing, on all issues faced by the SPT team and their efforts to expedite the process of signing the CPD both at political and technical levels. Concern was expressed on implementing the SPT within the remaining timeframe.

In addition to the RC line of communication with the EU Ambassador, the SPT team has been in close and constant communication with the SI focal point at the EUD. In October, the new Head of RCO and the Spotlight Coordinator had an introductory meeting with the EU focal point and updated him on the latest news, including the concerns the UN team had about the delay, its implication on the programme's scope and delivery, and the missed opportunity to use the upcoming event (16 Days of Activism against VAW) as a platform to amplify messages of SI on VAWG/GBV. It was agreed to have regular joint technical and communications teams' meetings to further strengthen the partnership between the SPT and EUD and allow for deeper collaboration on communications and visibility for the SPT.

Due to the delays in the CPD signing and the COVID-19 prevention measures, the UN and the EUD have agreed not to plan joint public activities and events during the reporting period. However, the SPT will work closely with the EUD to undertake joint events as soon as such programming is possible.

### **c) Civil Society**

For decades, women's rights groups, autonomous social movements, and civil society organisations (CSOs) in Tajikistan have advocated and campaigned for addressing VAWG. Through its partnership with CS, the Spotlight Initiative is providing a unique and unprecedented opportunity to demonstrate that a significant, concerted, and comprehensive investment in gender equality, placing the Leave No One Behind principle at the centre and guaranteeing meaningful participation of CS, can make a transformative difference in the lives of women and girls, and contribute to the achievement of all the SDGs in the country.

In line with the above-mentioned principles of meaningful engagement of CS, the UN and the EU have held regular consultations with CSOs throughout the development of the Country Programme Document and during the reporting period. The structure and governance mechanisms of the Spotlight Initiative in the country have been directly influenced by a wide range of recommendations and advice collected during these consultations.

The Civil Society Reference Group has been established to provide advice on the overall strategic direction of the SPT and on current VAWG and family violence-related issues, where the Spotlight Initiative's advocacy, leadership, and support to CSO advocacy are crucial. The CSRG

also serves as an interactive space and open forum for dialogue between the Spotlight Initiative and organisations working on EVAWG. It will also support monitoring of implementation of the Spotlight Initiative and have full membership on the National Steering Committee. The CSRG is self-selected by CS and represents the diversity of women and girls, adheres to the principle of LNOB, and covers all SPT's geographic areas.

During the reporting period, the Spotlight Initiative team finalised 12 processes of engagement with **six CSOs** (for more details see Annex C – CSO Engagement). Out of the **six CSOs, four 4 are women-led and/or women's rights organisations**. These CSOs are working under Outcomes 2, 3, 4 and 6, notably in COVID-19-related activities. The CSOs are local NGOs, and the total amount awarded to date has been **USD \$210,151**.

Considering the importance of starting the implementation of SPT's activities without delay, during the reporting period the priority was not only to start the process for engaging several of the CSO IPs, but also to engage immediately those IPs that were working with RUNOs to carry out existing activities included in the SPT intervention.

Therefore, in the reporting period the SPT completed 12 processes through:

- **Open selection (six CSOs)** - the selected CSOs have vast experience in delivering programmes in:
  - community mobilisation, including schools and teachers, parent-teacher associations and student councils;
  - service provision to improve mental health of children and adolescents with particular focus on survivors of SGBV;
  - litigation with the involvement of girl SGBV survivors;
  - providing 21-century skills and outreach (which will support identification and involvement of girls at risk of exposure to SGBV or exclusion from formal education processes because of their gender.
- **Direct contracting (one CSO):** the national CSO Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan (RCST) was engaged through a direct contracting (Request for Proposals or RfPs) modality due to its demonstrated experience in leading effective operations during past emergencies in the country. As an IP in the SPT, the RCST's role is:
  - to strengthen the capacities of six identified NGO-run crisis centers in the six target districts (Isfara, B. Gafurov, Vose, Yavan, Gissar and Rudaki);
  - to raise awareness of COVID-19 prevention and on VAWG services available in the target districts; and
  - to conduct outreach activities to support those most at-risk to violence.

COVID-19-related considerations were included in the formation of a referral mechanism for SGBV survivors: NGO-run victim support centers, state services, other key stakeholders in the six target districts and Dushanbe form integrated support systems. The referral mechanism and its localisation have been thoroughly checked by all RUNOs to ensure priority support to those most left behind.

- **Continuation of previous IPs' activities (three CSOs):** the CSOs Tajik Family Planning Association, NGO Hamsol-ba-Hamsol (Y-PEER) and Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia (EFCA) were previously working with RUNOs running activities included in the SPT

Outcomes (notably the 1313 hotline), and they have been engaged to continue those activities under the SPT. It is relevant to note that these CSOs had all been previously selected as IPs following a rigorous selection process that ensured high transparency and guaranteed quality services.

All IPs were selected based on a capacity assessment to ensure their gender expertise based their past gender work, highest quality of service, including the ability to apply innovative strategies to meet the priorities, and needs and strategic direction of the programme, in the most efficient and cost-effective manner. In addition to successfully undergoing several types of quality assurance activities, including micro assessment, spot checks and audits as part of Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT), all the involved IPs have extensive experience in working with the SPT's beneficiaries and Government partners, and necessary technical knowledge to implement the activities under the SI. This will ensure coherence, continuity, cost-effective delivery, and quality implementation.

It is also noteworthy that the UN Gender Theme Group (GTG) members conducted virtual consultations with CSOs on COVID-19 and SGBV. Due to COVID-19, cases of domestic violence have reportedly increased due to restrictions and lockdown. The participants shared challenges such as lack of reliable information on local TV, no access for NGOs and no transparency system for M&E on humanitarian aid distribution, and substantial increase in food prices and medical treatments. CSOs have collaborated closely with the Government and the SPT is supporting this process, notably through the engagement of the CSRG in decision making processes, collaboration in programme implementation and open CFPs for national organisations. The GTG shared recent developments on the SPT COVID-19 Response Plan with CSOs and invited them to participate in the upcoming CFPs.

As a result of the delays in receiving the Government's endorsement on the CPD, CSOs are unable to receive relevant authorisation for their activities with the involvement of local communities. Consequently, the Spotlight Initiative team is taking all possible steps to support and build partnerships with CSOs so that CS engagement is not further delayed once the CPD has been signed by the Government.

Capacities of CSRG and other local NGOs and their constructive dialogue with stakeholders increased through the SPT-facilitated national dialogue (conducted remotely) engaging over 30 CSOs and Women's Rights Organisations (WROs) on protection of women's rights in the COVID-19 context and observing the LNOB principle. The UN stayed in touch with CSOs in Tajikistan during COVID-19:

- in April and June 2020, it supported a country level discussion with NGOs with different mandates on the general update on the COVID-19 situation,
- discussed the role of CSOs in preventive measures and response to the pandemic from the gender perspective,
- exchanged information on challenges affecting women and girls in everyday life, and CSOs' recommendations on the situation, risks and difficulties, and
- offered hands-on solutions and CSOs coordination mechanisms.

These ideas were then followed by the CSRG topical consultations in October-November 2020 and resulted in a targeted 16 Days of Activism to End Violence Against Women UNiTE campaign jointly conducted by the CSRG members.

## d) Other Partners

Under Outcome 2, the partnership with the Ombudsman Office was strengthened and is currently being formalised to ensure sustainable monitoring of the instances of SGBV. Considering the importance of the Ombudsman's role in implementing human rights treaties and international commitments linked with the initiative, the SPT will work to increase the capacity and sensitisation of the Ombudsman's staff on the SGBV-related issues. This will support improved reporting on discrepancies in the implementation of international commitments on SGBV, which will be shared with public institutions. This is expected to lead to the improvement in the quality-of-service provision in the field of VAWG.

## Results

### Capturing Broader Transformations Across Outcomes

During the reporting period, the SPT was successful in contributing to broad changes in Tajikistan, including elevating the strategic positioning of eliminating violence against women and girls within the broader political agenda.

For example, as a result of SPT's strong advocacy on the importance of short-term shelters and providing timely medical services to women and girls survivors of violence, taking into account that the domestic violence situation has been significantly aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the MoHSPP committed to providing 10 new Victim Support Rooms (VSRs) in addition to the existing ones. VSRs are located in the selected MoHSPP-managed health facilities, are partially funded by the Government, and will offer essential medical and psychological services to GBV survivors. The new VSRs have been fully furnished and equipped, and their focal points have been trained in providing quality services and referral for GBV survivors, based on the UN Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for delivering health and psychosocial services.

In addition, the SPT has seen important contributions to stakeholders' capacity building, bringing new partners on board, and employing creative approaches to address SGBV through COVID-19 awareness-raising campaigns. For example, the RCST developed new skills how to offer SGBV support to women in the context of the COVID-19 response. The SPT also builds the capacity of the RCST's 120 national volunteers on prevention and response to SGBV which they may encounter during their work with the general public. The awareness and prevention campaign on COVID-19 via community volunteers covers not only health-related aspects but, more importantly, it is also a part of a protective mechanism. The RCST's volunteers learn how they can help women and girls through identification of the households with unhealthy and violent in-house environment with a special focus on women and adolescent girls, especially women and girls with different disabilities, and by referring identified survivors of violence to existing support services (centres or organisations) for psychological, medical, and legal aid. This is a crucial lesson for the volunteers who will be able to take the newly gained skills and knowledge to other activities and programmes in the future. Due to the twin-track (COVID-19 and GBV) approach, the volunteers were able to bypass certain stereotypes and got access to beneficiaries.

Finally, from a programmatic standpoint, the Spotlight Initiative in Tajikistan has successfully implemented several mechanisms and practices for governance, coordination, and engagement with key partners and national stakeholders. The SPT has created a well-functioning

coordination mechanism with the EUD and number of interagency Task Forces: Technical, M&E, Communications, Finance and Operations. These coordination mechanisms are essential in ensuring all partners are on the same page, and there is an uninterrupted flow of information regarding the initiative, knowledge sharing and joint advocacy with the Government for the successful approval and immediate implementation of the programme. Where such mechanisms could not yet be established, such as the NSC, the team laid the groundwork in order to avoid further delays. The Spotlight Initiative has also fostered close collaboration with the EUD, utilising this key partnership to respond to COVID-19 and engage with the Government partners. The Spotlight Initiative team showed progress in delivering under the principles of the UN Reform and Leaving No One Behind, which will continue to result in higher quality programming and stronger, more-long lasting results.

## Capturing Change at Outcome Level

### Outcome 1: Legal and Policy Framework

Despite the Government's growing efforts and commitments to ensure that Tajikistan's legislation complies with international standards, there are still gaps that dismiss domestic violence as a crime in the society at large (for example, the 2013 domestic violence law does not prescribe any guarantees for shelter services for women and girls experiencing SGBV). By conducting a participatory review of Tajikistan's legislation on SGBV, the SPT will have increased data and opportunity to sensitise public servants and promote provision of improved services to women and girls in Tajikistan, and better ensure that the national legislation is aligned with international standards. It is anticipated that the resulting policy changes and increased awareness will contribute to reducing the prevalence of SGBV, improve essential services and raise the profile of the fight to eliminate VAWG in Tajikistan.

As planned, an international consultant and four national consultants were hired to conduct a review of the legislation. The ToR drafting and selection process was collaborative and actively involved all RUNOs. The International Consultant developed a methodology for the legal review that will use a multi-sectoral model, which implies inter-organisational and inter-agency efforts, interdisciplinary cooperation, collaboration, and coordination across key sectors including security, justice, health, social affairs, and education. As per the ToR, the international consultant conducted the analysis and submitted a report detailing the international standards in addressing SGBV across the five sectors: justice, security, health, education, and labour.

The Government is developing a new Mid-Term Development Programme (MTDP) for the 2021-2025 period. The SPT is supporting the Government to assist the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of the Republic of Tajikistan in conducting gender analysis and integration of specific, measurable gender-sensitive indicators to fight SGBV in line with SDG 5. The National Consultant has provided a gender analysis of the interim and annual reports, and of the 2016-2020 MDTP, and proposed gender-sensitive indicators and recommendations for the inclusion of SGBV into the 2021-2025 MTDP.

### Outcome 2: Institutions

The engagement of the Ombudsman's Office is in its final stages, with the Letter of Agreement (LoA) in the process of being signed (pending the CPD approval by the Government). It is expected that, as part of the signed agreement, the Ombudsman's Office will elaborate and adopt an M&E tool and start monitoring the SGBV cases through a case management system, will ensure that these cases are registered, and that appropriate measures are implemented. As part of



its mandate, the Ombudsman's Office will prepare a report on the implemented measures for state institutions based on international standards. The report will be shared with all interested government institutions, including law enforcement agencies, judiciary, and the parliament to inform them about measures to be taken to address and eliminate SGBV.

As part of the component related to institutional capacity needs assessment of the four key ministries - Ministry of Justice (MoJ), Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population (MoHSPP), Ministry of Internal Affairs (MoIA), Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) and CoWFA, the development of the institutional capacity building package on transformative leadership (i.e. leadership to achieve the goals of promoting the principles of gender equality and the elimination of GBV) has started. A team of six sectoral experts has been engaged, and reviewed the existing regulations, action plans and policies on SGBV, and developed the capacity assessment tools. However, the complications resulting from COVID-19 and ongoing discussions with the Government on the endorsement of the SPT is limiting access to the key representatives of the target state bodies (to test and validate the package) and delaying the implementation of this activity.

The regulation of the Multi-Sectoral Coordination Group (MSCG) on the prevention of VAWG has been drafted in cooperation with national partners (COWFA, MoJ and the Prosecutor's Office) to establish a functioning national and sub-national coordination and oversight mechanisms at the highest levels for addressing VAWG and Harmful Practices (HPs), which extends to marginalised groups. The draft version of the regulation has been shared with other Government partners and CSOs for preliminary review and suggestions, and the final version of the document will be submitted to the Government once the CPD has been approved.

To raise the awareness of Muslim Religious Leaders of violence against women and girls sexual and gender-based violence issues, the draft version of the training module on Islam and Gender has been prepared together with the Committee on Religious Affairs and Regulations of Traditions. This includes a comprehensive training module for high-level religious officials (province and district) imam khatibs, and a simplified training module for rural religious leaders of community mosques to incorporate tools to end DV into their religious community work. The training module was finalised in 2020 and will be implemented after the CPD approval.

The SPT established a partnership with the Ombudsman for children's rights and developed a child-friendly complaints mechanism to address violations of children's rights that can be raised by children themselves. However, the complaints mechanism has not been tailored to ensure confidentiality when reporting SGBV cases. Thus, negotiations are in process to involve a national NGO to support the Ombudsman Office to establish a separate SGBV reporting avenue where the confidentiality of girls and their caregivers will be assured. The mechanism also covers participation components which cover meetings with girls to speak openly about SGBV, and confidential expert groups in which SGBV girl survivors will participate as experts and share their experience of SGBV and recommend ways to improve services and legal proceedings during the investigation. Further implementation of this activity requires working group discussions, which are currently halted due to COVID-19.



As part of activities under Pillar 3 on strengthening national evidence-based programmes to promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes, and behaviours, including on Healthy Lifestyle (HLS) in line with international standards, for in- and out-of-school settings, several negotiations have been conducted under the SPT with UNFPA and UNESCO Regional Offices on conducting assessment of the existing HLS in five Central Asian countries. The joint assessment of the HLS subject in school curricula will help to identify gaps and suggest steps for expanding and strengthening existing HLS Education programme in Tajikistan, in line with the international standards and best practices in this field (e.g. capacity building, M&E, reaching out to young people of the key population groups, and using internet and social media to raise the awareness of adolescents and young people). The assessment will be conducted once the CPD has been approved.

Theatre scripts for educational shows to showcase good parenting practices and positive masculinity have been developed and rehearsed with youth volunteers who are tasked with the show rollouts. This is coupled with information sessions for parents about discussing HLS with their children. The shows will take place in the Spotlight target districts for the general public and in students' halls in Dushanbe, and will spread information on issues related to SGBV, including street harassment, date violence, early and forced marriage, bullying, HLS, and Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) in an accessible and engaging way. The informational materials on SGBV for dissemination in the students' dormitories have been finalised and are now awaiting the signature of the CPD.

Three videos are being developed promoting positive masculinity and challenging traditional norms among young people aged 18-21. They will also tackle men's share in housework to reduce the burden of house chores on women and address the issue of self-isolation during COVID-19 and its negative impact on GBV. The videos will be released as soon as the CPD has been approved as they are part of a wide social media campaign on addressing SGBV.

Partnerships with CSO Hamsol ba Hamsol and PO CEC Tomiris have been established to support the implementation of Spotlight Initiative in Dushanbe, in Yovon and Rudaki districts, respectively. Due to COVID-19-related early closure of the education and non-education institutions, all the interventions and activities with direct involvement of adolescents have been put on hold. However, this time has been used to better plan the approaches for identifying and raising awareness of SGBV at the district level. The detailed plans include the launch of girls-led clubs at Innovation Labs that would attract girl activists from the local communities to identify and engage girl SGBV survivors and other vulnerable girls in the skills building programmes at Innovation Labs. Also, fresh consultations were initiated to sensitise mentors and teachers involved in the interventions related to the out-of-school Innovation Labs and building 21st century skills for girls in the field of SGBV and VAWG. As per the mentorship methodology, mentors and teachers are the focal points to brief and guide girls and boys to lead their innovative solutions on awareness raising and prevention of SGBV and VAWG applying a peer-to-peer approach. The sensitisation is mainly based on is the Pocket Guide, which has been translated into Tajik to include adolescents and youth.

The bulk of work on challenging social and traditional norms requires direct communication with the target groups, which has been limited due to COVID-19-imposed restrictions. Still, the SPT developed a video on positive parenting during COVID-19 with focus on the importance of girls' development and education, division of household chores and mental wellbeing. It can be accessed [here](#).

## Outcome 4: Quality Services



The SPT supported the maintenance and upgrade of the 1313 hotline, which provides free psychological, legal and referral support to survivors of domestic violence, and is managed by the CoWFA. The hotline was initially set up under the EU-funded project Improving the Framework for Reporting and Resolution of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in Tajikistan, implemented by EFCA, which ended in 2019. As part of the COVID-19 response, the hotline now provides round-the-clock consultations. All preparatory work required for the provision of this improved 24-hour service was done by the SPT's Implementing Partner EFCA to operationalise the community-based SGBV referral system to provide integrated SGBV and COVID-19 prevention interventions, which included: upgrade and purchase of necessary equipment, hiring six additional psychologists and lawyers, and providing induction trainings for all newly hired staff.

Between 12 May and 11 November 2020, the hotline provided help to **1,317** individuals from all the four regions of the country. Disaggregated by gender, the information on the types of consultations and referrals is shown in the table below:

Gender	Service or consultation provided	Referrals to partner organisations
Women: 1,210 (92%)	Psychological consultations: 1,045 Legal consultations: 940 Referrals: 841	198 referred to CoWFA 143 - to courts 117 - to executive government bodies 88 - to respective MoIA departments 74 - to MoHSPH health facilities 67 - to chairperson of their mahallas 34 - to Civil Registry Offices (ZAGS) 25 - to the Prosecutor's offices
Men: 107 (8%)		

Language	Facebook Insight	Views by location	Top audience
Tajik	<b>Views:</b> 18,361 (of which 10,826 views by people aged 25-44)	<b>Top locations:</b> RRP: 74.9% of total views, Soghd: 21.6% of total views, Badakhshan: 1.45% of total views, Khatlon: 0.47% of total views	men aged 25-34
	<b>Reach:</b> 62,384		
	<b>Audience:</b> 66% M, 34% F		
Russian	<b>Views:</b> 2,144 (1,344 views from people aged 24-44)	<b>Top locations:</b> DRS: 70.5% Sughd: 8.4% Moscow: 7%	Women aged 35-44
	<b>Reach:</b> 7,823		
	<b>Audience:</b> 46% M, 54% F		

In addition, on 25 May 2020 the SPT launched the service of remote psychosocial support to girls, parents and caregivers, with information on available services provided by experts from the PSS hub (a team of 16-strong professional psychologists trained in children counseling and offering daily consultations ), and through an informational video posted on social networks (Facebook and Instagram), which can be accessed [here](#).

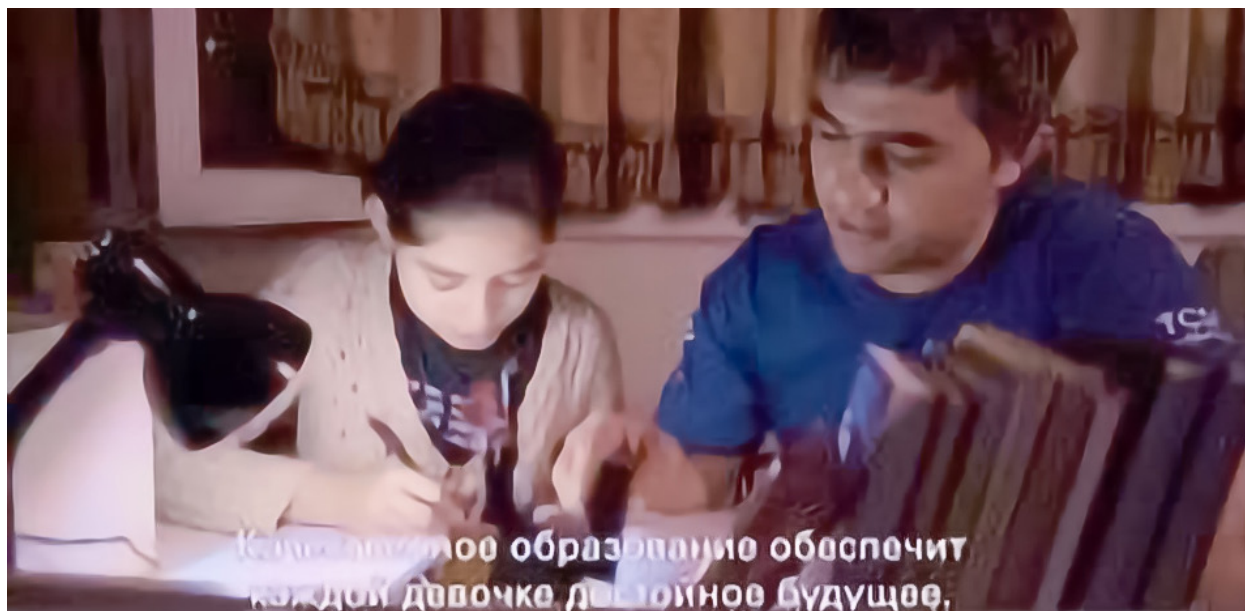


Photo 5: A still from an informational video developed by SPT

The tables below detail the reach of this video on social media, and of consultations provided. Between May and December, the psychologists offered support to **2,291** people: 1,420 women and 871 men.

Distribution age category:

Age category	Gender		Total
	Girls	Boys	
Under 5	3	6	9
5-9	4	21	25
10-14	15	31	46
15-17	92	48	140
18-19	46	31	77
Over	1.260	734	1.994
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.420</b>	<b>871</b>	<b>2.291</b>

Distribution by reasons of seeking te PSS:

Reasons	Total number reached
SGBV	50
COVID-19 related issues	387
Domestic violence	325
Marital problems	271
Child-parental relationship	230
Mental Health	177
Psychological conditions	544
Personality problems	307

	Facebook insight	Views by location	Top audience <sup>4</sup>
<u>Taj version</u>	Views: 18,361 (10,826 views from people aged 25-44 y.o) Reach: 62,384 Audience: 66% male, 34% female	Top places- RRP 74.9% of views, Soghd 21.6% of views, Badakhshan-1.45% of views, Khatlon 0.47% of views	male - aged 25-34 y.o
<u>Rus version</u>	Views: 2,144 (1,344 views from people aged 25-44 y.o) Reach: 7,823 Audience: 46% male, 54% female	Top places: 70.5% DRS, 8.4% Sughd, 7.4% Moscow	women aged 35-44 y.o

4 Out of all age categories of viewers, the biggest group of viewers is med aged 35-44.

The frontline SGBV health service providers have been trained in the adapted UN Essential Service package and National Protocol for provision of quality essential services for survivors of rape and SGBV. This included GBV Pocket Guide to improve the quality-of-service delivery in response to SGBV and strengthen a referral system and multi-sectoral cooperation in response to SGBV in cooperation with the MoHSPP. In total, 110 health professionals have improved their knowledge on identification of the symptoms of SGBV, national legislation, rights of SGBV survivors, provision of quality medical and psychosocial services and referral to other relevant services.

In addition, the MoHSPP has issued an order to launch 10 new VSRs (planned under the SPT) to provide safe spaces for SGBV survivors who can avail of services in the six Spotlight target districts and four additional districts identified in cooperation with the MoHSPP (the districts of Penjikent, Ayni, Istaravshan and Jomi). The VSRs staff (23 focal points) have received initial training on provision of quality and coordinated services. Additional visits have been organised to the new VSRs by the staff of the National Reproductive Health Centre to provide mentoring and on-the-job training for the focal points. All steps related to improving the functioning of the VSRs have been completed.

Moreover, the SPT provided remote case management support (including technical support and equipment) to the women's organisations and CSOs who are at the forefront of addressing the immediate needs of survivors of violence during the COVID-19 pandemic, including out-of-hours counselling and self-protection from COVID-19. This support has been planned for six months. The SPT supported the digital upgrade of the service, which includes the 24/7 national hotline and support to the NGO staff for out-of-hours consulting.

The SPT, in partnership with RCST, also conducted a briefing for four staff from the crisis centres (two staff from the Sughd region joined online) and 12 community volunteers on awareness messaging and safety in the context of COVID-19, and how to identify and refer survivors of violence to crisis centers and shelters. In line with the national standards, the RCST is to supply masks, gloves, sanitisers, shoe covers, thermo-scanners, and women hygiene products to the identified six NGO-run crisis centres. On 25 June 2020, 200 hygiene and medical kits co-funded by the RCST were distributed among 10 service providers operating in Dushanbe and the six target districts, to offer support to women and girls experiencing violence during COVID-19. The RCST is also procuring and delivering mobile service packages (min 500 minutes/sms in-country and min 10,000 MB of internet traffic) valid for five months for two staff of each of the selected six NGO-run crisis and victim-support centres to increase effectiveness and access to services during prolonged work hours helping women and girls at-risk of violence, violence survivors or their family members and reaching marginalised and remotely based women with special needs. Finally, the RCST ensured 12-hour operational capacity for daily support and remote consultations by phone or online for two staff of the six NGO-run crisis- and victim-support centres for the duration of five months.

#### Outcome 5: Data

Currently, the lack of data on SGBV and Harmful Practices (HPs) limits the ability to understand the scope and scale of the SGBV and HPs issues in Tajikistan. Availability of disaggregated and globally comparable data on different forms of SGBV and HPs is crucial for analysis and should be used to inform and guide on laws, policies, and programmes. The set of activities under Pillar 5 will propose a framework and capacity that will allow for SGBV and HPs data to be regularly collected, analysed and used in line with international standards. These activities will be a true turning point for evidence-based policy making on SGBV in Tajikistan, as the activities will yield

data that can be used as evidence to inform decision makers. Also, based on the tools and indicators developed under this Outcome, SPT will strengthen the capacity of women's rights advocates and CSOs to collect incidence data, including qualitative data, on SGBV, with a focus on groups facing intersectional discrimination, which includes women and girls with disabilities, for evidence-based monitoring and reporting (CEDAW, UPR).

As a starting point, the SPT conducted the assessment on the current state of data collection on SGBV in Tajikistan through a participatory review and mapping of existing administrative data and identification of data gaps and procedures in order to establish the areas of intervention and support the development of data indicators and procedures. This process included working in close cooperation with relevant government agencies, including the Agency on Statistics and CSOs, to revise and harmonise tools and instruments of the agencies involved with production, collection, monitoring, and analysis of the GBV data to ensure common definitions, methodologies, indicators, definition of standards and protocols, ethical standards, and processes aligned with the international standards on SGBV data. This is to ensure creating a unified mechanism for GBV data collection across the government agencies. The preliminary report and its policy briefings have been prepared and will be presented to the Government counterparts after the once the CPD has been signed.

#### Outcome 6: Women's Movement

The process of facilitating knowledge exchange and capacity building of CSOs representing groups focusing on multiple and intersectional discrimination (notably persons with disabilities) through strengthening strategic programme management and fundraising skills, and ability to document SGBV cases for evidence-based advocacy at the national and global levels (CEDAW), has been delayed due to the COVID-19 restrictions. Additional delay is caused by the pending endorsement of the CPD.

The SPT aims to effect change by reconfirming the pathways for cooperation and strengthening capacities of all actors that represent local referral mechanisms on rendering improved services to women and girls, in line with international human rights standards. The SPT has contributed to this by developing the practical system with brief extracts from the relevant laws, pathways of interaction between relevant members of case management mechanisms, contact information of the relevant state bodies, departments, services and CSOs that are mandated to work on prevention of VAWG, and/or run their own shelter or women's centre.

To facilitate the dialogue between the members of referral mechanisms, which is becoming even more relevant in the context of COVID-19, when all affected countries report increases in VAWG, the SPT has addressed recommendations of the CEDAW Committee and considered the need to offer various support and service options to survivors of violence and integrate existing services to provide a coordinated approach.

The SGBV National Consultant designed the localised referral and cooperation system of the main actors in STP's six target districts, integrated and provided pathways (action steps) for engaged actors and service providers, including in the context of COVID-19. The system encompasses state and non-state actors and varies from district to district (resources can be found [here](#)). During the EVAW case-management mechanism localisation process, the following actors were taken into consideration:

- VSCs – also those run by NGOs, such as crisis centers, shelters, partial services;
- Support centres, run by the state bodies, such as VSRs under the health facilities;

- Child protection bodies (members of the Commission on the Protection of the Rights of the Child);
- Health services;
- Social services;
- Legal services and law enforcement bodies (including the police);
- Judiciary organs (courts);
- Departments of the CoWFA
- Independent Commissions and Oversight Bodies: Ombudsman's Office, Ombudsman for Child Rights;
- Public initiative bodies;
- Community Councils (including community and mahalla leaders, imams, and others).

When a certain component of a referral mechanism could not be identified, a relevant replacement was indicated:

- existing state and non-state service providers and district level pathways for prevention and response to SGBV, including in the context of COVID-19 were identified;
- other key stakeholders to address VAWG in the pilot districts, especially in the context of COVID-19 were assessed and recommended;
- actors linked to the SGBV referral mechanism at the target districts level in Isfara, B. Gafurov, Vose, Yavan, Gissar and Rudaki, and in the Dushanbe City, when there is a need for referral at the national level, were selected;
- internal coordinated response actions of the components of the referral system were recommended to support women and girls – SGBV survivors or those at-risk, with special attention to steps to be taken to protect the rights of women and girls;
- description of the concrete internal and external response actions was provided for each actor. The description guides primary duty bearers and service providers on how to respond to GBV cases and how to support GBV survivors, especially minors, on where to seek assistance and what services are available at different referral points, including in the context of COVID-19 (e.g. alternative ways of communication or COVID-19 prevention).

The localised case management system is in great demand among CSOs, services, experts, state partners and the CoWFA. The brochures, booklets and visual materials were designed in a user-friendly language and lively infographics and have been disseminated broadly. Case management is a collaborative process including protocols for various providers, and encompasses state and non-state actors, such as: specialised CSOs, health providers, local police, courts, lawyers, psychologists, and community leaders.



Local CSOs, CoWFA and SPT contributed by integrating their partners and branches into the system, and by including their service provision protocols accordingly. They have been instrumental in informing providers and beneficiaries and sharing available informational materials and guidelines.

The SPT has selected PO Gender and Development as a Responsible Party for managing the Calls for Proposals on:

- founding School of Gender Advocates to drive transformative leadership for EVAWG;
- formulating the Civil Society Strategy to Leading Change on EVAWG; and
- providing financial and technical support to CSOs' initiatives aimed at implementation of the CS Strategy to Leading Change on VAWG.

Although the selection process has been finalised, the contract with the CSOs will only be signed after the CPD has been endorsed by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan.

## COVID-19 Response

### Context

The social and economic impact of COVID-19 has been amplified in Central Asia, where healthcare resources are limited, supply chains are vulnerable, and government revenues are dependent on a narrow range of commodities produced by extractive industries. While the spread of COVID-19 in Central Asia is moderate, the economic repercussions are serious. With cross-border trade volumes and commodity prices at historic lows due to COVID-19 lockdown measures, the region's national governments are struggling to implement policy measures that address both the disease containment and economic stimulus.

However, the pandemic generated a greater civic action to address the needs of the collapsed health system, opened discussions on previously hidden and tabooed topics of rape, incest and other forms of sexual harassment, and triggered numerous calls from CSOs and individuals for stronger response and actions.

In this context, the pandemic is presenting added risks to women and girls, in all their diversity. In this regard, and in response to the communique of 23 March 2020 from Henriette Geiger, DEVCO EC Director B, and Nahla Valji, Senior Gender Advisor of the Executive Office of the UN Secretary-General, to UN RCs and EUD Heads across the Spotlight Initiative countries on the impact of COVID-19 on programme implementation, the Spotlight Initiative in Tajikistan prepared the COVID-19 Action Plan to respond to these risks and reinforce prevention efforts within the context of the pandemic.

### SPT's response

Acknowledging the increased risk of VAWG in Tajikistan caused by the movement restrictions, self-isolation (as per the WHO's global recommendations) and strained public resources<sup>5</sup>, the Spotlight Initiative in Tajikistan immediately responded to this crisis, working collectively and

<sup>5</sup> Although in Tajikistan the Government did not introduce strict quarantine and lockdown measures, individuals and organisations were encouraged to follow the global recommendations on COVID-19 prevention, leading to many services becoming limited

effectively to re-think programming and service delivery. This response required identifying additional needs for survivors of violence and/or service providers working with the survivors and, simultaneously, reviewing and adapting the implementation of activities to ensure all implementers were protected.

The suggested changes considered re-profiling some of the originally planned activities and reinforcement of Outcomes 3 (Prevention), 4 (Quality Services) and 6 (CSO Movement). As a result, the SPT COVID-19 Action Plan was developed in close collaboration with the EUD in Tajikistan. The Action Plan contains three key responses (in line with the EUD's priorities):

- **Improving and/or expanding service provision to survivors of SGBV and to women and girls at-risk.** This included:
  - upgrading the existing 1313 hotline to ensure 24/7 support, with engagement of six additional trained staff to provide technical support;
  - supporting partner service providers to extend working hours of the existing support services;
  - providing VSRs with furniture and equipment.
- **Effecting change by reconfirming and localising cooperation pathways at district level.** This work required:
  - investing in a broader engagement of CSOs, local partners and specialised organisations, such as the RCST or other ones with a specialised mandate;
  - provision of remote support and distanced guidance to the service providers, and assistance and support to the SGBV survivors including to people with disabilities, minors, and girls and women living with HIV; and
  - capacity building of existing crisis centers and shelters. For example, at the beginning of the pandemic in Tajikistan, to facilitate timely and quality provision of services, RUNOs electronically disseminated the Handbook on Existing Services for Survivors of Violence and those At-Risk<sup>6</sup> among the NGOs, specialists and state agencies. In parallel, a new, updated and comprehensive guide was developed by a local consultant under the SPT (which can be accessed [here](#)). See Outcome 6 for more details.
- **Developing positive transformative messages to the population:** the messages in the informational videos on promoting positive masculinity and challenging traditional norms among young people (aged between 18 and 21), which were part of the programmatic activities under Outcome 3, were adapted to target men more about their involvement in housework in order to reduce women's burden of housework and childcare, taking into account the increase in self-isolation during COVID-19 and its negative impact on GBV. Under Outcome 6, information materials and awareness raising campaigns to challenge traditional views on gender roles in the society and family were developed. They also promote equality, especially in sharing the house chores, and were disseminated in the six STP pilot districts.
- **Applying digital innovation to essential service delivery during COVID-19:** a digital tutorial has been developed, which echoes the principles of Outcomes 3 and 4 by introducing innovative solutions to strengthening the beneficiaries' capacity in VAWG, and a new way of delivering services to communities in the six STP pilot districts.
- **Providing women hygiene kits (including PPE) to service providers:** this work is key to ensuring that both partners and survivors of SGBV seeking help are protected.

<sup>6</sup> Mapping was done by UN Women in 2019 in consultation with GOPA/SDC-funded project on Prevention of Domestic Violence as part of UNDP project on Fighting Domestic Violence in Tajikistan.

In addition, COVID-19 considerations were included in the establishment of a referral mechanism for SGBV survivors: NGO-run victim-support centres, state services, other key stakeholders in the six target districts and Dushanbe formed a new integrated support system, where COVID-19 response facilities play an integral part.

In this process, the SPT team participated in several meetings with the Government officials and various coordination platforms to advocate for the rights of women and girls in the context of COVID-19. Gender-sensitive recommendations for preparedness for the quarantine have been developed. Recommendations included specific measures to address GBV and protect women health workers. The recommendations were handed over to MFA and other Government bodies.

The CSO partners, including the interim (at the time) CSRG and other CS representatives were invited to virtual consultations on COVID-19 in April 2020 to discuss the pandemic's implications and suggested measures. In this meeting, the CS highlighted the importance of keeping an ongoing dialogue with the Government – which the SPT has been able to ensure, and of allocating existing resources for preparedness and response, which became a priority of the SPT's budget allocation (building on the planned programme activities that could be effectively reallocated to the COVID-19 response). In addition, it was agreed that coordination among CSOs in information sharing, prioritising actions and supporting vulnerable groups (humanitarian assistance, online services for survivors of violence etc.) is key. Building on this, the SPT recommended a follow-up meeting in June to ensure sharing of the response plan and status update by all participants.

Key concerns of the CSOs included:

- having an outdated map of existing rooms for DV survivors;
- an urgent need for additional support rooms for women and girls subjected to DV in remote areas;
- ensuring better access to the 1313 hotline;
- ensuring adequate response of crisis centres and the capacity of their key staff; including access to sanitation kits;
- recognition of low awareness of the pandemic and its impact on women and girls in the country.

Based on these concerns, the SPT's COVID-19-response plan included:

- localisation of the SGBV case management referral system, with information shared with CSOs both online and in print, (preceded by an online presentation by a Gender Expert), with contact details of the local actors, key steps from SOPs and other instructions;
- trainings provided to the target CSOs on SGBV case management during COVID-19;
- upgrade of the 1313 hotline to a 24/7 service, and adding psychological, legal and referral support;
- supporting awareness-raising campaigns through TV and radio broadcasts, and dissemination of leaflets and booklets on GBV prevention and response, and the impact of COVID-19 on women and girls;
- dissemination of 168,000 information materials by the 120 national RCST volunteers, reaching 596,000 people in the six target districts, enabling awareness raising of GBV during the pandemic, provision of home counselling and identification of women and girls who are at risk of violence and referring them to crisis centres for medical, physiological and legal support;

- provision of sanitisers, gloves, masks, and women hygiene kits to CSOs working with women and girls, including vulnerable groups (women living with HIV and/or TB, women with disabilities, abandoned migrants' wives) in the target areas;
- 12 contracted NGO staff rendered psychological, legal, and medical assistance to 3,400 women and girls with disabilities, including women living with TB and/or HIV based on reported cases of violence from the family members.

The final SPT COVID-19 Action Plan's measures and activities were presented and well aligned with the Government's position and the COVID-19 request issued by state authorities - Ministry of Foreign Affairs of RT and CoWFA. The RC and RUNOs representatives presented the Action Plan to the EU Ambassador and EUD staff, who praised and approved the SPT response.

One final outcome of these consultations was that CSOs visions were fed into the political process as they prepared a joint letter with recommendations for the Government (the English version can be found [here](#)), which was delivered to the National COVID-19 Coordination Body, the MoHSPP, MoIA, and CoWFA. In sum, these recommendations aimed to:

- advocate for female health workers, ensuring they are adequately included in the response system and that their specific needs are integrated into the response effort;
- provide hands-on advice on ensuring that services are available for women and girls at risk of or experiencing violence;
- highlight the need to ensure that law enforcement agencies at all levels respond to and react to calls from women and girls (or their family members) reporting situations of risk or violence;
- advocate for aid and stimulus packages during restrictive preventive measures to include social protection measures that reflect women's specific circumstances, and in particular the increased burden on female caregivers;
- incentivise policymakers to harness the potential of women's organisations in the response and recovery process;
- advocate for the role of institutions and community members (from law enforcement agencies to mahalla leaders, health workers, women's councils, etc.) as well as policy makers to prevent VAWG by paying attention to what is happening in people's homes and support an equal sharing of the burden of care between women and men.

## Rights Holders (Beneficiaries)

Indicative numbers	Direct for 2020	Indirect for 2020	Comments /Justifications
Women (aged 18 and over)	206,759	551, 356	Given that the CPD was not signed during the reporting year, the indicative numbers of beneficiaries were reached within the COVID-19 response plan
Girls (aged 5-17)	120, 751	477, 172	
Men (aged 18 and over)	225,325	537,266	
Boys (aged 5-17)	120, 620	478,450	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>673, 455</b>	<b>2,044,244</b>	

## Challenges and Mitigating Measures

As already highlighted in the Contextual Shifts and Implementation Status section, 2020 was a challenging year not only for the SPT but for the country too. The parliamentary and presidential elections, and reshuffles in the key line ministries have impacted the process of the Government's approval of the CPD. The UN had to re-engage with the newly appointed key counterparts and went through the process of review again, which further delayed the signing process. The Government expressed concerns about activities and target groups, which were carefully reviewed by the UN team, in consultation with the SI Secretariat and EUD. This however did not significantly affect the SPT outcome.

The sudden onset of COVID-19 had a negative impact on the programme too, as described earlier in this report. The SPT team quickly mobilised and adapted the service delivery through innovative ways. Due to early closure of the education and non-education institutions because of COVID-19, all the interventions and activities with direct involvement of the adolescents were put on hold. However, this time was used to better plan the approaches for identifying and raising awareness of SGBV at the district level. The detailed plans include opening of girls-led clubs at Innovation Labs to attract girl activists from communities to identify and engage girl victims and other vulnerable ones to up their skills at Innovation Labs.

In order to expedite the process of signing the CPD, the RC and heads of relevant RUNOs have used all the avenues available to them at the political and technical levels. The RC has consistently advocated with its political counterparts of the highest level for the immediate approval of the CPD without compromising on its intervention logic. The EUD was kept abreast of all the discussions and challenges faced by the team. Throughout 2020, the SPT team rose to the challenge and worked together as 'one UN' under the leadership of the RC and in close partnerships with the EUD and CSOs.

Despite the delays, the SPT team laid the groundwork so that they will be able to start immediate implementation upon the CPD approval. This included, in addition to the activities already described in Section 2 of this Report, preparing a set of documents in Russian for the National Steering Committee review and approval which included a number of strategic programme documents: the draft NSC ToR, 2020 Annual Work Plan, SPT inception report, SPT Communication and Visibility Strategy, and the Knowledge Management Workplan.

In line with the Global Communications and Visibility Strategy, the SPT developed the Communications and Visibility Strategy which was shared widely for comments. During the reporting period, there were two rounds of review process. First round of comments was provided by the RUNOs staff, the EU focal point for the SI, and the SI Secretariat. The revised and final version of the strategy was shared again with the EUD and CSRG for final inputs. CSRG comments were incorporated in the final Communications and Visibility Strategy. Comments from EUD, due to a new focal point, are expected in early 2021.

Lastly, the team finalised the Results Matrix, development of the ToR, and recruitment of the research company for the Baseline Study - with participatory finalising of the methodology and tools for the SPT baseline. It is noteworthy that because there are few research companies in Tajikistan (no international companies applied), the process of selection took longer than envisaged. The process was successfully completed with involvement of RUNOs who shared their expertise in the field of their involvement with the programme.

In addition to the contextual and programmatic challenges, there was an issue with hiring national VAWG experts. The national VAWG expert market is even smaller than expected. Thus, the recruitment process showed that the same experts keep applying for different consultancy positions advertised by the RUNOs. Only few of them have solid background in gender equality and women empowerment, and even fewer show demonstrated knowledge and experience in SGBV. This reconfirms the need to invest in the School of Gender Advocates and Activists, as per Outcome 6, to create a platform for building a wider pool of gender experts and to up their skills. Under this Outcome, the RUNOs will facilitate knowledge exchange and capacity building of CSOs representing groups focusing on multiple and intersectional discrimination (for instance, affecting people with disabilities), including through strengthening strategic programme management and resource mobilisation. This will help NGOs to foster their own gender experts. This also proves the importance of the SPT's plans to develop the Civil Society Strategy on response to and prevention of SGBV in a participatory manner, and to engage a variety of activists and CSOs, including the CSRG.

## Lessons Learned and New Opportunities

### a) Lessons Learned

**CSOs require support in capacity building:** the COVID-19 pandemic reinforced the need to work collaboratively and more effectively with the CS. However, it also highlighted the fact that the national CSOs still work in silos. In this context, the Spotlight Initiative could work to link these CSOs and support them with building their capacity in the field of SGBV in the country. Although some CSOs are knowledgeable in the gender issues, SGBV is still an area that requires more focus and understanding, especially as regards the concept of a 'survivor-centred approach'. During the consultations with the CSRG members, it became clear that the SPT's capacity building activities are greatly expected by the CS. In this regard, the cooperation of the Tajikistan team with the Regional Open Coordination Group on Small Grants for CSOs (ROCG) under the Spotlight Initiative Regional Programme for Central Asia and Afghanistan was essential.

**Adapt fast to become the leader:** as Tajikistan acknowledged and reported the outbreak of COVID-19 later than other countries, RUNOs were able to continuously learn from the best experiences of other countries and adapt to the Tajik context: they conducted several online CSO consultations, timely set up an integrated SGBV referral system, and contracted the RCST - an organisation with a wide mandate able to reach beneficiaries and increase awareness of COVID-19 and SGBV-related issues among the communities.

**Investing in people before the engagement of partners:** another lesson learned is that more effort needs to be made in ensuring that RUNOs and the grantees are on the same page in terms of concepts and languages. The discrepancies came to light during the review of the documents shared and during pre-bidding conferences. Aligning the concepts and languages will allow for timely and efficient implementation. This goal requires investing in building the capacity of CSOs and national experts in gender equality, SGBV, and women empowerment (as mentioned above).

### b) New Opportunities

The COVID-19 pandemic opened new opportunities for raising awareness about the increase in cases of domestic violence during the lockdown. Since this is a global pandemic, information

on this matter was being generated and shared on the internet, which helped the SPT to widely share significant information on the risks of increased DV and promote the use of remote services (as detailed in Section 4 - Outcome 4 above). Moreover, community outreach activities on COVID-19 in the six target districts are raising awareness on VAWG prevention and identification of households with unhealthy and violent in-house environment for referral to the existing psychological, medical, and legal aid services.

This exceptional situation also reinforced the importance of a strong and active engagement with the EUD. This open and regular communication enabled the SPT to quickly draft a COVID-19 response plan that was aligned with the EU's priorities, and was therefore highly praised and immediately approved.

In addition, the pandemic created a new partnership paradigm - firstly within the SPT's teams, with improved integration of activities and interventions, and with clear division of labour based on added value of each participating agency. But this was also experienced at a wider level, notably enabling the engagement with civil society actors that were not considered as target partners during the programme design. One example of such is the partnership with the RCST who is drawing from its experience in community support during disasters and emergencies – and its strong network of volunteers – to raise awareness of GBV during the pandemic and conducting home counselling among communities in six districts, identifying women and girls who are at risk of or experiencing violence, and referring them to crisis centres for medical, physiological, and legal support.

In terms of inter-agency collaboration, the SPT's joint programme structure and the systems created during the inception phase - notably through the appointment of technical focal points – supported creating a growing spirit of ongoing collaboration, which was particularly apparent during the COVID-19 response planning and implementation. This has had a ripple effect beyond the SPT's implementation, influencing the design and implementation of other joint programmes. Namely, RUNOs developed another Joint Programme on empowerment of families left behind by labour migrants in Tajikistan for the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MMPTF). Based on lessons learnt from the SPT, several approaches were used during the project development phase: establishing the project CSRG and task forces, developing an electronic M&E platform similar to the JotForms, and applying a new way of working among the agencies working on women empowerment and EVAW, which resonates with the SPT approaches.

## Innovative, Promising or Good Practices

To advance the development of creative and innovative ideas and approaches, the SPT has committed to:

- stimulating co-creation in which beneficiaries play an active and ongoing role in the conceptualisation, development and implementation of innovative programmes and activities, including through CS;
- encouraging innovations in partnerships, programmes and activities; and
- promoting innovative uses of both IT and non-IT methods to reach and serve the beneficiaries.

During the implementation process, the SPT team had to rethink the ways of communicating with the rural communities and delivery of services, which had been restrained by COVID-19. The challenge was amplified by limited room for innovation caused by weak internet access in the rural areas. The COVID-19 and EVAWG outreach project was only five months long, and training new volunteers in the basics of VAWG, who had previously been trained in-person in disaster response and emergency, was challenging.

The team responded quickly and developed a digital tutorial as an example of an innovative practice: it demonstrates transformation from the traditional, in-person capacity building and path-breaking improvements in delivery of essential services to rural communities. During the tutorial development process, the SPT team tried to combine innovative, promising, and effective solutions to enhance the capacity of the TRCS volunteers and NGO staff, which corresponds to the needs and available resources for service delivery modalities in the COVID-19 context and beyond. This includes access to VAWG state and non-state service providers, shelters and remote case management. To benefit marginalised groups in particular, the resources and links were integrated into one user-friendly product in the digital tutorial. Thus, the principle of LNOB is now mainstreamed in communication essentials for volunteers and outreach workers dealing with women and girls living with disability, tuberculosis, or HIV. Acknowledging the limited internet access in rural areas for online training and restrictions for mass gatherings, the tutorial was adapted to a mobile version and shared with volunteers and outreach workers for download to their mobile devices so that they can use them in their daily work, especially for communications and referrals.

This is the first time that volunteers and outreach workers in rural areas of Tajikistan were trained in a digital format. Unlike previously, when most of the training and capacity building materials were printed and disseminated among beneficiaries, this tutorial demonstrates not only innovation and good practice but, having a longer life, it also contributes to the green agenda. As a digital resource, it can reach more beneficiaries and be shared digitally with new volunteers engaged in the project via WhatsApp and Viber.

In the reporting period, the SPT was also successful in promoting programmatic innovation by:

- Drawing from the specific expertise from the RUNOs and the UN Family in coordinated and co-created processes and products' development, in the spirit of the UN Reform;
- Promoting inclusive innovation, with a focus on supporting the poorest and most vulnerable. The programme's interventions are being planned to include marginalised and vulnerable groups who will have a decisive role in the design, testing, learning and adoption of innovative solutions. Effective networks and mechanisms for their participation are currently being discussed;



- Facilitating collaboration and co-creation across the CS sectors, notably by ensuring active participation of a wide range of CS representatives from the design phase through the inception; successful establishment of an interim CSRG that was instrumental during the COVID-19 response planning, and the successful transition to the CS ownership;
- Introducing new methodologies (e.g. procedures, protocols) or technologies (e.g. devices) to address VAWG (prevention and response), such as upgrading the 1313 hotline and adding the PSS hub councilors;

As detailed in the sections above, operational innovation in the reporting period included:

- Developing new modalities and improving the existing ones for coordinated management and joint delivery;
- Maximisation of cost (Cost savings): due to the COVID-19-related restrictions and the delay with signing of the CPD, RUNOs have not yet started major procurement processes. However, the team has already developed the ToR for the interagency Finance and Operations Task Force, which is comprised of RUNOs representatives, and which will develop concepts and instruments to guide initial stages of the project implementation and ensure proper coordination and coherence between RUNOs, recognising that agencies have different requirements and procedures regarding recruitment, rules of engagement with CSOs and Governmental implementing partners. This can lead to challenges during the implementation phase. Areas for increased coordination have been discussed within the taskforce and will be submitted for approval to HoAs ([SPT task force TORs](#)).

## Communications and Visibility

### a) Overview

The Initiative has a Communications Officer but communication and visibility of the SPT is ensured through a strong Communication Task Force that was formed with technical experts from RUNOs and the RCO, and in close contact with the EUD focal point. The Task force is mandated to support the Spotlight Implementation team to ensure the SPT's communication and visibility are aligned with the global strategy and pass a unified and coherent message.

During the reporting period, the SPT Communications Task Force discussed and collaboratively drafted the Communications and Visibility Plan, which follows closely the SI guidelines and is aligned with SI's four communication and visibility objectives:

1. Raise awareness of the prevalence of VAWG;
2. Illustrate and promote the impact and results of SI-supported interventions;
3. Provide Communications for Development (C4D) support to strengthen SI's programme design and implementation;
4. Ensure visibility for the SI, its donors, and partners.

The detailed workplan was also prepared by the communications taskforce, and the SPT has agreed to use savings in the PMC budget to recruit a dedicated full time Spotlight communications officer to ensure that the SPT communications and visibility are carried out at the highest level. The recruitment for the Communications Officer position is on hold until the approval of the CPD.

## b) Messages

The Communications Task Force, together with the RUNOs Technical staff, SPT Coordination team and RCO, has drafted key messages under each Outcome of the SPT. Agreeing on the key messages was aligned with the finalising the C4D strategy, which will officially launch once the CPD has been signed. The SPT however was able to contribute to overall key messages on VAWG and HPs that had been developed and amplified during the ‘16 Days of Activism’ campaign.

## c) Media and visibility events

Given that the CPD has not officially been endorsed by the Government, the SPT did not participate in any media and visibility events. However, the SPT has developed a number of visibility products (a two-pager on the SPT, folders, banners, stands etc.), which will be used after the SPT paperwork has been signed.

## d) Campaigns

The topics of SGBV prevention and gender equality were actively covered by the #UN75 campaign running currently in Tajikistan, which is dedicated to the United Nations 75th anniversary. Glimpses from the celebrations in Tajikistan can be seen [here](#) and [here](#).



Photo 6: Business Center Sozidanie turned orange during the UNiTE campaign.

In 2020, the message of the UN Secretary General’s UNiTE campaign 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence was **Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect!** It echoed the SPT key objectives and was supported by the UN RC, HoAs, Ambassador of Canada and Head of the EUD during the campaign launch. Due to the pandemic, the campaign was implemented mainly online and reached a wide audience through traditional media, online video contests, social media platforms, direct dissemination of campaign materials (bags, T-shirts, face masks with logos) and presentation of a relevant study on data and on VAWG. More information can be found [here](#).

Tajik opinion leaders used the UN campaign to spread the word about gender equality. The National Taekwondo and Kickboxing Federation of Tajikistan also supported the campaign. Mr. Mirsaid Yahyaev, President of the Federation has been an active supporter of the UNiTE campaign in Tajikistan since 2009 and is a Good Will Ambassador of the UNSG on prevention of VAWG. The Federation, under the guidance of Mirsaid Yakhyaev, annually conducts various awareness raising campaigns in support of the UNSG, such as UNiTE to end Violence against Women (VAW) in Tajikistan, and mobilises the staff of the Federation, representatives of the National Sport's Committee and colleagues from other federations to promote the UNiTE campaign.

## e) Human Interest Stories

### Story 1: Outcome 4, Output 4.1.3.

A 19-year-old girl called the PSS hub, crying, saying she had been forced to marry without her consent after graduating from high school, after she had turned 18. She left her husband after one month and returned to her parents' house. She said her biological family treated her badly and it got even worse after she returned. Her parents were telling her that she 'had disgraced her family'. She attempted suicide several times. 'Nobody in our family likes me, they're always telling me that I brought disgrace on them, and if I want to go somewhere, my parents will say that I am easy, insulting and humiliating me. I want to study, but I can't, I hate myself and I do not want to live!' The girl was constantly crying and asking for a face-to-face consultation.

In her childhood, the girl was subjected to physical and psychological violence, and as a result she often ran away from home because she was afraid, she would be punished. Her father mercilessly beat her mother in front of the children. 'I can still see how my father beat my mother up against the wall and there was blood everywhere!'

Three appointments were held with the girl, including face-to-face counseling, and one consultation with the parents.

Currently, she is under supervision of a psychologist, regular psychotherapeutic sessions are scheduled online and full-time counseling twice a week. The girl is keen and showing signs of progress, but is still in, need of psychological support. However, her mental condition is changing for the better. A long rehabilitation period will be needed to process the trauma.

### Story 2: Outcome 4, Output 4.1.3.

An investigator from the Prosecutor's Office of the Shakhrinov district requested a forensic psychological examination of a 15-year-old girl and contacted the PSS hub.

At the time of examination, the girl is 15. Two years before, when she was 13, she was raped twice by her father's cousin - a 37-year-old father of two - who lived in a neighbouring house (there is a fence between the houses). Three days after the second rape, he left for work for the Russian Federation. Eight months after the rape, while at home, the girl experienced an acute stomachache; she dropped a cup and crouched in pain. Her grandmother decided to examine her and found that she was eight months pregnant. A month later, the girl underwent a surgery – a cesarean was performed for medical reasons. The baby was born healthy and was adopted by the girl's relatives. The person accused of the rape denied his paternity, accused the girl of seducing him and said she had misbehaved. A criminal case was opened, and a DNA test confirmed his paternity. Litigation has been going on for two years. The girl got tired of interrogations and has become withdrawn.

Under the SPT, a psycho-diagnostic examination of the girl was carried out. The examination was conducted in line with the questions posed by the prosecutor's office of the Shakhrinav district. The programme offered psychological counseling to the girl and her parents. Currently, work on psychological rehabilitation of the survivor girl is still ongoing.

### Story 3: Outcome 4, Output 4.2.2.

Nasiba was married at the age of 17 and has two children, both born with disabilities. Because of this, their father left the family. One evening Nasiba called the 1313 hotline, of which she had heard on TV, and told the hotline operator about her situation. She needed advice on how and where to apply for disability benefits for her children. It is also noteworthy that the children did not have birth certificates or passports. The hotline operator provided her with relevant information and referred her to relevant authorities. The hotline operator also made a few calls on her behalf. After all the necessary paperwork was completed, both children received their birth certificates, and their mother is now eligible to apply for and receive disability benefits and other available social services) for her two children.

## f) Testimonials:

### A spark of light in the darkness

'I have two children and one newborn with a disability. My husband is in jail and because I am unemployed, I have to stay with my relatives. I often loan groceries from a local shop, but once a shop owner refused to give me food and diapers as my loan had already exceeded 100 TJS (\$10). I was desperate because I did not have money to pay off the loan and find means for survival. That was the day I wanted to end my life. My neighbour, who knew my situation very well, sent me to the safe place called Gulrukhsor (a crisis center), where specialists listened to my story and took care of me, which prevented me from committing suicide. The Centre's specialists also helped me with psychological counselling, food supplies and diapers and even brought my situation to the attention of the local administration for further support to my child with special needs. Their timely assistance helped me to overcome hard times in my life.'

### My children are my life!

'My name is Mahbuba (name has been changed to protect the survivor's identity) and I was married to an aggressor for many years. He was very violent towards me and our children. Once I divorced him, but after his unsuccessful second marriage, we got back together. I had one more child by him; however, his abusive attitude did not change. One day several young specialists came to my neighborhood and informed women about crisis centres (the TRCS volunteers). I was hesitant and scared to approach anyone as I was afraid of my husband's retaliation. One day I called the NGO Ishtirok and sought advice from their staff. She listened to me and gave me good advice, offered psychological support via the phone and referred me to relevant government offices for legal advice and further support. NGO workers and state authorities helped to return my children and helped me prepare a court case where I was able to tell everything about the violence I had suffered at the hands of my husband. I'm proud that I broke the silence and put an end to the constant violence inflicted by my husband.'

## g) Photos:



Photo 7: Training for primary health care specialists from the Spotlight Target districts on the National Protocol on provision of quality services for survivors of SGBV, Dushanbe.

*Photo credits: Bakhtiyor Mirzoev*



Photo 8: Induction briefing for CSOs and community volunteers on localised SGBV referral case management mechanism, identification of cases of violence and communication essentials; Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan.

*Photo credits: Regina Sokolova.*



Photo 9: Psychological counselling to the victim of violence at NGO Ishtirok, League of Women with Disabilities, Dushanbe.  
Photo credits: Saida Inoyatova.



Photo 10: COVID-19 and EVAWG awareness raising in Vose; dissemination of leaflets to local communities.  
Photo credits: Nodir Aminzoda

## h) Videos:

Most of the components related to changing social and traditional norms require direct communication with the target groups, which has been limited due to COVID-19-imposed restrictions. However, during that time, the SPT developed a video on positive parenting COVID-19 with special focus on the importance of girls' development and education, division of household chores and mental wellbeing, which can be accessed [here](#).

On May 25, 2020 the SPT launched provision of remote psychosocial support to girls, parents, and caregivers, with information on available services provided by experts from of the PSS hub: 16 professional psychologists trained in children counseling and providing consultations on a daily basis. In addition, informational video was posted on Facebook and Instagram, which can be accessed [here](#).

## Next Steps

Negotiating and effecting the changes to the CPD to ensure the engagement and formal endorsement of the SPT by the Government without making substantial changes to the programme's outcomes is the most urgent priority for the next steps of implementation. This will allow for the SPT to launch full scale implementation and deliver on the ambitious objectives set out to eliminate VAWG in Tajikistan.

Once the CPD has been endorsed, the SPT team and the RC/RCO will work together with the EUD to prepare the formal launch of the SPT in Tajikistan. The launch of the project will aim at drawing attention to the problem of VAWG in Tajikistan and will be carried out in an innovative way – by attracting sports champions and celebrities, involving other Embassies in Tajikistan, high-level officials, and going out of Dushanbe, with active involvement of the SPT target areas.

Key to the programme's successful implementation is the first National Steering Committee (NSC) meeting. As the highest governance structure for the Spotlight Initiative (SI) in Tajikistan, the NSC is expected to guide key policy decisions to ensure effective oversight to the SI through review of, and feedback to strategic programme documents (Inception report and SPT 2021 Annual Work Plan).

Another step for the SPT is to conduct the baseline survey and KABP study. While the CPD is not signed, the priority was to refine the KABP tools based on testing and piloting. Also on the agenda are recruitment and training the enumerators and laying the groundwork for the planned surveys and Key Informant Interviews with government agencies, parliamentarians, CSOs and service providers. Special attention will be given to women who experienced SGBV, and communities from the SPT's target districts.

In the next reporting period, the SPT will also refine the knowledge management strategy, including clear roles and responsibilities as well as targets and principles, including the 'do-no-harm' principle. The SPT recognises the critical role that knowledge management plays in ending VAWG by making accessible the expertise and knowledge of what works to prevent and respond to violence. The objectives of the Knowledge Management Strategy will be:

1. to increase awareness and understanding of the SI's implementation and impact in Tajikistan;
2. to communicate and share good practices and lessons that emerge through the implementation of the SI interventions;
3. to generate local, context-specific knowledge on 'what works' and 'what does not work' to be shared on regional and global virtual knowledge platforms; and
4. to strengthen women's rights groups, civil society groups, and government's capacity to generate, disseminate and use EVAWG knowledge.

This is expected to result in better prevention and response to SGBV. As such, the Tajikistan team has identified specific tools and techniques which will effectively manage knowledge, and these approaches will be further developed in the Tajikistan Knowledge Management Framework. Some activities include:

- **Knowledge capture:** collating the evidence-based on Spotlight Pillars from existing national and global resources and conducting a situation analysis to improve understanding of EVAWG in the country;
- **Addressing knowledge gaps:** activities will be designed to specifically meet identified knowledge gaps;
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** strategising innovative, context-specific monitoring and evaluation strategies of all Spotlight activities to determine 'what works' and 'what does not work'. This knowledge will be shared on regional and global knowledge platforms to encourage peer support, collaborative problem-solving and strategising, and the sharing of tools and other resources;
- **Dissemination and Public Engagement:** communicate and share good practices and lessons that emerge through the implementation of the Spotlight interventions and establish participatory mechanisms with multiple stakeholders to continually assess and discuss what works and what does not;
- **Build Knowledge Management Capacities:** conducting national and/or regional knowledge exchange workshops on topics and practice to strengthen institutional capacity to generate dissemination and use of the knowledge products.

The SPT's implementation in the next reporting cycle will also focus on supporting the CSRG Work Plan implementation and fulfilling advisory functions to RUNOs, advocacy and awareness raising efforts on ending VAWG at national, regional, and global levels and networking across regional and global SLI initiatives and CSOs in the country. This will include actively promoting opportunities for the CSRG to provide feedback and advice to the baseline exercise, communication strategy, KM materials and planned activities, conducting monitoring visits to the project sites, meeting with beneficiaries and resource mobilisation, notably as part of the SPT's launch.



At the outcome level, key priorities are:

#### In Outcome 1:

- Follow the methodology that has been developed in the reporting period and conduct the mapping and analysis of the legislation and policies in justice, security, health, education, and labour sectors to identify discriminatory norms and practices. The findings of the analysis will allow to develop recommendations on changes and amendments to legislation and policies to ensure efficient prevention of and response to VAWG;
- Support drafting the proposed evidence-based amendments for identified priority legislation, policies and procedures related to SGBV (especially with focus on criminalisation of domestic violence), in line with international standards;
- Conduct participatory workshops and community mobilisation campaigns in targeted areas with involvement of diverse targeted groups of population to discuss existing legislation gaps and proposed policy amendments elaborated through consultancy work;
- Continue to support the final elaboration of the Mid-Term Development Program for the period of 2021-2025. This will build on the work done during the reporting period and specifically supporting the Government to integrate specific, measurable indicators to combat SGBV into the programme, with the following priorities identified: to integrate gender-sensitive recommendations and SGBV recommendations, and gender-sensitive indicators and indicators on prevention of SGBV into the new 2021-2025 MTDP;
- Support the Government to integrate specific, measurable indicators to combat SGBV into the Local Development Plans of target areas. The integration of SGBV into Local Development Plans is considered a prerequisite to advocate for and support clear delineation of responsibilities in this area and sets the ground to provide capacity strengthening of local governments on SGBV.

#### In Outcome 2:

- The formalisation of the partnership with the Ombudsman's Office will allow the capacity building activities on monitoring SGBV to start. As a result, the Ombudsman's Office will be equipped to improve the use of the case management system to register SGBV-related cases, the regional offices to use M&E tools and to develop an effective referral mechanism. As part of capacity building activities, a Consultancy Company will be engaged to support the Ombudsman's Office to conduct comparative analyses, research, and M&E of the situation on implementation of international commitments. This company will also work to ensure the effective use of the case management system to register SGBV-related cases. To increase awareness of population on the mandate and to promote services provided by the Ombudsman, an advocacy campaign is planned to be conducted in the SPT's 6 target areas;
- Provide assistance to CoWFA to monitor the state institutions' implementation of international obligations on GBV prevention, report on changes and provide recommendations on corrective measures;
- Finalise the process for creation of the National and Regional Multi-sectoral Coordination Group on VAWG. As soon as the CPD is approved, the final version of the regulation of the group will be submitted to the Government for review and approval, and the roundtables will be conducted in order to develop a joint work plan and proceed with its implementation;

- Conduct capacity building activities for province and district Imam Khatibs on VAWG/ SGBV issues based on the adapted training module on Islam and Gender;
- Finalise the process of the institutional capacity needs assessment with the five key state structures, finalise the development of a comprehensive training package on gender mainstreaming, SGBV and transformative leadership, and to conduct the related training.

### In Outcome 3:

- Finalise the Knowledge, Attitudes, Behaviors and Practices (KABP) study and development of the C4D strategy, and form the key messages that will be prioritised during prevention interventions;
- Announce a Call for Proposals on implementation of the GALS Component and start the contracting process for engagement of the international expert as soon as the CPD is signed, and COVID-19-related restrictions are loosened;
- Conduct assessment to align curriculum for grades 7-11 on Healthy Lifestyle Education (HLSE) with the UNESCO guidelines on sex education, specifically related to gender and GBV. The SPT is planning to provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Tajikistan to align curriculum for grades 7-11 on HLSE in line with the UNESCO guidelines. This assessment will review school-based sex education programmes based on international evidence and good practice, assess programme effectiveness by focusing on health data and other social criteria (notably gender) and inform advocacy by making available data on sex education that is understandable, easy to analyse and accessible to different audiences. A set of recommendations will be produced based on the results of the assessment specifically for Tajikistan on revision and amendment of the HLSE curriculum and other related subjects taking into account gender equality and GBV issues. However, recent comments from the Government on the inclusion of Comprehensive Sex Education in the programme are having to be addressed to ensure this activity can be taken forward;
- Conduct parent-focused interventions to support EVAWG, including the developed and rehearsed theatre-based educational performances to teach positive parenting practices and positive masculinity, including information sessions for parents to learn to speak with their children about selected HLSE topics including date violence, bullying, and early marriage;
- Conduct social media campaigns using the power of youth-centred social media influencers through viral-oriented YouTube videos targeted at 18–24-year-olds that challenge traditional social norms, promote positive masculinity and HLSE and SRHR information in an accessible and fun way. This will be complemented by competitions for fans of the social media influencers to create their own videos and upload them onto YouTube, amplifying direct engagement of youth;
- Increase capacity of the local media by promoting and institutionalisation of survivor-centred reporting on SGBV-related issues;
- Hire an international consultant for developing and adapting GALS methodology and launch a RfPs for implementing GALS methodology with the New Social Norms Champions.

#### In Outcome 4:

- Complete the process of establishing 10 new fully functioning VSRs located in selected health facilities to ensure that women and girls subjected to violence have access to safe spaces and receive quality medical and psychological services in the Spotlight target districts. The SPT will also strengthen four existing shelters, which will be identified based on the results of the baseline mapping and rapid needs assessment;
- Continue building the capacity of the frontline SGBV health service providers based on the adapted UN Essential Service package and National Protocol for provision of quality essential services for survivors of rape and SGBV including GBV Pocket Guide to improve quality of service delivery in response to SGBV and strengthen a referral system and multi-sectoral cooperation to respond to SGBV;
- Integrate international best-practice guidance on response and provision of gender-sensitive quality services to survivors of SGBV into primary health care institutions (health house, rural health centres);
- Commence the works of the Mobile Public Health Clinics to provide professional, basic health, legal and psycho-social services for women and girls in remote areas – who usually have limited access to SGBV services and where SRHR support has been delayed, both by the COVID-19 restrictions and signing of the CPD by the Government. This activity was part of the initiative on bringing basic services to remote and inaccessible areas through engagement of various professionals, including obstetrics-gynecologists, psychologists, lawyers, representatives from the CoWFA as well as the Committee on Religious Affairs and Regulation of National Traditions, Celebrations, and Ceremonies to communicate correct information on the issues of HIV, SRHR,) and SGBV;
- Initiate the process for the activity on improvement of the system of service provision to address specific needs of women with disabilities during investigation process of VAWG cases (medical forensic services) as per Istanbul Convention Action Plan, to be led by the League of Women with Disabilities Ishtirok, including the procurement of equipment for medical forensic services and related CSOs of target localities (medical adjustable inspection couches for women with disability (medical furniture, equipment and computer sets for medical forensic services) for medical tests of women and girls with special needs;
- Renew support to the 1313 hotline to render free psychological, legal and referral assistance to women and girls survivors of violence;
- Conduct gender sensitisation trainings for judges (Judiciary), police officers (MoIA) and state legal aid lawyers (MoJ) in targeted areas for more effective investigation, prosecution and adjudication of SGBV-related cases;
- Facilitate economic empowerment of women - SGBV survivors in target areas through provision of job creating grants and trainings to increase their business development capacity.

### In Outcome 5:

- Present the results and strategies proposed in the report of the comprehensive assessment of SGBV and HPs administrative data collection in Tajikistan and develop a common set of SGBV and HPs indicators to contribute to collection of SDGs indicator 5.2. Based on this mapping, and working in close cooperation with relevant government agencies and CSOs, revise and harmonise tools and instruments of the seven agencies involved with production, collection, monitoring, and analysis of data related to SGBV to ensure common definition, methodologies, indicators, definition of standards and protocols, ethical standards, and processes in line with international standards on data on SGBV; towards the goal of creating a unified mechanism of collection of SGBV data across agencies. To finalise the process the training module must be developed on the new e-system for capacity building of data officers in agencies on applying the newly created unified indicators and procedures to implement collection and reporting on SGBV data to the Statistics Agency;
- As soon as the abovementioned activity is finalised, based on the tools and indicators developed under this Pillar, to start the contracting process for the CSOs to strengthen the capacity of women's rights advocates and CSOs to collect incidence data, including qualitative data on SGBV, with a focus on groups facing intersectional discrimination for evidence-based monitoring and reporting (CEDAW, UPR).

### In Outcome 6:

- Sign a contract with a Responsible Party to establish the School of Gender Advocates under Outcome 6 - to drive a transformative leadership for eliminating VAWG; to formulate the CS Strategy to Leading Change on EVAWG, and to provide financial and technical support to CSOs' initiatives aimed at implementation of the CS Strategy to Leading Change on EVAWG. The evaluation process has been finalised;
- Support CSRG convenings and initiatives in networking and joint advocacy with CSOs working in the area of EVAWG;
- Start the process of developing module on resource mobilisation and strategic, operational and project management planning (project cycle, tools for project formulation, follow-up and evaluation, fundraising) in order to facilitate knowledge-exchange and capacity building of CSOs representing groups focusing on multiple and intersectional violence;
- Based on the key lessons learned all the activities related to involvement of women and girls will be dealt with the extra sensitivity taking into account the current political climate toward such groups, and with highest consideration for the 'do-no-harm' principle. This should ensure that CSOs representing groups focusing on multiple and intersectional discrimination of violence will have opportunity to build their capacity through strengthening strategic programme management and fundraising abilities, ability to document cases of SGBV for evidence-based advocacy at the national and global level (CEDAW).

## ANNEXES

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

Annex B: Risk Matrix – [here](#)

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

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

Annex E: Annual Work Plan – link to the 2020 SPT Annual Work Plan can be accessed [here](#). Please note given the CPD is not yet signed, and the 2021 SPT Annual Work Plan is not yet finalised. As soon as the approval is secured, the workplan will be finalised and shared.

For more AR2020 report photos, click [here](#).

## Annex A

### Results Framework

#### Outcome 1 Summary table

Outcome Indicator	Baseline	Milestone 1	Results for Reporting Period (2020)	Target	Reporting Notes
	Legal age of marriage				
	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.00	
	Parental Authority in Marriage				
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	Parental Authority in Divorce				
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	Inheritance rights of Widows				
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	Inheritance rights of Daughters				
	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	
	Laws on Domestic Violence				
	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	
	Laws on Rape				
	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.25	
	Laws on Sexual Harassment				
	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.75	
Indicator 1.1 Laws and policies on VAWG/HP in place that adequately respond to the rights of all women and girls, including exercise/access to SRHR, and are in line with international HR standards and treaty bodies' recommendations.					The 2020 results are the same as the baseline: due to suspended activities, UNDP could not work on this indicator. Laws on inheritance rights of daughters and on domestic violence cannot be changed within the given for SI timeframe

National level					
Indicator 1.2 National/and/or sub-national evidence-based, costed and funded action plans and M&E frameworks on VAWG/HP are in place that respond to the rights of all women and girls and are developed in a participatory manner.	Does not apply/ there is no plan	Costed	Does not apply/ there is no plan	Evidence-based Costed M&E framework Rights of all women & girls Participatory Development	<p>Based on the review of the National Action Plan on PVF 2014-2023 (to be done in 2021, if prodoc is signed) and first discussions with CoWFA. Targets should be set for countries to develop these plans within 2 years, and fund them within 5.</p> <p>There is a current NAP not fully aligned with international standards. The new one will be for 2023 and beyond as a comprehensive NAP on EVAWG. In the first year it was planned that respective agencies and the plans will be at least costed, but since the project was not signed nothing has been done</p>
	Sub-National Level				
	Does not apply/ there is no plan	Costed	Does not apply/ there is no plan	Evidence-based Costed M&E framework Rights of all women & girls Participatory Development	
Output Indicator	Baseline	Milestone 1	Results for Reporting Period (2020)	Target	Reporting Notes
Developed or Strengthened					
Indicator 1.1.1 Number of draft new and/or strengthened laws and/or policies on ending VAWG and/or gender equality and non-discrimination developed that respond to the rights of women and girls facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination and are in line with international HR standards, within the last year.	0	0	0	4	<p>1.Criminalization of DV in Criminal Code. 2.Amendment to existing Law on prevention of violence in the family (2013). 3. Amendments to Family code. 4. Draft law on sexual harassment.</p> <p>This is tentative data and will be amended once the legal analysis is complete.</p> <p>UNDP could not work on this indicator in 2020 due to pending approval of the SI Programme by the Government and, as a result of it, suspended activities.</p>

					Parliamentarians	
Indicator 1.1.5 Number of Parliamentarians and staff of human rights institutions with strengthened capacities to advocate for, draft new and/or strengthen existing legislation and/or policies on ending VAWG and/or gender equality and non-discrimination and implement the same, within the last year.	0	0	0	12	UNDP could not work on this indicator in 2020 due to pending approval of the SI Programme by the Government and, as a result of it, suspended activities.	
	Women Parliamentarians					
	0	0	0	6		
	Human Rights Staff					
	0	0	0	30		
	Women Human Rights Staff					
	0	0	0	7		
					National	
Indicator 1.2.1 Number of evidence-based national and/or sub-national action plans on ending VAWG developed that respond to the rights of all women and girls, have M&E frameworks and proposed budgets within the last year.	Does not apply/ there is no plan	Programs & activities costed	Does not apply/ there is no plan	Evidence-based Programs & activities costed M&E Plan Needs of ALL women & girls	The baseline will be set based on the review of the NAP on PVF 2014-2023 - with the focus on 1. Sources and methods of data/evidence collection; 2. methods of costing; 3. availability and quality of M&E plan. The activity is planned for 2021.  In accordance with the UN Women's initial plan and budget, within this phase of SI works are done only with plans at National Level.	
	Sub-National					
	0	0	0	0		



## Outcome 2 Summary table

Outcome Indicator	Baseline	Milestone 1	Results for Reporting Period (2020)	Target	Reporting Notes
<b>Coordination Mechanism?</b>					
Indicator 2.1 Existence of a functioning regional, national and/or sub-national coordination and oversight mechanisms at the highest levels for addressing VAWG/HP that include representation from marginalized groups.	Functioning?: No, At the Highest level?: No, Where is it placed?: , Includes LNOB?: No	Functioning?: No, At the Highest level?: No, Where is it placed?: , Includes LNOB?: No	1. Name of Coordination Mechanism: Group on prevention of domestic violence in B. Ghafurov district, Where is it located: At district level, including LNOB?: Yes, 2. Name of Coordination Mechanism: Group on prevention of domestic violence in Isfara district, Where is it located: At district level, including LNOB?: Yes	Functioning?: Yes, At the Highest level?: Yes, Where is it placed?: Prime Minister's Office (chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister), Includes LNOB?: Yes	<p>Preliminary results of the baseline showed that there are no functioning national/sub-national coordination and oversight mechanisms at the highest levels for addressing VAWG/HP that include representation from marginalized groups in Tajikistan.</p> <p>The ToR for the formalization of the multi-sectoral coordination group has been drafted but could not be submitted to the government for review due to the delay in signing of the CPD.</p> <p>At the regional level, the baseline desk review revealed that four out of the six targeted districts have sub-national coordination mechanisms, and they include LNOB but are not connected to the national mechanism. Within Spotlight UNFPA will be working only with the two pilot districts where the mechanism at the sub-national is in place. The only work that needs to be done is to connect them to the national level mechanism when it will be established.</p>

Output Indicator	Baseline	Milestone 1	Results for Reporting Period (2020)	Target	Reporting Notes
Indicator 2.3 Extent to which VAWG/HP is integrated in 5 other sectors (health, social services, education, justice, security, culture) development plans that are evidence-based and in line with globally agreed standards.	Health				Since a proper baseline is not conducted the data for sector-wise indicator is not available  The culture sector goes as cross-cutting.
	Low integration	Low integration	Low integration	Medium integration	
	Education				
	No integration	No integration	No integration	Medium integration	
	Justice				
	Low integration	Low integration	Low integration	Medium integration	
	Security				
	No integration	No integration	No integration	Medium integration	
	Social Services				
	No integration	No integration	No integration	Medium integration	
Culture					
Culture sector is considered as cross-cutting, no focused activity is envisaged.					
<b>Health</b>					
Indicator 2.1.3 Number of strategies, new plans and programmes of other relevant sectors (health, social services, education, justice, security, culture) that integrate efforts to combat VAWG developed in line with international HR standards, within the last year.					Since proper baseline study is not conducted the data for sector wise indicator is not available.
	Education				
	Justice				
	Security				
	Social Services				
	Culture				

Government Officials					
Indicator 2.1.6 Number of key government officials trained on human rights and gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours towards women and girls, including for those groups facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination, within the last year.	0	0	0	420	RUNO could not work on this indicator in 2020 due to pending approval of the SI Programme by the Government and, as a result, suspended activities.
	Women Government Officials				
	0	0	0	200	
Indicator 2.2.1 Multi-stakeholder VAWG coordination mechanisms are established at the highest level and/or strengthened, and are composed of relevant stakeholders, with a clear mandate and governance structure and with annual work plans, within the last year.	N/A there is no coordination mechanism	N/A there is no coordination mechanism	N/A there is no coordination mechanism	Established at the highest level Composed of relevant stakeholders With a clear mandate and governance structure With annual work plans	Preliminary results of the baseline showed that there are no functioning national/sub-national coordination and oversight mechanisms at the highest levels for addressing VAWG/HP that include representation from marginalized groups in Tajikistan.  The ToR for formalization of the multi-sectoral coordination group has been drafted but could not be submitted to the government for review due to delay in signing of the CPD.
National Level Meetings					
Indicator 2.2.4 Number of meetings of regional, national and/or sub-national multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms, within the last year.	0	0	0	2	Preliminary results of the baseline showed that there are no functioning national/sub-national coordination and oversight mechanisms at the highest levels for addressing VAWG/HP that include representation from marginalized groups in Tajikistan.  The ToR for formalization of the multi-sectoral coordination group has been drafted but could not be submitted to the government for review due to delay in signing of the CPD, therefore no meetings took places.
	Sub-National Level Meetings				
	0	0	0	3	

## Outcome 3 Summary table

Outcome Indicator	Baseline	Milestone 1	Results for Reporting Period (2020)	Target	Reporting Notes
Indicator 3.1 Percentage of people who think it is justifiable for a man to (subject) beat his wife/intimate partner.	64%	64%	64%	60%	Since the indicator is measured once in five years, for 2020 no progress for the indicator was envisioned. Data from this indicator comes from the DHS 2017 and DHS asked this question only among women of age 15-49, hence data about men's attitude to the issue is not available.
<b>Female Genital Mutilation</b>					
Indicator 3.2 a) Percentage of people who think it is justifiable to subject a woman or girl to FGM (in areas where FGM takes place)	N/A (Not applicable)				FGM is not relevant to Tajikistan. Baseline, milestones, and target for community members' attitudes towards child marriage can not be set at this stage as SPT baseline is not conducted yet. No secondary data where this indicator was measured is available in the country.
b) Percentage of people who think it is justifiable to subject a woman or girl child marriage.	<b>Child Marriage</b>				

Output Indicator	Baseline	Milestone 1	Results for Reporting Period (2020)	Target	Reporting Notes	
Indicator 3.1.1 Existence of a draft new and/or strengthened Healthy Life-style Education in line with international standards.	No	No	No	Yes	UNFPA Regional Office, UNESCO Regional Office and Spotlight Project planned to conduct assessment of the existing Healthy Life-style Education curriculum, however the exercise could not be conducted as it requires extensive involvement of the government, in particular the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education, which is was not possible due to the delay in signing of the CPD.	
<b>In-School Programmes</b>						
Indicator 3.1.2 Number of young women and girls, young men and boys who participate in either/both in- and out-of school programmes that promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours and exercise of rights, including reproductive rights, within the last year.	0	0	0	700	Result for 2020 remains the same as for baseline. Due to delay in signing the CPD UNICEF could not work on this indicator in 2020	
	<b>In-School Programmes Girls</b>					
	0	0	0	350		
	<b>In-School Programmes Boys</b>					
	0	0	0	350		
Indicator 3.2.2 Number of people reached by campaigns challenging harmful social norms and gender stereotyping, within the last year.	0	596,000	596,000	615,600	Due to the delay in signing the CPD RUNOs could not conduct planned campaigns challenging harmful social norms and gender stereotypes. UN Women in partnership with the Red Crescent Society conducted 5-months COVID-19 and EVAWG outreach campaigns in 6 target districts via traditional community mobilization and house-to-house counseling and covered 596,000 people. Beneficiaries were counted as Men and Women without further disaggregation to age categories. The disaggregation was calculated based on the known percent of each category in the country.	
Indicator 3.2.5 Number of campaigns challenging harmful social norms and gender stereotyping, including of women and girls facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination, developed and disseminated during the past year.	0	0	1	58	Due to the delay in signing of the CPD RUNOs were not able to conduct planned campaigns challenging harmful social norms and gender stereotyping. UN Women launched 5-months COVID-19 and EVAWG outreach campaign in 6 target districts and disseminated information materials via traditional community mobilization and house-to-house counselling.	

## Outcome 4 Summary table

Outcome Indicator	Baseline	Milestone 1	Results for Reporting Period (2020)	Target	Reporting Notes
	Women				
Indicator 4.1 Number of women and girls, including those facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination, who report experiencing physical or sexual violence and seek help, by sector.	141	200	267	600	For 2020 data is available only from the 1313 hotline for psychological and legal/referral help which recorded 1210 calls from women and girls. Out of 1210, 253 women and girls reported experiencing physical violence, 14 - reported experiencing sexual violence. Disaggregation by sector is not available.
	Girls				
	7	50	0	150	
Output Indicator	Baseline	Milestone 1	Results for Reporting Period (2020)	Target	Reporting Notes
	Developed				
Indicator 4.1.3 Existence of national guidelines or protocols that have been developed and/or strengthened in line with the guidance and tools for essential services.	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	The UN Essential Service package and the UNFPA National Protocol for provision of quality essential services for survivors of rape and SGBV including GBV Pocket Guide have adapted for the frontline SGBV health service providers to improve quality of service delivery in response to SGBV and strengthen a referral system and multi-sectoral cooperation to respond to SGBV in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MoHSP).
	Strengthened				
	No	No	No	Yes	

	Government Service Providers				
Indicator 4.1.4 Number of government service providers who have increased knowledge and capacities to deliver quality and coordinated essential services to women and girl survivors of violence, within the last year.	0	116	110	1,103	In total 110 health professionals have strengthened their knowledge through the adapted UN Essential Service package and National Protocol for provision of quality essential services for survivors of rape and SGBV including GBV Pocket Guide to improve quality of service delivery in response to SGBV and strengthen a referral system and multi-sectoral cooperation to respond to SGBV as part of COVID-19 response. Government service providers in other sectors were not worked with due to the CPD signing delay and suspending of the activities.
	Women Government Service Providers				
	0	85	80	545	
	a) Girls with Knowledge of ES				
Indicator 4.2.1 Number of women and girl survivors of violence that have increased KNOWLEDGE of a) to quality essential services, and b) accompaniment/support initiatives, including longer-term recovery within the last 12 months.	0	360	360	1,160	
	a) Women with Knowledge of ES				
	0	1,440	1,440	4,640	
	b) Girls with Knowledge of longer term services				
	To be determined				
	b) Women with Knowledge of longer term services				
To be determined					
	a) Girls with ACCESS to ES				
Indicator 4.2.2 Number of women and girl survivors/victims and their families, including groups facing multiple and intersecting forms or discrimination, that have increased ACCESS to a) to quality essential services and b) accompaniment/support initiatives, including longer-term recovery services, within the last 12 months.	120	200	0	995	UN Women managed to increase access to services in 2020 thanks to the work, conducted in the framework of the COVID-19 Response Plan of SLI. It was the localization of referral mechanism, awareness-raising, and outreach via national volunteers of the Red Crescent Society, as well as training and capacity strengthening of selected women's centers/ NGOs. Currently, UN Women can present segregation by men and women only (more precisely women/girls-violence survivors) and data by age is not available, but UN Women will consider it for the future during the implementation of direct project activity. These questions will also be incorporated in the related TORs and reporting documents of the local partners.
	a) Women with ACCESS to ES				
	450	600	2,000	3,075	
	b) Girls with Access to Recovery Services				
	0	35	35	310	
	b) Women with Access to Recovery Services				
50	115	115	940		

## Outcome 5 Summary table

Outcome Indicator	Baseline	Milestone 1	Results for Reporting Period (2020)	Target	Reporting Notes
	Prevalence				
Indicator 5.1 Existence of globally comparable data on the prevalence (and incidence, where appropriate) of VAWG/HP, collected over time.	No	No	No	No	Prevalence data: In Tajikistan prevalence data on VAWG is collected by DHS surveys conducted once in 5 years and it meets the international standards; Incidence data: the country does not have a unified administrative data collection system of SGBV/HP. Within its first year, Spotlight conducted an assessment of the current situation but the results and proposed strategies could not be presented to the government due to the delay in signing of the CPD.
	Incidence				
	No	No	No	Yes	
Output Indicator	Baseline	Milestone 1	Results for Reporting Period (2020)	Target	Reporting Notes
	Indicator 5.1.1 Number of National Statistical Offices that have developed/adapted and contextualized methods and standards at national level to produce prevalence and/or incidence data on VAWG.				
	No	No	No	Yes	The country does not have a unified administrative data collection system of SGBV/HP. Within its first year, Spotlight conducted assessment of the current situation but the results and proposed strategies could not be presented to the government due to the delay in signing of the CPD.



	Government Personnel				
Indicator 5.1.4 Number of government personnel from different sectors, including service providers, who have enhanced capacities to collect prevalence and/or incidence data, including qualitative data, on VAWG in line with international and regional standards, within the last year.	0	0	0	280	No capacity building activities were planned for the Government Personnel from different sectors, including service providers to COLLECT prevalence and/or incidence data, including qualitative data, on VAWG in line with international and regional standards in the first year of the project.
	Women Government Personnel				
	0	0	0	148	
Indicator 5.1.5 Number of women's rights advocates with strengthened capacities to collect prevalence and/or incidence data, and qualitative data, on VAWG.	0	0	0	40	The activity under Outcome 5 (Data) was frozen due to the fact that SLI Project Document has not yet been signed by the Government of RT, therefore, spending would be considered as illegal. The activity and funds were re-phased to 2021 consequently.

## Outcome 6 Summary table

Outcome Indicator	Baseline	Milestone 1	Results for Reporting Period (2020)	Target	Reporting Notes
Indicator 6.1 Number of women's rights organisations, autonomous social movements and relevant CSOs, including those representing youth and groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization, increase their coordinated efforts to jointly advocate on ending VAWG.	0	6	6	20	<p>SLI Prodoc is not been launched officially, however CSOs and activists jointly advocated for ending EAWG within the established SLI CSRG and COVID-19 Response. The following written appeals/statements on ending EAWG have been submitted to the state entities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Keep hotlines and essential services for all survivors of domestic abuse/violence open/functional even under the quarantine-Agreed by 15 CSOs during COVID-19 Response virtual meetings, April-June 2020;</li> <li>2. Criminalize cyber violence/bullying against women and girls-64 CSOs/activists are signatories of the appeal, October 2020</li> </ol> <p>Improve protection mechanism of children's rights in terms of toughening measures for sexual crimes against children, especially girls- 54 CSOs/activists/journalists are signatories of the appeal, December 2020</p>
Indicator 6.3 Number of women's rights organisations, autonomous social movements and CSOs, including those representing youth and groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization, report having greater influence and agency to work on ending VAWG.	0	0	0	10	The program is not endorsed officially, therefore UN Women was not able to work with CSOs on this indicator.

Output Indicator	Baseline	Milestone 1	Results for Reporting Period (2020)	Target	Reporting Notes
Indicator 6.1.1 Number of jointly agreed recommendations on ending VAWG produced as a result of multi-stakeholder dialogues that include representatives of groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, within the last year.	0	1	1	5	<p>1. Gender sensitive recommendations in the context of COVID-19: Out of the total # of recommendation submitted to the Government, 4 recommendations have been supported by SLI technically and financially;</p> <p>2. A written appeal to the General Prosecutor's Office and the Ministry of Interior on Cyber Violence: 4 recommendations have been supported technically by some SLI CSRG members;</p> <p>3. A written appeal to the President and relevant entities on ending sexual violence against children: 6 recommendations have been supported technically by some SLI CSRG members.</p> <p>COVID-19 recommendations have been fully implemented; implementation of other recommendations are monitored by the SLI CSRG/CSOs.</p>

Indicator 6.1.4 Number of women's rights groups, networks and relevant CSOs with strengthened capacities to network, partner and jointly advocate for progress on ending VAWG at local, national, regional and global levels, within the last year.	26	0	10	41	<p>10 individuals drawn from women's rights groups, activist groups and representatives of women's civil society organizations/networks and men-led networks with a strong track record of working on EAWG and activism, strengthened capacities to network, partner, and jointly advocate for progress on ending VAWG at local, national, regional and global levels through online SLI and UN-led initiatives during 6 months.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Talk show on the national TV with the participation of 3 CSRG members on the implementation of the Law "Prevention of violence in the family"</li> <li>-Meeting on Inter-Agency Response to Gender-Based Violence in Central Asia (Case Study of Kazakhstan)</li> <li>-Webinar - officially launching the Global Costing Tool to estimate the resource requirements for a minimum package of services</li> <li>-First SLI Global Learning Session on Social Norms and Behaviour Change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Cross-Regional Learning Sprint on Women's Movement</li> </ul> </li> <li>-Launch of a 16-day campaign to prevent all forms of violence against women and girls. UN in Tajikistan</li> <li>-Introductory training "Application of the GALS methodology in the context of Tajikistan" / UN Women Tajikistan</li> <li>-Regional conference "#DontBeSilent Movement in Central Asia Giving Voices and a Safe Space to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Survivors"</li> </ul>
CSOs with strengthened capacities					
Indicator 6.3.1 Number of women's rights groups and relevant CSOs representing groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization that have strengthened capacities and support to design, implement, monitor and evaluate their own programmes on ending VAWG, within the last year.	12	0	0	12	No capacity building activities were conducted for women's rights groups and relevant CSOs representing groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization due to delay in signing of the CPD.
Indicator 6.3.2 Number of women's rights groups and relevant CSOs using knowledge products developed by the participating UN agencies in the design of their own programmes on ending VAWG, within the last year.	0	0	0	10	No activities were conducted under this indicator due to delay of the CPD signing.

## Annex B

### Risk Matrix

Risk Assessment  Risk Please include new risks, if any, denoting these with [New Risk]	Likelihood: Almost Certain – 5 Likely – 4 Possible – 3 Unlikely – 2 Rare – 1	Impact: Extreme – 5 Major – 4 Moderate – 3 Minor – 2 Insignificant – 1	Risk Monitoring: How (and how often) did your programme monitor the risk(s) during the reporting period?		Addressing the Risk: Please include the mitigating and/or adaption measures taken during the reporting period.	Responsible Person/Unit
			Periodicity	Source for monitoring		
<b>Contextual risks</b>						
Parliamentary and presidential elections may produce a change in members, delay engagement and affect the participation of the Executive Office in Pillar 1	Likely (4)	Major (4)	Frequent	Meeting with Government Officials	The changes that took place - which included a change of CoWFA's chairwomen - has significantly impacted the process of signing the ProDoc - and resulting ability to engage the Government in programme implementation - notably establishing the steering committee and conducting the baseline - the RC and UN Women (as technical coherence lead) have been engaging in regular communications and meetings with CoWFA and the MFA to mitigate this impact	UN Women and RC
Resistance from family, community, traditional and religious leaders limiting participation and access of beneficiaries to SI project events, and access to services	Likely (4)	Moderate (3)	Frequent	Meeting with beneficiaries, CSRG and other NGOs	Adoptive pathways of communication; userfriendly approaches, use of win-win policy; engagement of the entire Communities	UNDP/UNFPA and national partners
COVID-19	Likely (4)	Major (4)	Frequent	COVID-19 Response Plan	Although there has proved to be difficult to plan for COVID-19 impact and scale, we have addressed the risk of COVID-19 with adaptation and mitigation strategies, such as a new paradigm of working with a local emergency response institution and applying digital innovation to essential service delivery during COVID-19 context	UNDP/UNICEF/UNFPA/ UNWomen
Lack of legal incentives for creation and running of NGOs, particularly for local grassroots organizations	Possible (3)	Major (4)	Quarterly	Meeting of the CSRG and other NGOs	The Programme envisages strengthening capacities and skills of CSOs /youth networks /centers /organisations to further conduct cascade "peer-to-peer" trainings on fundraising and programme management in target districts. This will be complemented by facilitation knowledge exchange on existing experiences of different organisations focusing on women's rights, people with disabilities, special groups of population and youth networks. The programme will also provide a Platform for CS leaders to come together with governmental bodies and develop Civil Society Strategy to Leading Change on EVAWG (if deem necessary). The Strategy will include joint and coherent multi-sectoral actions and experimentation on innovative approaches. Also, RUNOs will facilitate knowledge-exchange and capacity building of CSOs representing groups focusing on multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination of violence (incl. people with disabilities), including through strengthening strategic program management and fundraising abilities.	UNDP/UNICEF/UNFPA/ UNWomen

Risk Assessment  Risk Please include new risks, if any, denoting these with [New Risk]	Likelihood: Almost Certain – 5 Likely – 4 Possible – 3 Unlikely – 2 Rare – 1	Impact: Extreme – 5 Major – 4 Moderate – 3 Minor – 2 Insignificant – 1	Risk Monitoring: How (and how often) did your programme monitor the risk(s) during the reporting period?		Addressing the Risk: Please include the mitigating and/or adaption measures taken during the reporting period.	Responsible Person/Unit
			Periodicity	Source for monitoring		
Stigmatization of victims of GBV at community level, resistance from family and unwillingness to seek professional support	Possible (3)	Major (4)	Frequent	Meeting with service providers, community leaders, CSRG	This risk has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic - campaigns designed to fight this stigmatization have been implemented as part of the COVID-19 response	UNDP/UNICEF/UNFPA/ UNWomen
<b>Programmatic risks</b>						
Acquired capacity and knowledge not translated in transformative action	Possible (3)	Major (4)	Frequent	Monthly Coordination meetings, CSRG monthly meetings	Establishing Spotlight focal points in each RUNO and RCO and the creation and effective operation of task forces in key areas (M&E, Communications and Finance and Operations) as well as regular technical meetings and monthly coordination meetings has been mitigating this risk, ensuring learnings and knowledge are shared. The permanent CSRG which has been successfully established in the reporting period will ensure this risk continues to be mitigated	UNDP/UNICEF/UNFPA/ UNWomen
NEW RISK - human resources for key programmatic positions are not available	Likely (3)	Moderate (3)	Frequent	results of recruitment procedures:	COVID-19 has made this a more significant risk - verified in the hiring of consultants and positions such as the coordination team. The team has adapted by allocating internal resources to ensure implementation is not significantly affected and by extending the contract of the interim programme coordinator to ensure the gap in coordination is filled. By qrt 4, the coordination team was fully on board. RUNOs participate in the recruitment of each others that mitigates the risk of double- triple-contracting of same experts.	UNDP/UNFPA/UNWomen
New RISK - halt of decision on externally funded programmes	Likely (4)	Major (4)		no approval of the programme document (not signed)	Given the prodoc was not signed the SPT management made a decision to halt activities in fall of 2020. However, the SPT team continued in earnest all the preparatory work that would allow to re-launch the project and start implementation without any further delay.	
NEW RISK- Quality of evidence and data amid a pandemic	Likely (3)	Moderate (3)		technical meetings	"Alternative communication pathways during COVID-19 related limitations and preventive measures Self-protection and training for members or research groups Extra budgeting for self-protection and sanitary items"	UNDP/UNWomen/UNFPA/ UNICEF

Risk Assessment	Likelihood: Almost Certain – 5 Likely – 4 Possible – 3 Unlikely – 2 Rare – 1	Impact: Extreme – 5 Major – 4 Moderate – 3 Minor – 2 Insignificant – 1	Risk Monitoring: How (and how often) did your programme monitor the risk(s) during the reporting period?		Addressing the Risk: Please include the mitigating and/or adaption measures taken during the reporting period.	Responsible Person/Unit
			Periodicity	Source for monitoring		
<p><b>Risk</b> Please include new risks, if any, denoting these with [New Risk]</p> <p>NEW RISK - given the one year delay in getting the prodoc signed, the SPT team is concerned about the feasibility of implementing two-years activities in one year.</p>	Likely (4)	Major (4)	Frequent	programme design and implementation timeframe	This was not a concern during the reporting period, however if not addressed will have an adverse impact on the overall programme delivery. Not to compromise on the quality of work and to be able to have a meaningful impact and empower the intended grass root CSOs a provision of NCE, as a mitigating action, the team will remain in contact with the SI Secretariat and the EU to insure the programme can be implemented. The SPT has done extensive ground work to ensure immediate implementation once the prodoc is signed. That includes, hiring a company to conduct the baseline and the KABP surveys; hiring national and international consultants to carry on the legislation review; selection of implementing partners for implementation of outreach activities, conducting trainings etc; preparing and translating into Russian the necessary documents for the NSC first meeting, drafting the SPT Communication and Visibility Strategy, the Knowledge Management Workplan, prioritization of the activities for the 2021 Annual Work Plan etc.	UNDP/UNWomen/UNFPA/UNICEF
NEW RISK- capacity of grantees	Likely (3)	Moderate (3)	Frequent	results of recruitment procedures:	"Pre-bidding conferences Capacity training of local and national CSOs- potential participants of CFPs/ RFPs on the related topics concerned Close consultations Stimulation of participatory preparation and planning of the activities as per TORs/CFPs"	UNDP/UNWomen/UNFPA/UNICEF and partners
Shallow SGBV/EVAW expert market in the country	Likely (4)	Moderate (3)	constantly	results of recruitment procedures:	This risk (and challenge) will be addressed in the Pillar 6 on the Women's Movement. SPT will strengthen potential of expert market by provision of increased opportunities and support to share knowledge, network, partner and jointly advocate for GEWE and ending SGBV to women's rights groups and relevant CSOs. This will be achieved by creating a pool of EVAWG advocates and experts through organising the School of Gender Advocates and its website - focus on transformative leadership for accelerating progress on EVAWG, evidence based campaigning, data analysis and use for planning and policy making, use on IT/ICT for strengthening influence of CS on policy making, demanding accountability. SPT will also support knowledge management through systematic documentation of practices, including observation of processes, difficulties, enabling factors, defining lessons learned. SPT will facilitate the process of development of the Civil Society Strategy to Leading Change on EVAWG, including defining CSOs capacity needs on transformative leadership.	UNDP/UNWomen/UNFPA/UNICEF

Risk Assessment  Risk Please include new risks, if any, denoting these with [New Risk]	Likelihood: Almost Certain – 5 Likely – 4 Possible – 3 Unlikely – 2 Rare – 1	Impact: Extreme – 5 Major – 4 Moderate – 3 Minor – 2 Insignificant – 1	Risk Monitoring: How (and how often) did your programme monitor the risk(s) during the reporting period?		Addressing the Risk: Please include the mitigating and/or adaption measures taken during the reporting period.	Responsible Person/Unit
			Periodicity	Source for monitoring		
<b>Institutional risk</b>						
Varying procedures for budgeting and procurement by RUNOs	Likely (4)	Moderate (3)	Frequent		To date this has been mitigated by establishing Spotlight focal points in each RUNO and RCO (with regular coordination at this level) and the creation of the finance and operations task force. Several RUNOs have common financial e-system ATLAS, where they can apply GLGE procedure (UNFPA, UNDP, UNWOMEN). Fast track on some procedures due to COVID-19. Use of common LTAs that speeds up the procurement and buying process. Joint procurement.	Programme Coordinator and UNDP as the Finance and Operations Taskforce
Coordination between and among RUNOs could be disrupted by differences in schedules and agendas for programme inputs	Possible (3)	Moderate (3)	Frequent	Monthly Coordination meetings, ad hoc meetings	As mentioned above, this risk has been mitigated through effective and regular coordination and a clear workplan and prioritization.	UNDP/UNWomen/UNFPA/ UNICEF
<b>Fiduciary risks</b>						
Disbursements of resources to small stakeholders (CSOs) and national implementing partner have the potential to provide incentives for diversionary activities.	Possible (3)	Minor (2)			This is being avoided by clustering activities and strategic approaches (CFPs/ RFPs)	UNDP/UNWomen/UNFPA/ UNICEF and partners

**Assumptions:**

- No major change in the political situation in the region will affect implementation of the Spotlight Initiative
- The Spotlight Initiative has significant political and administrative support, which facilitates the involvement and commitment of Central and South Asia governments and civil society organisations
- There is significant national commitment including through dedication of domestic resources to ensure sustainability and long-term impact of the programme and overall efforts
- There is significant national commitment to the promotion of gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment
- NEW - as per existing dynamics, COVID 19 will not significantly increase in the country, causing breakdown in services and activities and the restrictions caused by the COVID 19 will not increase and will gradually be lifted





Outcome	Output	Name of Civil Society Organisation (CSO)	Type of CSO (see definition below table)	Total Award Amount (USD) (see definition below table)	Name of Recipient UN Organisation (RUNO) funding the CSO	Modality of Engagement (see definition below table)	Is this CSO woman-led and/or women's rights organisation (WRO)/ feminist CSO? (see definition below table)	Is the CSO a new or existing partner? Please indicate if the RUNO has/has not partnered with the CSO prior to the Spotlight Programme start. (see definition below table)	Primary Vulnerable/ Marginalised Population Supported by Award (see explanation below table)
<b>OUTCOME 3: Gender equitable social norms, attitudes and behaviours change at community and individual levels to prevent violence against women and girls and harmful practices.</b>									
Output 3.1: National and/or sub-national evidence-based programmes are developed to promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours, including on Comprehensive Sexuality Education in line with international standards, for in and out of school settings.									
3	3,1	NGO Hamsol ba Hamsol (YPEER)	National	28 924	UNFPA	Implementing Partner (IP)	Woman-led	Existing	Adolescent girls
3	3,1	NGO Hamsol ba Hamsol (YPEER)	National	10 205	UNICEF	Implementing Partner (IP)	Woman-led	Existing	Adolescent girls
3	3,1	PO Cultural Educational Center Tomiris	National	24 958	UNICEF	Implementing Partner (IP)	Woman-led	Existing	Rural women and girls
Output 3.2: Community advocacy platforms are established/strengthened to develop strategies and programmes, including community dialogues, public information and advocacy campaigns, to promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours, including in relation to women and girls' sexuality and reproduction, self-confidence and self-esteem and transforming harmful masculinities.									
3	3,2								
Output 3.3: Decision makers in relevant institutions and key informal decision makers are better able to advocate for implementation of legislation and policies on ending VAWG and for gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours and women and girls' rights.									
3	3,3								
<b>OUTCOME 4: Women and girls who experience violence and harmful practices use available, accessible, acceptable, and quality essential services including for long term recovery from violence.</b>									
Output 4.1: Relevant government authorities and women's rights organisations at national and sub-national levels have better knowledge and capacity to deliver quality and coordinated essential services, including SRH services and access to justice, to women and girls' survivors of violence, especially those facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.									
4	4,1	Tajik Family Planning Association	National	7 470	UNFPA	Implementing Partner (IP)	WRO/feminist CSO but not woman-led	Existing	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context
Output 4.2: Women and girls survivors of violence and their families are informed of and can access quality essential services, including longer term recovery services and opportunities.									
4	4,2	Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia (EFCA)	National	42 672	UNDP	Implementing Partner (IP)	No information available	Existing	
4	4,2	Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan	National	18 694	UN WOMEN	Vendor	No information available	New	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context
4	4,2	Center for psychological support	National	34 786	UNICEF	Implementing Partner (IP)	Woman-led	Existing	Adolescent girls

Outcome	Output	Name of Civil Society Organisation (CSO)	Type of CSO (see definition below table)	Total Award Amount (USD) (see definition below table)	Name of Recipient UN Organisation (RUNO) funding the CSO	Modality of Engagement (see definition below table)	Is this CSO woman-led and/or women's rights organisation (WRO)/ feminist CSO? (see definition below table)	Is the CSO a new or existing partner? Please indicate if the RUNO has/has not partnered with the CSO prior to the Spotlight Programme start. (see definition below table)	Primary Vulnerable/ Marginalised Population Supported by Award (see explanation below table)
OUTCOME 5: Quality, disaggregated and globally comparable data on different forms of violence against women and girls and harmful practices is collected, analysed and used in line with international standards to inform laws, policies and programmes.									
Output 5.1: Key partners, including relevant statistical officers, service providers in the different branches of government and women's rights advocates have strengthened capacities to regularly collect data related to VAWG in line with international and regional standards to inform laws, policies and programmes.									
5	5,1								
Output 5.2: Quality prevalence and/or incidence data on VAWG is analysed and made publicly available for the monitoring and reporting of the SDG target 5.2 indicators to inform evidence-based decision making.									
5	5,2								
OUTCOME 6: Women's rights groups, autonomous social movements and civil society organisations, including those representing youth and groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization, more effectively influence and advance progress on GEWE and ending VAWG.									
Output 6.1: Women's rights groups and relevant CSOs have increased opportunities and support to share knowledge, network, partner and jointly advocate for GEWE and ending VAWG, more specifically, with relevant stakeholders at sub-national, national, regional and global levels.									
6	6,1								
6	6,1	Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan	National	36 841	UN WOMEN	Vendor	No information available	New	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context
Output 6.2: Women's rights groups and relevant CSOs are better supported to use social accountability mechanisms to support their advocacy and influence on prevention and response to VAWG and GEWE more broadly.									
6	6,2								
Output 6.3: Women's rights groups and relevant CSOs representing groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalisation have strengthened capacities and support to design, implement and monitor their own programmes on ending VAWG.									
6	6,3								
PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT COSTS (including pre-funding)									
N/A	N/A								
			TOTAL AWARDS TO CSOs	210 151					

Outcome	Output	Name of Civil Society Organisation (CSO)	Type of CSO (see definition below table)	Total Award Amount (USD) (see definition below table)	Name of Recipient UN Organisation (RUNO) funding the CSO	Modality of Engagement (see definition below table)	Is this CSO woman-led and/or women's rights organisation (WRO)/feminist CSO? (see definition below table)	Is the CSO a new or existing partner? Please indicate if the RUNO has/has not partnered with the CSO prior to the Spotlight Programme start. (see definition below table)	Primary Vulnerable/Marginalised Population Supported by Award (see explanation below table)
<b>Type of CSOs</b>		<p>-International CSOs operate in two or more countries across different regions.</p> <p>-Regional CSOs operate in two or more countries within the same region (i.e. Africa, Latin America, Asia, Caribbean, Pacific). In this case, a regional CSO is not one that operates in a particular region within one country.</p> <p>-National CSOs operate only in one particular country.</p> <p>-Local and grassroots organisations focus their work at the local and community level and do not have a national scope. They tend to have a small annual operational budget (for example, under USD \$200,000); to be self-organised and self-led; and to have a low degree of formality.</p>							
<b>Award Amount</b>		In this context, an “award” is any financial grant, contract, or partnership agreement with a CSO.							
<b>Type of Engagement</b>		<p>-Implementing Partner (IP): Programmes may contract out particular activities for a CSO to implement.</p> <p>-Grantee: Programmes may issue a broad Call for Proposals to which CSOs submit proposals for grant funding.</p> <p>-Vendor: Programmes may engage with CSOs through a procurement process, such as purchasing services from a CSO or hiring a CSO for a training or other activity.</p>							
<b>Woman-Led and/or Women's Rights Organisation (WRO)/Feminist CSOs</b>		<p>To be considered a “woman-led CSO,” the organisation must be headed by a woman. To be considered a “women’s rights or feminist organisation,” the organisation’s official mission/visions statements must reflect its commitment to addressing multiple/intersecting forms of discrimination and advancing gender equality and women’s rights. The organisation should aim to address the underlying drivers/systems/structures, including patriarchy and gendered power dynamics, that perpetuate EVAWG and gender based violence and work to transform these. Please select “No” if the above definitions do not apply to the CSO.</p> <p>Please select “No information available” if no information is available on or it’s not known if the CSO is headed by a woman or is a WRO/feminist CSO.</p>							
<b>New or Existing Partner</b>		<p>(the rationale behind this question is to understand the extent to which RUNOs are expanding their outreach to CSOs beyond usual partners, giving opportunities to new CSOs)</p> <p>To be considered a “new partner”, the RUNO has not engaged the CSO in any partnership modality, prior to the start of the Spotlight Programme.</p> <p>To be considered an existing partner, the RUNO has engaged the CSO in any partnership modality, prior to the start of the Spotlight Programme.</p> <p>Please select “No information available” if no information is available on if the CSO is a new or existing partner.</p>							
<b>Primary Vulnerable/Marginalised Population Supported by Award</b>		Under the principle of Leave No One Behind, Spotlight UN Country Teams are expected to ensure the representation of vulnerable and marginalised groups, including by engaging with CSOs that service or advocate for these groups. If the award covers several vulnerable or marginalised populations, select one population that is primarily served by the award.							

## Annex D

### Promising or Good Practices Reporting Template

#### State of a practice: good practice or promising practice?

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

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

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

### Guidance and Template on Good and Promising Practices

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

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

#### Definition of a Promising Practice

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

#### Definition of a Good Practice

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

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

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

<b>Title of the Innovative, Promising or Good Practice</b>	<b>A new paradigm of STP partnership with the local Emergency Response Institution (Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan) in the context of COVID-19 Response</b>
<b>Provide a description of the innovative, promising, or good practice. What pillars/principles of the Spotlight Initiative does it address?</b>	<p>In June 2020, as a part of COVID-19 Response Plan approved by SPT RUNOs and the Government of Tajikistan, the SPT signed an agreement with Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan for the 5-month COVID-19 and EAWG outreach campaigns in six SPT pilot districts. In the COVID-19 planning phase several scenarios for SPT COVID-19 interventions were developed, and one of the scenarios envisaged reach out to the pilot communities and delivery of VAWG services during the lockdown. In this regard, partnership with institutions which have a mandate to operate during emergencies/health crisis was considered.</p> <p>\$66,395 have been reallocated for this project from Pillar 4 (Access to Quality Services) as the project focused on provision of VAWG services to the victims of violence through the referral mechanisms and hotlines/online support and Pillar 6 (Women's movement and CSOs) as the initiative supported 6 crisis centers to render legal, psychological, and medical assistance to women and girls. In the frame of Pillar 6, capacities of NGO staff have been strengthened to advocate for ending violence against women and girls in rural areas through awareness raising campaigns.</p> <p>A new paradigm of SPT partnership with a local Disaster Risk Reduction/Emergency Response Institution-Red Crescent Society in Tajikistan (RCS) leveraged the Spotlight interventions in reaching out to target population through 120 RCS community volunteers in 6 remote districts during the pandemic and raised awareness on COVID-19 prevention measures and available VAWG services in each district to assist victims of violence.</p>
<b>Objective of the practice:</b>	<p>The project aimed to reach the following goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Integrate VAWG component in emergency response and strengthen volunteers' capacity in EAWG and SGBV referral system</li> <li>- Increase, via RCS volunteers, community awareness in 6 pilot districts on COVID-19 safety measures and EAWG with a special focus on women and adolescent girls, especially women and girls with different forms of disabilities</li> <li>- Boost VAWG efforts in preventing the spread of COVID-19 and ensure access to the critical services for victims of violence</li> <li>- Identify households with unhealthy and violent in-house environment and outreach victims and/or potential victims of violence</li> <li>- Refer identified victims of violence to existing SGBV support services for psychological, medical, and legal aid</li> </ul> <p>Overall, activity evolved as a new paradigm of partnership experience and boosting VAWG capacities with the DDR/Emergency Response Institution - The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan.</p>
<b>Stakeholders involved:</b>	<p>The project reached 596,000 people (men and women) in 6 pilot districts (Isfara, B. Gafurov, Vose, Rudaki, Gissar and Yavan) and raised their awareness on COVID-19 safety measures, EAWG and SGBV referral mechanism. During the project period, 3400 women and girls with disabilities, including women with TB/HIV received psychological and legal aid from NGOs based on reported cases of violence from the family members.</p> <p>Many victim support centres during the pandemic were not operational due to the limited funding and lack of COVID-19 response capacities, which resulted in the limited access and distancing regulations to informal networks, as well as to essential services, including psychosocial support to survivors of violence. Under SPT, six active crisis centres/shelters with a solid EAWG experience and strong presence in the 6 SPT pilot districts have been selected for EAWG and COVID-19 Response capacity strengthening and further assistance to the victims of violence in the frame of the project.</p> <p>Noteworthy, local authorities and Committee of Women and Family Affairs - key Government counterpart, have been actively engaged in the project and awareness raising campaigns in remote districts.</p>
<b>What makes this an innovative, promising, or good practice?</b>	<p>COVID-19 and EAWG outreach campaigns are an example of a good practice as the SPT demonstrated the ability to identify, design and support new partnerships, coordinated efforts among SPT RUNOs, development and government partners in COVID-19 response planning, GoT request and EU timely approval of the AP allowed RUNOs to tailor its support, enhanced results delivery and provide greater visibility of SPT interventions in the context of COVID-19 and towards achieving SGD Agenda (Goals 5,16,17).</p> <p>For 5 months, the project demonstrated good results on reaching out to the victims of violence in remote areas, while most victim support centers were not operating and integration of VAWG component into emergency response settings, especially in training RCS volunteers. Many beneficiaries reported positive outcomes from the service delivery by victim support centers and outreach activities done by volunteers.</p>

<b>Title of the Innovative, Promising or Good Practice</b>	<b>A new paradigm of STP partnership with the local Emergency Response Institution (Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan) in the context of COVID-19 Response</b>
<b>What challenges were encountered and how were they overcome?</b>	<p>Limited VAWG knowledge/experience among RCS volunteers and some NGO staff at the beginning of the project.</p> <p>To strengthen the capacity of RCS volunteers and NGO staff in identification of VAWG cases in households, communication skills with communities and victims of violence, utilization of referral mechanisms and outreach essential, series of trainings have been organized in the districts and a digital tutorial on VAWG and outreach essentials developed and disseminated via mobile phones among RCS volunteers.</p> <p>Many women and girls in rural areas have limited access to mobile phones internet for remote assistance.</p> <p>RCS volunteers and some NGO staff organized outreach sessions and house-to-house counselling to ensure wider coverage of the population and timely assistance to women and girls who faced violence and abuse and those with a limited access to mobile services for reporting the case. RCS volunteers and NGO staff identified several cases of unhealthy environment during the counselling sessions (face-to-face). In addition, heads of mahallas and community members have been reporting cases of violence in the neighbourhoods based on information from disseminated leaflets on available VAWG services and SGBV referral pathways.</p> <p>All 6 crisis centers/shelters received hygiene and COVID-19 protection items to render face-to-face consultations to the victims of violence and accompanied some of them during the legal hearings or medical support.</p> <p>Turn-over and COVID-19 health issues of volunteers and NGO staff during the project.</p> <p>At the beginning of the project, all volunteers and NGO staff passed a briefing session about the project. However, during the outbreak many volunteers and NGO staff had COVID-19 related health issues and had to take sick leaves. This resulted in the low population coverage and need for training of newcomers. As a solution to face-to-face training, a digital tutorial for community volunteers and NGOs on outreach essentials, communication skills with the victims of violence and further referral of these victims to the local VAWG service providers was developed and disseminated.</p>
<b>Outputs and Impact:</b>	<p>During 5 months, the project has made a substantial progress in reaching out to 596,00 people on COVID-19 safety measures and EAWG services; 168,000 information materials on COVID-19, EAWG and SGBV referral mechanism were disseminated; 3,400 victims of violence reached and received psychological, legal and medical assistance; a digital tutorial on outreach essentials and identifications of VAWG cases developed for volunteers and NGOs.</p> <p>The long-term impact of the project lies in expansion of the knowledge and skills in VAWG to RCS volunteers and NGO staff which will be transferred to further projects and service delivery to the victims of violence. Developed training and digital tutorials will be disseminated among other CSOs for obtaining knowledge in referral mechanism and VAWG essential in outreach work. According to the RCS report, more people are aware about VAWG services in their districts and able to report on the cases of violence and seek help through the existing hotlines/mechanisms.</p>
<b>Adaptable (Optional)</b>	For community awareness and mobilization activities
<b>Replicable/Scale-Up (Optional)</b>	<p>This model has now been employed by USAID Tuberculosis (TB) project to address violence and discrimination through integration of GBV/VAWG response component in the TB observed therapy.</p> <p>Based on the results and lessons learnt, the project can be further used as a good practice for countries with a presence of emergency response institutions, limited social mobility due to COVID-19 and a need for VAWG outreach to communities in remote areas, which can be done by outreach workers or volunteers.</p> <p>Acknowledging the evolving nature of COVID-19 pandemic, this practice has the potential for upscaling in other parts of Tajikistan and Central Asia, where RCS has its presence and can share the knowledge materials</p>
<b>Sustainable</b>	Project's sustainability shall be supported by further capacity building of volunteers and keeping them as an active part of the SGBV referral system.
<b>Validated (for a good practice only):</b>	The practice has been discussed and validated at the final virtual project closure event on 23 December 2020, where project beneficiaries and partners reported positive impact and achieved results of the initiative.
<b>Additional details and contact information:</b>	<p>Focal person for this practice: Diana Ismailova, Programme Coordinator, UN Women Email: <a href="mailto:diana.ismailova@unwomen.org">diana.ismailova@unwomen.org</a></p> <p>Project's presentation with photos, lessons learnt, and success stories can be found at <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1sWSv___g8K1ufChlJPDR_X_CMc__LaKv/view?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1sWSv___g8K1ufChlJPDR_X_CMc__LaKv/view?usp=sharing</a></p>

<b>Title of the Innovative, Promising or Good Practice</b>	<b>Applying digital innovation to essential service delivery during COVID-19 context</b>
<b>Provide a description of the innovative, promising, or good practice. What pillars/principles of the Spotlight Initiative does it address?</b>	<p>In the rapidly changing situation and evolving reality of the COVID-19 pandemic, in the middle of the project SPT team had to rethink the ways of communicating to rural communities and delivery of services, which have been restrained by COVID-19 realities. Another challenge was posed by a limited space for innovation in the rural areas and internet access. The duration of the project was only 5 months and conveying outreach and VAWG essentials to the volunteers, who have been mainly trained in disaster response and emergency through face-to-face trainings for newcomers was challenging.</p> <p>As a solution to face-to-face training, a digital tutorial for community volunteers and NGOs on outreach essentials, communication skills with the victims of violence and further referral of these victims to the local VAWG service providers was developed in September 2020. The digital tutorial was adapted to the mobile version and disseminated among volunteers and NGO staff for usage till the end of the project. Volunteers had hands-on guidelines on communication modalities, identification of VAWG cases and referral mechanism in their mobile phones, which they used in their daily work in remote districts. According to the Red Crescent Society Tajikistan and NGOs, work efficiency and coverage have increased as newcomers among volunteers used the tutorial instead of face-to-face induction training.</p> <p>The distinguishing feature is that the tutorial also underpins Do Not Harm and LNOB principles, draws the attention to COVID-19 safety aspects for outreach staff and makes a link between Spotlight's mandate and importance of outreach work to reach out and help victims of violence during the outbreak and limited social mobility.</p> <p>The funds for the product were reallocated from Pillar 3, which focuses on innovative approaches to work with rural communities and changing social norms. Developed digital tutorial echoes principles of Pillar 3 and 4 by introducing innovative solutions to strengthening the beneficiaries' capacity in VAWG and a new way of delivering services to communities in 6 STP pilot districts adapted to the context of COVID-19.</p>
<b>Objective of the practice:</b>	<p>The objective of developing a digital tutorial was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide volunteers with easy access and comprehensive information about their tasks, responsibilities, components of the referral system, and recommended actions in various situations, etc.</li> <li>• Find a solution on the issue of volunteers' and NGO staff turn-over due to COVID-19 related health issues and avoid face-to face training sessions on VAWG for newcomers.</li> <li>• Ensure the tutorial is very interactive and user-friendly as the end users were ordinary community workers.</li> </ul>
<b>Stakeholders involved:</b>	<p>The beneficiaries of the digital tutorial are community volunteers and NGO social workers engaged in outreach activities and awareness raising activities on VAWG in the context of COVID-19. Due to the urgency of COVID-19, the tutorial was developed in Tajik language and shared internally.</p> <p>Principle of LNOB is mainstreamed in communication essentials for volunteers/outreach workers with women and girls who have a disability, tuberculosis, or HIV.</p>
<b>What makes this an innovative, promising, or good practice?</b>	<p>A digital tutorial is an example of an innovative practice as it demonstrates a transformation from traditional practice of face-to-face capacity building and path-breaking improvements in delivery of essential services to rural communities. During the tutorial development process, SPT team tried to combine innovative, promising, and effective solutions to enhance the capacity of RCS volunteers and NGO staff, which corresponds to the needs and available resources for service delivery modalities within the COVID-19 context and beyond, including access to VAWG state and non-state service providers, shelters, and remote case management and for marginalized groups into one user-friendly product. Acknowledging limited internet access in rural areas for online training and restrictions for mass gatherings, the tutorial was adapted to a mobile version and shared to mobile devices of volunteers and outreach workers to be used in their daily work, especially the communication and referral pathways sections.</p> <p>This is the first practice of training volunteers and outreach workers in rural areas in a digital format in Tajikistan. Unlike previous practices where most of the trainings and capacity building materials were printed and disseminated among beneficiaries, the tutorial not only demonstrates innovation and good practice, but also contributes to the green agenda with a longer term of utilization and has a wider coverage of beneficiaries in the digital space. The light mobile format allowed a quick sharing of the tutorial with new volunteers engaged in the project via WhatsApp and Viber applications.</p>



<b>Title of the Innovative, Promising or Good Practice</b>	<b>Applying digital innovation to essential service delivery during COVID-19 context</b>
<b>What challenges were encountered and how were they overcome?</b>	<p>Turn-over and COVID19 health issues of volunteers and NGO staff during the project.</p> <p>At the beginning of the project, all volunteers and NGO staff passed a briefing session about the project. However, during the outbreak many volunteers and NGO staff had COVID-19 related health issues and had to take sick leaves. This resulted in the low population coverage and a need for a constant training of newcomers. As a solution to face-to-face training, a digital tutorial for community volunteers and NGOs on outreach essentials, communication skills with the victims of violence and further referral of these victims to the local VAWG service providers was developed and disseminated.</p>
<b>Outputs and Impact:</b>	<p>According to the reports from the Red Crescent Society and NGOs, after dissemination of the tutorial work efficiency and population coverage have increased as newcomers among volunteers no longer needed face-to-face induction training and the tutorial boosted their learning process.</p> <p>The long-term impact of the tutorial is its holistic utilization in the context of COVID-19 and beyond as it contains outreach and communication essentials which can be applied by all beneficiaries engaged in outreach activities and VAWG advocacy with communities.</p>
<b>Adaptable (Optional)</b>	<p>Adapting the content/language to the SI implementing countries. In addition, it can be transferred to an online format similar to the trainings in AGORA Platform and used for UN staff and development partners working with communities in emergency situations on EAWG and outreach activities.</p>
<b>Replicable/Scale-Up (Optional)</b>	<p>This practice can be widely extended among SI implementing countries and translated into a local language as it contains a generic approach to VAWG service delivery and communication essentials. The tutorial is very interactive, has a lot of infographics and information presented in a user-friendly format. Since the practice has been approved in a local language in 6 districts, other UN Agencies and development partners can use it for their interventions of a similar nature.</p> <p>The SPT team presented this practice at the Spotlight Initiative Global Virtual Learning Session on Innovative Access to Essential Services Learning Sprint on 23 November 2020. Noteworthy, UNFPA from Kazakhstan requested Spotlight Tajikistan's team to share the digital tutorial with them, which they plan to translate into Russian language and disseminate among their beneficiaries under the Spotlight Initiative.</p>
<b>Sustainable</b>	<p>The practice's sustainability is supported by the further dissemination of the tutorial and capacity building of active volunteers in EAWG realm under the USAID Tuberculosis project implemented by the RCS.</p>
<b>Validated (for a good practice only):</b>	<p>The practice has been discussed and validated at the final virtual project closure event on 23 December 2020, where project beneficiaries and partners reported positive impact and enhanced knowledge in VAWG among volunteers after the release of the tutorial.</p>
<b>Additional details and contact information:</b>	<p>Focal person for this practice:</p> <p>Diana Ismailova, Programme Coordinator, UN Women</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:diana.ismailova@unwomen.org">diana.ismailova@unwomen.org</a></p> <p>Tutorial's photos can be found at <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1sWSv___g8K1ufChlJPDR_X_CMc__LaKv/view?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1sWSv___g8K1ufChlJPDR_X_CMc__LaKv/view?usp=sharing</a></p>



# Spotlight Initiative

To eliminate violence against women and girls

