



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

Spotlight Programme in Tajikistan (SPT)

Annual Narrative Programme Report

01 January 2021 – 31 December 2021

Initiated by the European Union and the United Nations:



Programme Title & Programme Number

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

Recipient Organisation(s)

UN Women
UNDP
UNFPA
UNICEF

Programme Cost (US\$)

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

Phase I Spotlight funding²: 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
TOTAL:	4,900,000	667,037

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

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

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

Table of Contents

Table of Contents.....	3
Acronym List.....	4
Executive Summary.....	6
Key Results.....	7
Contextual Shifts and Implementation Status.....	9
Implementation Progress by Outcome Area	11
Programme Governance and Coordination.....	11
Programme Partnerships.....	16
Results.....	19
Challenges and Mitigating Measures.....	31
Lessons Learned and New Opportunities.....	32
Innovative, Promising or Good Practices.....	34
Communications and Visibility.....	35
Next Steps.....	45
Annexes.....	49

List of Acronyms and Abbreviation

AWP:	Annual Work Plan
CAEs	Centres for Additional Education
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CRA	Committee of Religious Affairs and Regulations of Traditions, Ceremonies, and Rituals under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan
CPD	Country Programme Document
CS	Civil Society
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
CSS	Civil Society Strategy
CSRG	Civil Society Reference Group
C4D	Communication for Development
C&VTF	Communications and Visibility Task Force
CoWFA	Committee on Women and Family Affairs under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan (RT)
DV	Domestic Violence
DDPs	District Development Plans
EU	European Union
EUD	European Union Delegation in Tajikistan
EVAWG	Ending Violence Against Women and Girls
EFCA	Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia – Tajikistan
GALS	Gender Action Learning System
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GTG	UN Gender Theme Group
HACT	Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers
HLSE	Healthy Lifestyle Education
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
IPs	Implementing Partners
KABP	Knowledge, Attitude, Behaviour and Practice
KM	Knowledge Management
LHIV	Living with HIV
LNOB	Leaving No One Behind
LoA	Letter of Agreement
LTAs	Long Term Agreements
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MoES	Ministry of Education and Science of RT

MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of RT
MoHSPP	Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population of RT
MoIA	Ministry of Internal Affairs of RT
MoJ	Ministry of Justice of RT
MMPTF	Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund
MRLs	Muslim Religious Leaders
MSCG	Multi-Sectoral Coordination Group
MTDP	Mid-Term Development Programme 2021-2025
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
NAP	National Action Plan
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
NSC	National Steering Committee
NSARW	National Strategy on Activization of Role of Women 2030
PME	Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation
PME-WG	Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group
PO	Public Organisation
PSS	Psycho-Social support
RC	Resident Coordinator
RCO	Resident Coordinator's Office
RT	Republic of Tajikistan
RUNOs	Recipient United Nations Organisations
RfPs	Request for Proposals
SGA	School of Gender Activists
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
SPT	Spotlight Programme in Tajikistan
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
SI	Spotlight Initiative
SWOT	Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats
ToR	Terms of Reference
TFPA	Tajik Family Planning Association
UN	United Nations
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNHRC	United Nations Human Rights Council
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
UPR	Universal Periodic Review

Executive Summary

Implementation of the Spotlight Programme in Tajikistan (SPT) peaked in 2021 after the programme was formally approved by the Government of Tajikistan in July. Despite the delays in getting the formal approval of the Spotlight Initiative programme document, Tajikistan has a good delivery rate, and has made significant progress during this reporting period.

The SPT, under the leadership of the United Nations Resident Coordinator (RC), laid the foundation for the improved programme delivery, effectiveness, and sustainability. This programme, as one of the flagship programmes with targeted investment on eliminating violence against women and girls, demonstrated the UN Development System Reform in action. The four recipient UN organisations (RUNOs) worked very well together in the spirit of working and delivering as One UN. This was demonstrated through working in task forces and contributing to one another's work, both in terms of providing technical expertise and operational support.

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 are not only a donor but an insightful, involved and supportive partner from programme design to implementation. The EUD jointly with the UN has played a critical role as a key advocate with the Government for the programme's approval and its successful implementation. In addition, the UN and EUD teams have established communication lines both at the political and technical levels and provided monthly updates on programme plans. This arrangement has ensured both partners are in constant communication and kept abreast of the latest SPT developments and encouraged participation of EUD representatives at different programmatic and visibility events.

The partnerships with the Civil Society Reference Group (CSRG) also continued in a very positive way in 2021. The CSRG as a key partner was closely engaged in advising the Spotlight Initiative, advocating with the Government for the fastest approval of the SPT, and partnering, as a recipient of grants and Implementing Partner, for the realization of SPT objectives. This close engagement with the CSRG ensured we reach the farthest behind and leave no one behind. During the reporting year, the CSRG had a rotation, and the new Chair and Co-Chair for a period of one year were selected in September 2021. The SPT team was in constant communication with the CSRG, arranging and attending joint meetings and discussing a number of emerging programmatic issues, including participatory monitoring and evaluation (PME). The SPT team has ensured monthly programmatic and visibility plans were shared with the CSRG and welcomed their inputs and participation. The first monitoring visit of the CSRG members was organized and feedback was taken into consideration during the reporting period. The CSRG also nominated four people to be part of the newly established Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group, representing a diverse group of rights holders.

The close partnership with the SPT's national government counterpart, the Committee on Women and Family Affairs (CoWFA), was significant. The UN and CoWFA share a common goal of ensuring the successful implementation of the SPT. Engagement of CoWFA was and will continue to be instrumental in the success of this programme. CoWFA's strong commitment and dedicated work positively contributed to the smooth implementation of the programme within the limited time frame, especially by tirelessly reaching out to all government partners at national and district levels to ensure uninterrupted smooth implementation of the programme and engagement of government counterparts in different interventions. Hiring an SPT Consultant – National Coordinator based at CoWFA has ensured a swift programme implementation process.

The SPT's well-functioning inter-agency coordination mechanism showed its effectiveness through

creating Task Forces, strengthening coordination among the SPT Technical Focal Points, Monitoring and Evaluation, Communications and Visibility, Finance and Operation, and Coordination teams who were constantly communicating and providing technical support, including the review of NGOs' submissions in response to Calls for Proposals (CfP). This has enabled a transparent selection process of Implementing Partners (IPs). The monthly face-to-face meetings of the SPT Technical Focal Points organized with the support of the SPT Coordination team became an efficient and effective platform to coordinate activities and identify joint implementation approaches.

There were, however, delays due to negotiations over the programme formal approval which are reflected and acknowledged in the programme's risk assessment (as detailed in the contextual risks in Annex B – Risk Management Report). The SPT was formally approved by the Government in July, however due to Independence Day celebrations, any decisions on programme interventions were further delayed up to early September.

Despite these challenges, the programme implementation is well on track, and given the provision of a no-cost extension until end of June 2022, the SPT team jointly with the Government counterparts and CSO partners will ensure the accelerated delivery of the remaining interventions continues to enable the programme to make the changes in the lives of the people it intends to serve.

Key Results

Despite the challenges faced in 2021, the Spotlight Programme in Tajikistan (SPT) was able to implement key activities contributing to the following changes:

- ◇ Review of key legislation and development plans related to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in key sectors to assess gaps in prevention and response to SGBV;
 - **Legislation and policy gaps analysis** related to SGBV in five sectors (justice, security, health, education and labour) is ongoing and **recommendations for amendments** to laws, policies and procedures will be submitted to Governmental Working Groups on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in early 2022 for further review and processing;
 - **New Mid-Term Development Programme for 2021–2025 with strengthened gender equality, non-discrimination and response to violence** that was adopted by the Government of Tajikistan in April 2021;
 - **Three District Development Plans** advanced with priority prevention and **response measures against SGBV** and to be implemented on district levels;
 - **Gender Mainstreaming Strategy** on promotion of increased access of women to decision-making positions in state institutions competent on prevention of violence against women and girls (VAWG), for the period up to 2030, prepared and submitted for the review of state bodies.
- ◇ Improving the quality of services through training state bodies, religious leaders, teachers, media and health care providers, and strengthening referral pathways:
 - **160 health** professionals strengthened their knowledge based on the **National Protocol for provision of quality essential services** for survivors of rape and SGBV, and the adapted UN Essential Service package;
 - **270 religious leaders** enhanced their knowledge through a comprehensive training module for high-level religious officials and a simplified training module for rural religious leaders of community mosques to **incorporate tools to end domestic violence into their religious community work**;

- **424 representatives (246 men, 178 women) of the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES), Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population (MoHSPP), Ministry of Internal Affairs (MoIA), Ministry of Justice (MoJ), judiciary system, and Committee on Women and Family Affairs (CoWFA)** strengthened their knowledge and skills to transform policies on **promotion of gender equality and non-discrimination and response to GBV through inter-agency coordinated efforts** and application of international standards in addressing SGBV;
 - **600 teachers** enhanced their knowledge on the “Ways and methods of positive upbringing without violence and discrimination”;
 - **46 representatives (23 men, 23 women) of mass media**, including journalists and bloggers, strengthened their understanding of **gender sensitivity, survivor-centred approaches** and usage of gender-sensitive language.
- ◇ Expanding access to services through establishing additional Victim Support Rooms (VSRs), Health Fairs and sustaining critical services:
- **10 new VSRs** launched 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** provided essential services to **26 women and girls** who have experienced violence;
 - Over **1,800 women and girls of reproductive age** received free professional services during the events, including consultations on family planning and reproductive health;
 - **126 women and girls survivors of violence** (or are at risk of facing violence) advanced their knowledge and skills on opening and developing businesses with a view to economic opportunities in the regions where they live;
 - **9 children** (7 girls, 2 boys) **survivors of sexual crimes** were supported via legal representation during investigations and court cases.
- ◇ Raising awareness of gender-based discrimination through outreach using various media:
- **5,000 people** reached via social media through videos that raised awareness of positive parenting practices with a 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;
 - **1,631 people (786 men, 845 women)**, including **551 girls and 520 boys up to 17 years of age**, covered through in-door community mobilization campaigns with the view to positively change existing gender-inequitable social norms and stereotypes, attitudes and behaviours in target areas;
 - **31,817 local community members, teachers, children and parents (1,524 women, 930 men, 18,988 girls, 10,375 boys)** reached to raise their awareness on SGBV and violence against children, how to prevent and respond to potential cases, as well as how and who to approach with complaints;
 - **14 theatre-based educational sessions reached 1,400 people** on issues related to SGBV, including street harassment and dating violence, early and forced marriage, bullying, healthy lifestyles and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in an accessible and engaging way.

- ◇ Enhancing the capacity of civil society organizations (CSOs) and the Civil Society Reference Group (CSRG) as key partners for the SPT:
- **The permanent Civil Society Reference Group (CSRG)**, composed of 10 members representing different groups, regions, areas of expertise and demonstrated experience in gender equality and eliminating VAWG promoted accountability and oversight of the SPT, and supported the programme's efforts to engage civil society more broadly, continuously and meaningfully through reaching out to those left behind;
 - **20 activists (18 women, 2 men), representatives of NGOs** from diverse backgrounds, selected as the **students** at the first-of-its-kind **School of Gender Activists** in Tajikistan, including women and men, young girls, women living with HIV and people with disabilities;
 - More than **40 CSOs** from different regions united to develop and implement the first ever **Civil Society Strategy in Tajikistan**, leading to transformative change on the issues of elimination of VAWG, and its **Action Plan**;
 - **6 local NGOs'** mini projects selected to **support implementation** of part of activities of the **Civil Society Strategy on transformative change of behaviour and attitude towards VAWG and its Action Plan**;
 - **140 CSO representatives** working with women living with disabilities, women living with HIV and women from low-income communities increased their knowledge on the Project Cycle, Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E), and Fundraising as well as documenting the cases of violence against the 'Leave No One Behind' group.

Contextual Shifts and Implementation Status

The year 2021 continued to be an eventful year for Tajikistan. There were number of high-level political, security and safety events that had their impacts on the approval process of the SPT as well as its timely interventions at the national and subnational levels. In July 2021, the Government of Tajikistan approved the Spotlight Programme in Tajikistan, and the CoWFA 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 the political context, all attention was attracted to significant preparation and celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Tajikistan. Preparation for this high-level national political event took priority over other programmatic interventions. Although the programme was approved in July, it could not start actual programme implementation and specifically organize any intervention with government structures, both at the national and regional levels, before the first National Steering Committee Meeting on 17 August and the celebration of Independence Day on 9 September.

The context of human security and conflict around territorial issues and natural resources became aggravated and overshadowed issues of a social nature (including gender equality) in the cross-border conflict with Kyrgyzstan. The conflict negatively affected not only the political, but also the economic and social life, communications, and transport connections between the two countries, including engagement of the gender experts that were envisaged to be involved as part of concrete interventions. It has also affected the work of the SPT in Isfara district, as one of the six target districts, and most activities were delayed to later stages subject to improved security situation.

The withdrawal of NATO and American troops from Afghanistan and overtaking power by the Taliban had its adverse impacts on bordering countries, including Tajikistan. Tajikistan's leadership was concerned about further infiltration of Islamic radicalism. Examples of gender-based discrim-

ination and violence against Afghan women prompted the Government to put more efforts into sustaining secular values, including focusing on gender equality and women's empowerment and planning and implementing actions on preventing violent extremism, especially among youth and women.

In the programmatic context, the development of the new United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for 2023–2026 opened an opportunity to further mainstream gender issues in the agenda of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and the Government of Tajikistan. The Recipient United Nations Organizations (RUNOs) promoted the advocacy work within the UNCT and with the key Government partners to persuade both sides that women should not only be seen as beneficiaries, but as agents of change and drivers of the development processes.

The Government of Tajikistan adopted the National Strategy on Activation of the Role of Women 2030 (NSARW) (adopted in April 2021) where ministries and departments are assigned specific tasks and adopted internal documents for the collection of information, in the form of both initial statistics and statistical reports. The SPT highlighted a number of interventions that are directly contributing to the realization of this strategy and thus contributing to achieving its goals.

The draft of the new Criminal Code included a separate article on domestic violence, article 153, which provides for penalties ranging from community service to up to 7 years' imprisonment. The draft Criminal Code is currently under consideration by the Government. This is directly in line with the focus of the SPT on creating enabling environment for criminalization of domestic violence, in line with Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations and the "National Action Plan (NAP) to implement the recommendations of the Member States of the United Nations Human Rights Council under the procedure of the Universal Periodic Review", endorsed by the President of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Although COVID-19 cases were registered throughout the reporting period, it was a more managed issue, and did not interrupt the programme delivery to a larger extent. The programmatic interventions adopted the new way of working under pandemic and employed the hybrid mode of delivery – online and offline. For the offline activities, the SPT team took all the necessary precautionary COVID-19 measures, ensuring the safety and well-being of the staff and those with whom they interacted. Luckily, no major limitations were observed due to COVID-19.

Finally, the SPT was able to conduct extensive preparatory groundwork on several key activities, while waiting for the formal approval of the SPT. These foundational processes were of utmost importance and reflected participatory, rights-based approach to programming, and were key during the programme accelerated delivery. Within the 4 months of actual programme implementation period, the SPT team jointly with the Implementing Partners (IPs) were able to implement almost 70 per cent of interventions planned for 2021. That was largely possible due to the well-prepared groundwork on all technical, administrative, operational, and material knowledge products, CoWFA's close engagement and positive contribution, as well as the IPs' well-established networks at the regional and district levels. CoWFA support was also critical in ensuring participation and engagement of relevant Government counterparts at different programme interventions.

Overall, the programme implementation is on track and has accomplished a lot within the reporting period. Only activities that are linked or sequenced were affected and therefore their implementation is rolled over to the next reporting cycle. 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 in the remaining 6 months of Phase I, 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.

Implementation Progress by Outcome Area

Spotlight Initiative – Outcome areas	Implementation progress as of 31 Dec 2021
Outcome 1: Legal and Policy Framework	27.82%
Outcome 2: Institutions	45.54%
Outcome 3: Prevention and Norm Change	27.67%
Outcome 4: Quality Services	35.40%
Outcome 5: Data	6.87%
Outcome 6: Women’s Movement	56.03%
TOTAL	33.00%

Programme Governance and Coordination

a) National Steering Committee

On 1 July 2021, the Government of Tajikistan appointed the CoWFA under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan as the designated National Coordinator for implementation of the joint programme Spotlight Initiative (SI) through an exchange letter from the Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan to the UN Resident Coordinator (UNRC) ([exchange of note](#)).

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, IPs and responsible parties in the programme implementation while ensuring effective oversight to the SPT through review of, and feedback to, strategic programme documents. The SPT has closely worked with CoWFA to establish the NSC as a matter of urgency, as this would enable the programme to start its implementation.

The NSC composition followed closely the guidance provided by the Spotlight Initiative Global Secretariat, and reflected the principles of national ownership, sustainability and inclusiveness. The following are the members of the NSC that were approved at the first meeting of the NSC:

- CoWFA (co-chair);
- UN Resident Coordinator (co-chair);
- European Union Ambassador;
- National Government: Executive Office of the President, MoFA, MoJ, MoHSPP, MoES and MoIA;
- RUNOs: Country Representative of UN Women, Country Representative of UNDP, Country Representative of UNICEF and Country Representative of UNFPA;
- 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.

Once the nomination for the NSC composition was finalized with CoWFA, the package of documents, including the NSC Terms of Reference (ToR), SPT 2021–2022 Annual Workplan, the SPT final programme document and budget, and the SPT Communications and Visibility (C&V) Strategy were sent in advance to NSC members for review and consideration. CoWFA played a critical role in ensuring all the relevant line ministries and entities received copies of the package for their

review.

The first NSC meeting took place on 17 August with the participation of the NSC members, highlighted above, and other relevant line ministries, including the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Labour; Committee on Religious Affairs, Regulation of Traditions, Celebration and Ceremonies; Committee of Youth; Agency of Statistics; Supreme Court; Ombudsman Office; UN agencies; EU representatives; and the CSRG members.



Photo 1: First National Steering Committee Meeting, 17 August 2021

During the meeting, after welcoming and introductory remarks by the Deputy Chair of CoWFA, UN RC and EU Deputy Ambassador, brief presentations were made on the Global Spotlight Initiative rationale highlighting key achievements, as well as presenting the NSC ToR, SPT key pillars, the programme budget and the Annual Workplan. As a result of the meeting NSC members approved the NSC ToR, the SPT budget and 2021–2022 Annual Workplan, giving the green light to the RUNOs to start programme implementation.

Given the number of NSC members represented at the technical level, it was agreed to have a follow-up meeting with the NSC members at Deputy Minister level to update them on the SPT as well as ensure to get their full support for smooth and uninterrupted implementation of the programme.

This meeting was organized by CoWFA at its premises on 2 September with the participation of NSC members at Deputy Minister levels, and technical focal points nominated for SPT from each line ministry. The SPT Coordination Team and Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) made presentations on key priorities of the programme followed by a technical discussion. The main purpose of this meeting was to increase the knowledge of line ministries' focal points on the SPT goal, objectives and planned activities. Meeting participants were familiarized with the NSC ToR, SPT 2021–2022 Annual Workplan, programme budget, C&V Strategy and Knowledge Management Workplan.

During the interactive meeting, questions were raised and discussed on programme rationale, district selection, targeted interventions and sustainability and participants provided overall feedback to the SPT team during the current implementation while suggesting ideas to consider, should there be Phase II approved for Tajikistan. The meeting also provided a good opportunity for the RUNOs to meet the Government focal points, with whom they had then closely engaged during the programme implementation phase. Meeting participants were CoWFA, MoFA, MoJ, MoHSPP, MoIA, MoES, the Committee on Religious Affairs, Regulation of Traditions, Celebration and Ceremonies, and the Agency of Statistics.

b) Civil Society Reference Group (CSRG)

The SPT team continued its close engagement with and provided its full-fledged support to the permanent CSRG. The permanent CSRG is composed of 10 people: nine women and one man who all have extensive experience in gender equality and ending VAWG. 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 marginalized groups, representatives of disability rights groups, grass-roots organizations, and men and boys working on gender equality and ending VAWG.

The CSRG is 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 civil society in its work. A budget of US\$15,000 was allocated to support the CSRG operations and workplan implementation.

During the reporting period, the group held a number of meetings both internal and external. On 30 September the CSRG held a technical coordination meeting, where CSRG member G. Rahmanova presented the reference note on the cases of violence against children (girls) in Tajikistan, emphasizing the role of the SPT activities in this regard. The group also discussed planned activities for the rest of 2021 (September–December 2021) and the RUNOs' recommendations from the online meeting held with the Group on 14 September; suggested targeted interventions for the global campaign 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence; strategized and planned for the extended Coordination Meeting in Dushanbe (planned for 15 October with the RUNOs, CoWFA departments from six target districts, and other NGOs); and held the election of the new CSRG Chair and Co-Chair for the next year. As a result, Chair Azimzhon Saifiddinov (Head of Eurasia Foundation for Central Asia in Tajikistan) and Co-Chair Gulchehra Rahmanova (Head of child rights NGO Legal Initiative) were selected for the period of September 2021–June 2022.

The Spotlight Programme Coordinator and representatives of the RUNOs joined the CSRG members in appreciating the service, dedication and contribution of the outgoing Chair Guljahon Bobosadykova and Co-Chair Shahlo Abdunabizoda and submitted Appreciation Letters, signed by the RC on behalf of all the RUNOs, for their tireless and dedicated successful work on promoting and advocating for the work of the SPT. Both were delighted for such a high-level and fullhearted appreciation of their volunteer service. [Appreciation letter](#).

On 15 October, a joint meeting between the RUNOs, CSRG members, and representatives from CoWFA including focal points from the SPT target areas jointly reviewed the programme interventions and existing programme implementation challenges. These are partly due to the high number of planned activities that are simultaneously being conducted by IPs in the SPT target districts. In addition, participants were updated on new M&E approaches and activities to ensure quantitative and qualitative indicators are achieved in the frame of the programme. In total, 20 people participated in the meeting, including seven representatives of the CSRG, six representatives of the SPT Coordination Team and the RUNOs, and seven representatives of CoWFA.

As a result of the meeting, it was agreed to develop a calendar of events on a monthly/quarterly basis for better coordination and ensuring no overlap of activities in the target districts. The [SPT event calendar](#) with all planned programmatic and visibility activities between October and December 2021 was developed and shared for information and attendance with the CSRG, the EU, Government counterparts, RUNOs and IPs. The calendar of events, improved coordination between governmental structures and IPs, while at the same time avoided overlapping activities in the same target areas. For the EU and the CSRG members, it allowed identifying in advance activities which they would like to attend or visit. EU representatives attended a number of activities. Similarly, the first monitoring visit by CSRG member was supported to the target districts, and feedback was received for consideration.



Photo 2: Joint CSRG and CoWFA meeting, 15 October 2021

In November, the CSRG took active part in celebrating 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence. They actively participated at the Opening Ceremony of the School of Gender Activists and the Chair of the CSRG delivered a keynote remark on behalf of the CSRG at the event (see [press release on the School Opening Ceremony](#)). A Press Brunch with journalists and bloggers was organized by the CSRG member Dast-ba-Dast with the engagement of other CSOs.

On 16 December, the CSRG joined the SPT Coordination Team meeting and discussed the SPT templates for feedback sharing after a monitoring visit to the target districts and agreed to nominate members for the newly established Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group (PME-WG).

The CSRG members also participated and provided inputs at a number of important events online, including the EU–Central Asia Civil Society Forum 2021 (October 2021); the international online conference Let's Stop the Violence Together; participation in a survey from the Public Fund "KAMEDA" (Kazakhstan), which conducted a survey among CSOs to map the countries of Central Asia, acting in the field of protecting and representing women's rights and promoting gender equal-

ity; an online training “Preventing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse” for UN partners; and “Preventing and Addressing SGBV in Places of Deprivation of Liberty”, an Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights Thematic Workshop for Monitoring Mechanisms.

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

The UN Gender Theme Group (GTG), which is composed of UN organizations, international and national NGOs, and National Women’s Machinery, is the key inter-agency coordination mechanism on gender equality which the SPT leveraged during the programme implementation period.

During the reporting period, the SPT Coordinator made a detailed presentation highlighting the six outcome areas and associated interventions planned under each outcome at the national and subnational levels, and its engagement with the CSRG and EU as well as CoWFA as key National Coordinator for the implementation of the SPT.

In the lead-up to the global campaign 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence, the SPT played an important role in coordinating planned activities with the wider group of the UN GTG at country level. The SPT shared its planned activities under the campaign and welcomed a joined-up approach for a number of activities. Furthermore, a number of high-level events were organized with the participation of the EU and CSRG. More detailed information is provided under the Communications section of this report.

The SPT is aligned with the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and its implementation effort at country level. The new UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) is being drafted and will guide the entire programme cycle, driving planning, implementation, monitoring, reporting and evaluation of collective UN support for achieving the 2030 Agenda. The UNSDCF determines and reflects the UN development system’s contributions in the country and shapes the configuration of UN assets required inside and outside the country.

During the reporting period, the RUNOs acted as a women’s rights “watch-dog” in the process, engaging the students of the School of Gender Activists in lobbying related recommendations on mandatory components to be considered by the UNSDCF. The draft UNSDCF was also commended for a very good Common Country Assessment and very deep gender analysis, on intersecting forms of discrimination against women, girls, and vulnerable groups.

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

In addition, the RUNOs have established a well-functioning technical SPT team that taps into the different RUNOs’ areas of expertise where possible, instead of engaging external consultancy services.

Finally, as in 2020, the SPT team continued the new way of working under the UN Reform. The team coordinated across RUNOs to produce a joint annual 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 ensured that partners collaborate with the Spotlight Initiative as opposed to individual RUNOs, thereby facilitating coherence and collaboration in programming, further inter-agency coordination, and better supporting the visibility of the Spotlight Initiative.

d) Use of UN Reform Inter-agency Tools

During the reporting period, for operational efficiency, the RUNOs highly relied on each other given the accelerated way of delivering the programme, through piggybacking on Long Term Agreements (LTAs) of agencies, which has saved a lot of time and energy in selecting the reliable service providers.

Also, while selecting an NGO for the implementation of the SPT activities, the RUNOs have considered micro-assessments conducted by other UN agencies as per UN Reform inter-agency tools. For example, in response to the Calls for Proposals, a high number of project proposals from the national and local NGOs are received. As part of the NGO evaluation process, the related RUNO conducts several types of evaluation – technical and financial evaluation of the project proposals and risk-based capacity assessment of the organization itself (i.e. risks related to the capacity of Responsible Partners, such as technical, governance, financial and administrative). If the NGO has already passed such an assessment during the previous 5 years, conducted by another UN Agency, and the result was “low” risk rate, this risk-based capacity assessment report can be used by the hiring UN Agency to ease and speed up the partner contracting process. The SPT has considered these micro-assessments, and this has substantially saved the time towards NGO contracting procedures.

In addition, the Agora online training platform that contains a lot of materials on gender and SGBV, proved to be a valuable tool for all people including the RUNOs and non-Spotlight UN agencies for capacity development purposes.

Programme Partnerships

a) Government

Although the SPT has been in regular contact with the technical staff of CoWFA and other key Government agencies, after signing of the CPD at the Government level on 1 July 2021, the engagement with the highest levels of Government started.

On 26 July, the UN RC had the first meeting with the Chair of CoWFA on the SPT since its approval. As a result of this meeting, it was agreed on the date of the first NSC meeting; and CoWFA reaching out to government counterparts for nomination of a dedicated focal point from each line ministry and entity, to hire a dedicated National Coordinator to be based at CoWFA responsible for a smooth implementation of the programme at the Government side, and transfer of management of the Hotline 1313 from an NGO to CoWFA, ensuring national ownership and sustainability of the hotline post programme life.

On 19 August, the Spotlight Programme Coordinator made a presentation on “Partnerships of the UN Agencies with CoWFA and other National Partners for implementation of a global Spotlight Initiative in Tajikistan” at the National Conference dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the establishment of CoWFA. This high-level government event was chaired by CoWFA and attended by more than 100 Government officials, including two Cabinet Ministers, nine Deputy Ministers and a number of Head of Committees and Departments of key line ministries and entities. During the presentation, the SPT Coordinator highlighted the alignment of the SPT to Government and CoWFA priorities on ending violence against women and girls (VAWG). This has ensured high-level visibility for the programme at the national level.

On 6 October, CoWFA organized a high-level meeting to present the new National Strategy on Activation of Role of Women for the period of 2021–2030 that was attended by high-level Government officials and other national and international development partners. The SPT Coordinator

presented on key activities and approaches of the programme that are directly contributing to the activation of the role of women in society. One of the comments raised at the meeting was for the SPT to consider focusing on gender-based budgeting, subject to approval of the Phase II for Tajikistan.

During the reporting period the SPT also cooperated with the Commissioner on Children Rights – more specifically the Deputy Commissioner on Human Rights – to expand the capacity of the state institutions on receiving and addressing complaints from children, with a focus on survivors of SGBV. The SPT has supported the Commissioner in establishing a complaint mechanism in the past, which constituted a precedent to continuing advocating for the same mechanisms in other state institutions. The Commissioner with the endorsement of the Government of Tajikistan has formed a working group composed of representatives of six state ministries that are working on elaborating the complaint mechanism in the respective ministries and agencies. The partnership with the Commissioner has enabled the programme to ensure the transfer of existing knowledge, state ownership and better advocating for the rights of survivors of SGBV.

b) Civil Society

During the reporting period, the SPT team initiated new processes of engagement with **CSOs** (for more details see Annex C – CSO Engagement). The SPT has engaged 15 CSOs as IPs; out of the **15 CSOs, 12 are women-led and/or women’s rights organizations**. These CSOs are working under Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6.

During the reporting period the SPT has continued working with the IPs selected in 2020 as well as selected new IPs in 2021. It is worth mentioning that these CSOs were previously selected as IPs following a rigorous selection process that ensured high transparency and guaranteed quality services. Except for one international NGO, Good Neighbours Tajikistan, other NGOs had previous positive working experience with multiple UN agencies. IPs were selected based on their proven experience on different objectives of the SPT, including but not limited to developing capacities of service providers on alternative family care with focus on violence-free, safe and protective family environments, psychological support to SGBV survivors, and work with young people, especially girls.

Moreover, all IPs were selected based on a capacity assessment to ensure their gender-based expertise; their past gender work; highest quality of service, including the ability to apply innovative strategies to meet the priorities; experience and proof of working with grass-roots level organizations’ 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 Harmonized 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 SPT. This will ensure coherence, continuity, cost-effective delivery and quality implementation. While selecting partners the SPT has also relied on micro-assessments conducted by other RUNOs.

During the accelerated programme implementation, these NGOs proved to be effective and efficient under a very tight deadline and heavy workload. To the extent possible, they have ensured high quality of the programme implementation and accomplished the set targets for 2021.

It is also worth mentioning that 6 CSOs that were selected in 2020 have stayed committed to the work of the SPT and had a number of no-cost extensions with relevant RUNOs until the approval of the programme in early July. They have prepared all relevant background work and built partnerships with relevant actors in the SPT target districts and at national level. This has enabled them

for an expedited way of delivery on a very heavy schedule of activities within 4 months of actual implementation from September 2021.

c) European Union Delegation

The SPT team, under the leadership of the UN RC, considers the partnership with the European Union Delegation (EUD) 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. This was demonstrated through very high-level intervention by H.E. the EU Ambassador with the Executive Office of the President to ensure the SPT was on the agenda for discussion at the high-level Government Meeting in May. As a result of that meeting, a Presidential Decree from 24 May 2021 ([RESOLUTION Government of Tajikistan](#)), was issued assigning the Deputy Prime Minister to sign the exchange note on behalf of the Government of Tajikistan, introducing changes, if relevant, with the UN RC. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs was tasked to identify the place and date for signing the document as per established rules and regulations.

During the reporting period, the SPT strengthened the ongoing consultation and collaboration established with the EU during the first year of the programme. At all levels, the SPT has established formal and informal opportunities for coordination and exchange of information to ensure that both partners remain on the same page so that they develop joint strategies during their interactions with national stakeholders.

The SPT Coordinator and Gender Specialist from the EU, as the assigned focal points for the SPT, ensured regular coordination at the technical level. Both focal points regularly communicated on implementation issues, so the EUD is kept abreast of the progress. It is noteworthy that in addition to these regular technical level meetings and communications, the UN RC and EU Ambassador have been personally engaged in the SPT implementation, which highlights the EU's role as an active, insightful and involved partner and not simply a donor.

In addition to the UN RC line of communication with the EU Ambassador, the SPT team has been in close and constant communication with the Spotlight Initiative focal point at the EUD. Since October, with the departure of this focal point, the SPT continued direct engagement with the Deputy Ambassador on overall programme matters and specifically on communication and visibility events.

The SPT C&V Task Force has also been in close coordination with the Communications team at the EUD during the 2021 C&V Workplan development and agreeing on key visibility events to be organized during the remaining months. Specifically, joint preparations were towards organizing the first National Steering Committee meeting, official launch of the SPT in November during the global campaign 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence, and a number of high-level events, including the first-time national futsal tournament among girls aged 13–17 across the country.

The SPT also provided an updated monthly calendar of events to EUD colleagues for their information and participation where relevant. EUD Deputy Ambassador and Communication colleagues have attended a number of programmatic and visibility events organized by the SPT. The views and comments of EUD colleague were sought on all relevant documents and products.

Given the restrictions posed by COVID-19, most of the meetings were online, except for the joint C&V meeting that took place in person in July 2021.

Results

a) Capturing Broader Transformations Across Outcomes

During the reporting period, the experience demonstrated better results when grass-roots level activities and national level activities are linked and closely coordinated while implementing the programme. For instance, at the national level under Outcome II, the programme was working to establish sound complaint mechanisms under the ministries and agencies to prevent and address SGBV among children and women. At the same time, the programme was working at the grass-roots level with schools and local communities to establish working/practical complaint mechanisms and raise awareness of the wider population as well as school children. While the first set a legal basis and supported sustainability of the complaint mechanisms via meeting the needs of the population, the second activity provided practical guidance and evidence of what was working well and what shall be changed. Thus, activities taken under Outcome II were supporting and reinforcing activities under Outcome III.

Also, while setting up complaint mechanisms under six ministries and agencies as well as monitoring and provision of support to victims of sexual violence (to children under age 12), the programme has revealed numerous gaps in the current legislation that impede effective complaint mechanisms and protection of SGBV survivors. These gaps were collected and addressed to RUNOs working under Outcome I of the programme on policy changes to ensure they are covered in the legislation review and key recommendations are made for Government action.

In addition, a number of CSOs that were selected under different Outcomes of the programme were also selected and trained under Outcome VI on gender issues that have substantially developed capacity of IPs and strengthened the results as they are using their knowledge while implementing activities under other pillars.

Reporting on the implementation of Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation (PME)

The SPT, after receiving guidance on PME from the Spotlight Initiative Secretariat in October, had a number of internal meetings with the involvement of the M&E Task Force, Technical Focal Points and CSRG members to discuss the guidance and the rationale to have PME in place in addition to the regular SPT M&E Task Force. Taking into consideration that there was no programme implementation until early September, no immediate actions were taken to set up the group.

During the discussions, several options were proposed in terms of how best to engage the rights holders, and after long deliberation the group found it complicated to engage the rights holders from the target district following the 'do no harm' principle. In discussion with the CSRG, members agreed that they will act as representatives of the rights holders.

At the onset, it was agreed that the UN agencies will continue monitoring the implementation of their respective agencies' interventions, while the PME Working Group will focus on those high-level results that the activities should yield. In terms of the composition, it was agreed to have CSRG members, representing a diverse number of vulnerable groups/people, and representatives of CoWFA from relevant target districts, representing the Government.

Letters with the request for nomination to the PME were sent to the CSRG and CoWFA, and as a result eight people (four from CSRG and four from CoWFA) were identified to be part of the PME Working Group. As a next step, it was agreed to organize a one-day training focusing on basic M&E skills sets; review the PME guidance, programme document, programme results framework and calendar of events; and agree on tools and modalities to be used during the monitoring visits. The training and further consultation were planned for early January 2022.

d) Capturing Change at Outcome Level

Outcome 1: Legal and Policy Framework

While the Government of Tajikistan has introduced laws and policies to prevent and respond to violence against women and to protect survivors, the legislation falls short in addressing the range of violence experienced by women, particularly inside the family. This prevents women and girls from exercising their rights to live free of violence. The situation analysis and the consultations held during programme design confirm that the priority problem is the fact that convictions for SGBV against women are extremely limited. From 2013 to 2017, of a total of 1,296 complaints of domestic violence filed with the police, 1,003 failed to secure criminal prosecution; 76 complaints were referred for further investigation; and 131 cases were awaiting judgment.

To assess and address this gap, the SPT leverages the resources for participatory mapping and analysis of key legislation, policies and procedures related to SGBV in five key sectors of justice, security, health, education and labour with further assistance to the Government of Tajikistan on adoption of new and/or strengthening existing laws and policies on SGBV in named sectors that are in line with international standards and human rights treaties. To accomplish this, the SPT brought on board one international and four national consultants, as well as engaged national and grass-root organizations to legislation and policy discussion platforms on national and local levels, and to strengthen the capacities of the last (CSOs) on SGBV.

In addition to having developed, in 2020, International and Regional Human Rights instruments and standards in addressing SGBV in the selected five sectors and the methodology for legal review, in 2021 national experts conducted a mapping of stakeholders and legislation policies related to SGBV in the five sectors that are under review by international experts for consolidation and further dissemination with national stakeholders and civil society representatives. These multi-stakeholder efforts are expected to contribute to strengthening the evidence-based knowledge and capacities of national and regional/local partners to assess gaps and draft new and/or strengthen existing laws, policies and procedures on ending VAWG and promoting gender equality and non-discrimination that are in line with international human rights standards and treaty bodies' recommendations. The work will continue and is expected to be finalized by June 2022.

With collaborative efforts with the CSOs, the SPT contributed to advancing gender equality and non-discrimination and response to the SGBV component of the Mid-Term Development Programme for 2021–2025 that was adopted by the Government in April 2021 through integration of specific, measurable gender-sensitive indicators to fight SGBV in line with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5. The new Mid-Term Development Programme for 2021–2025 is expected to leverage existing resources while mobilizing additional funds and initiatives at national and local levels to eliminate SGBV in most sectors, including social and economic, tourism, agriculture, education and health.

In addition, with the engagement of experts and CSOs, the SPT contributed to strengthening three DDPs for 2021–2025 on SGBV prevention and response measures. The DDPs are locally developed programmes aiming for development of social and economic sectors of the district and the local population, adopted and implemented by local administration on a five-year basis. The SPT contributed to strengthening the respective programmes through participatory multi-stakeholder discussions and incorporation of SGBV priority prevention and response measures to be implemented in 2021–2025. It is worth mentioning that SGBV prevention and response measures have been identified, developed and discussed with engagement of local and grassroots organizations through a participatory evidence-based approach, by which the voices of vulnerable and marginalized groups of population (women and girls with disabilities, with difficult socioeconomic situation, women abandoned by their migrant husbands, survivors or at higher risk of SGBV, etc.) were heard, documented and incorporated into the DDPs. These local programmes are expected to contribute

to the process of eliminating SGBV, including better prevention and response measures against SGBV on local levels. As a next step, the focus will be on development and adoption of similar plans in three other target districts, expected to be completed by June 2022.

Outcome 2: Institutions

In 2021, the capacity needs assessment of four key ministries of the Republic of Tajikistan and the CoWFA was finalized. Heads of departments of the MoJ, MoIA, MoHSPP, MoES and CoWFA, responsible for engagement in sectoral policymaking, participated in the institutional needs assessment to successfully cooperate on ending VAWG.

Based on the capacity needs assessment, a draft training module was developed. As a result of 10 focus group discussions with the service users, the voices of rights holders were considered for improvement of the training module. The discussions aimed at studying the opinions and proposals of the beneficiaries of the services provided by the four ministries/CoWFA on access to services in the field of SGBV, as well as their satisfaction with the quality of services received in the field of responding to SGBV. The gender experts of the SPT conducted 10 focus group discussions and 10 interviews with a total coverage of 72 people: 45 women and 27 school students (15 boys and 12 girls) who were beneficiaries of the MoES. In terms of age, 35 per cent of participants from the group were 18 years old and over, while 65 per cent were 30 years old and over. In terms of employment status, most participants (65 per cent) were unemployed and stay-at-home wives. At the same time, 35 per cent of the interviewed work in various fields and in various positions (artist, teachers, accountants, market sellers, etc.). The feedback received from the focus group discussions have helped to adapt the institutional training module, developed based on the Global Basic Services Package for women and abused girls: fundamental elements and guidelines for quality assurance (HQs of UN Women, UNFPA, UNDP, WHO and UNODC). Details on focus group discussions and the capacity needs assessment can be accessed in the [Expert Report on Needs and Capacity Assessment](#) and [Key conclusions and recommendations on capacity assessment](#).

A pilot training for representatives of the MoES, MoHSPP, MoJ, MoIA and CoWFA contributed to finalization of a specially tailored training module for capacity-building of the state institutions on strengthening cooperation between ministries and departments on transformative change to prevent SGBV/VAWG institutionally.

Capacity, commitment, and knowledge of 88 employees of key state partners (MoHSPP, MoES and CoWFA), was improved on transformative leadership to promote gender equality and the elimination of SGBV, during four three-day training sessions from October through December. The participants became more gender sensitive and learned how to apply basic tools on measuring gender responsiveness of the sectoral policies. As per the pre and post-training assessment of the knowledge rate and effectiveness of the acceptance of the materials in the group, before training a 19 per cent responded correctly, and after the training 72 per cent, a 53 per cent increase in knowledge. The participants developed draft ToRs for the possible creation of the Inter-Agency Gender Group by the CoWFA, as practice. The pathways of the intersectoral cooperation between the ministries were also introduced, and how to apply standard operating procedures in line with regulations on how to provide quality services for survivors. The module was developed with consideration of findings of the capacity needs assessment of four ministries and CoWFA and based on the UN Global Essential Services Package on Services for Women and Girls Subject to Violence shared by UN HQs.

Moreover, adhering to the principle of multi-stakeholder approach in SPT's efforts to build the capacity of national stakeholders on SGBV, 336 representatives (228 men, 108 women) of MoIA, MoJ and the judiciary system have strengthened their knowledge and skills to transform policies on promotion of gender equality and non-discrimination, and response to GBV through inter-agency coordinated efforts and application of international standards in addressing SGBV. Namely, 138

representatives of the police sector (101 men, 37 women), 53 representatives of the judicial sector (37 men, 16 women), and 145 representatives of MoJA – lawyers, advocates and paralegals (90 men, 55 women). It is anticipated that the capacity of at least an additional 90 representatives of MoJ, MoJA and the judiciary will be strengthened on gender equality and elimination of GBV through similar trainings in the first quarter of 2022.

It is expected that the key officials at national and subnational levels in the relevant line ministries and agencies will use gained knowledge and skills and will be better able to develop and deliver evidence-based programmes that prevent and respond to VAWG, including domestic and intimate partner violence, especially for those groups of women and girls facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination.

Also, the key officials are expected to strengthen inter-agency cooperation and coordination for the development and implementation of effective measures to prevent and better respond to SGBV, as well as to increase the role of women in socioeconomic and political life. The SPT's interventions and collaborative work resulted in preparing a **Gender Mainstreaming Strategy** for CoWFA and key line ministries (MoJ, MoJA and the judiciary system) that is expected to promote increased access of women to decision-making positions in state institutions and prepared them to increase their competence on the prevention of VAWG, for the period up to 2030. The current document is finalized and submitted for the review of state agencies.

Under the auspices of the Commissioner on Children Rights, a state working group was established that comprised six ministries and agencies with the goal to elaborate complaint mechanisms for children, especially survivors of SGBV. The working group members, with active participation of CSOs, have elaborated draft complaint mechanisms for their respective ministries, ensuring that these mechanisms are linked to each other. It is anticipated that the mechanisms will be finalized, discussed with the CSRG and submitted for endorsement during the next reporting period.

In 2021, the SPT provided legal support to nine children (7 girls, 2 boys) survivors of sexual crimes via legal representation during investigations and court cases. The supported SGBV survivors' ages ranged from 3 to 12 years old. Based on these cases the programme has monitored to what extent current legislation is implemented to protect and respond to child abuse, especially sexual abuse. The programme has elaborated a [monitoring report](#) and proposed recommendations on the best ways to ensure the rights of SGBV survivors. It is anticipated that the results of the report will be presented to all the relevant stakeholders to improve survivor-centred investigations and court hearings during the next cycle.

The Committee on Religious Affairs, Regulation of Traditions, Celebrations and Ceremonies, with the support of the SPT, adapted the training module on Islam and Gender to build the capacity of Muslim religious leaders (MRL) on VAWG/SGBV issues. In all, 270 male religious leaders were trained based on a comprehensive training module for high-level religious officials (province and district Imam khatibs) and a simplified training module for rural religious leaders of community mosques to incorporate tools to end domestic violence into their religious community work. The results of the monitoring as well post-test showed that religious leaders have significantly increased their knowledge on SGBV issues and have started using the provided materials by the SPT, during their consultation with the local population in target districts.

The SPT programme supported strengthening the work of the multi-stakeholder national and subnational coordination groups, which are chaired by the Committee of Women and Family Affairs. The groups conducted their roundtables at district (Isfara and B. Ghafurov), regional (Khujand) and national levels (Dushanbe) with participation of representatives from line ministries and agencies at the national and regional levels as well as UN agencies and CSOs representatives. During the round tables, the group discussed the issues of multi-sectoral response to GBV, reviewed the results of the joint monitoring of the VSRs for survivors of GBV within maternity houses, including the draft

of the Civil Society Strategy to address GBV and recommendations of the regional multi-sectoral cooperation group on the next year's workplan.

Outcome 3: Prevention and Norm Change

In 2021, the state bodies were engaged in the awareness-raising activities on women's right to access quality essential services by wide dissemination of the case management mechanism to respond to violence against women, localized by the SPT for target districts earlier. The mechanism integrated and provided visual action steps for engaged actors, including in the context of COVID19. As a result, both state departments and a wider population, especially women and girls, are better informed on the roles and responsibilities of concrete state departments and service providers in provision of support to violence survivors. More frequently women, girls and their family members raise their voices and seek justice. In 2021, media (including social) continued becoming the platform for discussing violence and femicide cases and pushed the authorities for justice. The protection of women was spotlighted and strengthened due to the efforts of rights defenders and the women's movement became more active and informed. This became possible thanks to a wide dissemination of the SPT visual materials by UN GTG members, state partners, CSOs and gender experts.

A replication effect was achieved as the localized referral mechanism to response cases of VAWG was used in other UN joint programmes as a best practice and was recommended to be included in the Action Plan of UNSDCF 2023–2026. The developed materials were made in a user-friendly style, with coloured infographics. [SGBV Referral System](#) contains the brochures “Where to seek help in case of violence?” for a wide audience.

The programme has closely worked in 35 schools and communities of target districts. It has elaborated and piloted the training module on “Ways and methods of positive upbringing without violence and discrimination” that was approved by the Republican Educational and Methodological Centre of the MoES on 26 June 2021. The [Positive Parenting Training Module](#) can be accessed in the local language (see [Decree](#)). In 2021, after adoption of the module, 600 teachers were trained on positive parenting. As a next step, these teachers will teach others using the training module adopted with the SPT support. It is also expected that the module will enhance teacher–student communication in a positive way that will develop trust among generations and will lead to effective prevention and response to violence against children, specifically girls, in the society.

In cooperation with the MoES, the SPT conducted 14 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 Healthy Lifestyle Education (HLSE) topics. These performances were delivered by trained Youth Peer Education Network (YPEER) volunteers in the SPT target districts to over 1,400 people, including the general population and university students in Dushanbe, and disseminated information on issues related to SGBV including street harassment, dating violence, early and forced marriage, bullying, HLSE and SRHR in an accessible and engaging way. During the reflection sessions volunteers among audience members were divided into groups to analyse the actions of each of the characters during the performances and provided their own point of view and attitudes towards prevention of SGBV, promoting healthy lifestyle and positive masculinity. After the performances the audience members received basic hygiene kits.

The SPT also finalized and released [three videos](#) on promotion of positive masculinity and challenging traditional norms among young people (aged 18–21) that also focused on men's involvement with care work at home in order to reduce the domestic burden on women and address the situation with self-isolation during COVID-19 and its negative impact of GBV. The videos have reached more than 1,705 people via social media engagement and are expected to change the stereotypical thinking of society that the care work at home is women's job and encourage more men to engage

with sharing the burden of doing home chores.

The SPT also established complaint mechanisms in 35 schools of target districts for girls and boys to raise issues of violence, including sexual violence with schoolteachers. The programme has trained 58 mentors specially on how to handle complaints by children with application of confidentiality, the ‘do no harm’ principle and the best interests of the child, especially on sensitive issues like SGBV. The complaint mechanism consists of a drop box, hotline – usually mobile phones of mentors – and a special review committee composed of members of the mahalla committee, active parents and representatives of the Parental Committees.

The Review Committee is also trained on how to review and respond to those complaints brought up by children. This complaint mechanism will be further institutionalized and expanded to ensure sustainability once the special order of the MoES is adopted (please refer to activity on complaint mechanisms under Outcome 2 for details). On the demand side, the programme is working with local communities, teachers, children and parents to raise awareness on SGBV and violence against children, how to prevent and respond to potential cases, as well as how and who to approach with complaints. So far, 31,817 unique individuals (1,524 women, 930 men, 18,988 girls, 10,375 boys) were covered by the SPT on above issues through training of 58 mentors and 1,326 student council members.

During the school year from September until end of December, hundreds of complaints were received that were about teachers’ corporal punishment, negligence, bullying/violence by peers, and also parents not allowing children, especially girls, to attend school. All those complaints were reviewed by the Review Committee (RC) and responded to. Out of the total number some 37 complaints on major violations (comparatively) were registered and closely followed up. As a result, those cases were fully resolved by the RC and teachers through a mediation process with perpetrators. In one case where a girl tried to commit suicide and in another five cases where girls were returned to school (who were not allowed to attend school by their close relatives), preventive discussions by the mahalla committee, mentors and school directors were conducted with parents. The SPT will further follow up on those major cases in the next reporting cycle.

Two sports summer camps were organized for taekwondo athletes and para-badminton players to increase their knowledge on relevant gender issues and develop skills combating GBV and discrimination. The sports camp programme included both information and training sessions on various gender aspects, and a series of demonstration sports competitions. During the training, athletes discussed issues of gender sensitivity in the sports environment; prevention of violence and discrimination against women and people with disabilities; the development of positive masculinity in the fight against gender stereotypes and violence; and held a series of practical exercises and sports events to engage girls in sports and develop their ability to apply the knowledge gained in life.

To demonstrate their commitment to advocating for prevention of SGBV, the participants of the summer camps organized an interactive awareness-raising session on SGBV prevention concluding with a master class on self-defence and badminton for around 180 people, including young athletes and their parents and general population. The event was followed by a number of social media activities by sports influencers – taekwondo champions, who disseminated the joint messages on the “Orange the World” campaign through their social media accounts daily. The 50 most active participants (all adolescents: 30 girls, 20 boys) of both campaigns received symbolic medals with the campaign slogan “16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence”.

For its engagement with the media, the SPT contributed to strengthening the knowledge and skills of 46 representatives (23 men, 23 women) of mass media, including journalists and bloggers on gender sensitivity, survivor-centred reporting and usage of gender-sensitive language. The capacitated representatives of mass media are expected to widely report on and raise awareness

of the wider population on SGBV, using survivor-centred approaches and gender-sensitive language (avoiding stigmatization, negative portraying and victimization of survivors of SGBV, etc). To provide longer-term support and guidance, a Gender-Sensitive Guidance on survivor-centred reporting and using gender-sensitive language for journalists and bloggers was drafted. The guidance is now under review by the gender expert group and expected to be finalized in 2022. These interventions are anticipated to positively change gender-inequitable social norms, attitudes and behaviours at community and individual levels to prevent VAWG and harmful practices.

The SPT also engaged national and local CSOs and contributed to awareness-raising of 1,631 persons (786 men, 845 women), including 551 girls and 520 boys up to 17 years of age, of the local target population through community mobilization campaigns with the view to positively change existing gender-inequitable social norms and stereotypes, attitudes and behaviours in target areas. The community mobilization campaigns included theatre performances on gender stereotypes and unequal social norms; school meetings and discussions on prevention and response to SGBV; and sport games, including volleyball with the participation of girls to promote female engagement in sport activities among the youth.

The SPT also supported the MoES in reviewing the current National Education Strategy 2030 in terms of integration of HLSE issues. The technical working group consisting of experts from the MoES developed a set of recommendations on incorporation of the HLSE aspects into the new National Education Strategy. The recommendations were presented and reviewed during a multi-sectoral round table with participation of representatives from various governmental agencies, including MoES, CoWFA and MoHSPP.

Outcome 4: Quality Services

The SPT worked to support service providers in education, health, and social sectors to establish referral pathway systems to provide mental health service and related support through use of problem-solving strategies that accurately match girls' presenting needs to evidence-based treatments. The partnership with local CSOs was signed in October to implement interventions related to the Skills and Psychosocial Support (PSS) components of the SPT. As a result, 35 "support teams" were established in pilot districts and capacity of 163 relevant service providers (school psychologists, family doctors/ family nurses, Child Rights Units' representatives, social workers, representatives from local youth committees and committees of women and family affairs, local NGOs) was enhanced. The acquired new knowledge and skills reflected in the Standard Operational Procedures describes a series of actions/steps that should be taken at each level after identifying a girl with a potential mental health issue, describing roles and responsibilities of all partners in a system, and articulates procedures for managing referrals within and between partners.

The SPT promoted alternative family care for survivors of SGBV through recruitment and capacitating of volunteer families to pilot foster family care for girls. The legislation exists (Child Protection Law, Article 44 envisages provision of foster care); however, this law needs to be operationalised. 70 potential families were selected, in consultation with the relevant stakeholders including child protection statutory bodies at local level, for care of children and possible placement of children without family care in these families. In the next reporting period, the SPT will partner with a CSO that is experienced in the area of foster care to pilot this intervention in Dushanbe and two target districts. The best practices and lessons will be documented to support the scale-up.

At policy level the SPT also worked with the MoES to establish the Working Group on development of the Law of the Guardianship. The first Working Group session, including the representatives of the relevant ministries and CSOs, was held to agree on the next steps for advancing the initial draft of the Law on Guardianship. It was agreed that this new law will strengthen existing alternative family care mechanisms and set the provisions of clear operationalization of Foster Care in the country.

The SPT concluded the Programme Cooperation Agreement with the Local NGO “Hayot da Oila”. Within this cooperation a four-day training session is carried out for potential families that will receive children under the guardianship. The main agenda of the training session was prevention of violence, taking care of children affected by violence, and nurturing a child in a violence-free, safe and protective family environment. In total, 58 potential families received training sessions.

The SPT arranged several consultations with the Republican Office of Medical Forensic Services (MFS) on the upcoming trainings and on identification of the list of equipment to be purchased and delivered to MFS departments in the six target districts, to enable access to medical forensic services during the cases of violence against women and children or investigation, to support women and girls with disabilities. It is also envisaged, in the next reporting period, to conduct trainings for staff of medical forensic expertise departments to help improve the quality of medical forensic services and case management for special groups of women and girls.

The SPT, in the next reporting cycle, will also conduct trainings on protection of women and girls with disabilities and consideration of their needs during an investigation process, while ensuring linkages with the specialized NGOs working in protection of women and girls with different forms of disabilities from violence and discrimination. In this regard, as a next step two local NGOs have responded to the Call for Proposals to become the Responsible Party for this activity. The evaluation of NGOs is in process.

The 20 focal points of the new VSRs (within maternity houses) established within the SPT in 2020 received refresher training on provision of quality and coordinated services for survivors of GBV/ SGBV. They also participated in a round table to exchange experiences and best practices with the previously established VSRs. In addition, mentoring and monitoring visits were conducted to the 10 newly established VSRs and strengthened shelters, which was carried out by a multi-sectoral group in Bokhtar, Vose, Yavan, Jomi, Khujand, B. Ghafurov, Isfara, Istaravshan, Ayni and Penjakent districts by the members of the multi-sectoral group, consisting of representatives from CoWFA, MoHSPP and MoIA. The main purposes of the visits were to conduct monitoring of the newly opened VSRs on the bases of medical institutions over the past year (from their opening) and to provide technical assistance for the provision of quality medical and psychosocial services in these rooms, effective referral, and multi-sectoral cooperation. It should be noted that from November 2020 until September 2021 the new VSRs have provided services to 26 women who were subjected to GBV. The results of the monitoring and recommendations were shared by the group during the high-level multi-sectoral round table in Dushanbe.

Based on the preliminary results of the baseline survey, it was identified that there were no functioning shelters (except for the VSRs) located in the SPT target districts. However, the only three existing shelters in the country – PO Korvoni Umed (Dushanbe), Gulrukhsor Crisis Centre (Khujand) and Ghamkhori Crisis Centre (Bokhtar) (also identified based on the preliminary results of the baseline survey) – provided support to women from nearby regions, including Spotlight target districts. Therefore, these three shelters were selected and assessed to determine needs and targeted needed interventions. It should be noted that these shelters require extensive support in terms of procurement of equipment, furniture and refurbishment works as well as capacity-building activities on provision of quality services. The relevant note detailing the needs of each of the shelters that will be covered by the programme will be finalized after the exact amount allocated for strengthening of shelters will be identified and approved in Annual Workplan 2022.

The front-line SGBV health service providers were trained on the adapted UN Essential Service package and National Protocol for provision of quality essential services for survivors of rape and SGBV to improve the quality-of-service delivery in response to SGBV and strengthen the referral system and multi-sectoral cooperation to respond to SGBV in cooperation with MoHSPP. In total, 160 health professionals have strengthened their knowledge on identification of the signs of GBV/

SGBV, national legislation and rights of survivors of SGBV, provision of quality medical and psycho-social services, and referral to other relevant services.

With the support of the SPT, 297 state service providers (176 men, 121 women) from law enforcement and judiciary systems (MoIA, MoJ and judiciary), including police officers, lawyers, advocates, and judges, have strengthened their knowledge on gender sensitivity, survivor-centred approaches, and correct implementation of laws and policies on SGBV. The capacitated service providers are expected to provide improved quality and coordinated services to SGBV survivors that are in line with international human rights standards and treaty bodies. These interventions are expected to directly contribute to SPT's Output 4.1 (Relevant government authorities at national and subnational levels have better knowledge and capacity to deliver quality and coordinated essential services, including sexual and reproductive health services and access to justice, to women and girls' survivors of VAWG). The further capacity-building activities with targeted audiences are ongoing under this output and will be completed in June 2022.

During the reporting period, 126 women and girls have increased their knowledge on capacity-building training on "Creation and development of businesses with the view of economic opportunities of the region". The beneficiaries consisted of 19 women aged 25 years and below, 40 women aged 26–35 years, and 67 women aged above 35 years. In 2022, the most active and motivated beneficiaries (at least 42 women and girls who are survivors or at risk of violence) will be selected for three days of training on development of business running and entrepreneurship skills, followed by drafting business plans and mentorship support by the project expert group. The most successful and realistic business ideas will be granted technical support like business equipment and furniture; at least 24 women and girls are envisaged to receive technical assistance. It is expected that the capacitated women will use the gained knowledge and open new and/or develop their existing businesses, share their knowledge within their neighbourhoods, and, as a result, will improve their well-being and that of their families and communities. These SPT interventions will support the economic integration of women and girls who are survivors of violence, who will be economically capacitated for longer-term recovery from violence.

Five Mobile Health Fairs were conducted in Spotlight target districts with participation of a team of physicians, obstetrician-gynaecologists, psychologists/legal experts, and ultrasound specialists (gynaecologists). Over 1,800 women and girls of reproductive age received free professional services during the events, including consultations on family planning and reproductive health, such as prevention and management of sexually transmitted infections, contraceptives and pre-conception counselling and management, cervical cancer prevention, and prevention of gender-based and domestic violence. All participants in the event were given the necessary treatments, recommendations and referrals to relevant health facilities and specialists for further procedures. In addition, according to the report of legal specialists, most women contacted them with several gender-based issues. The most common problems were domestic violence, alimony after divorce, settling in the house of their ex-spouse and limited access to education. In addition, each woman after receiving services and check-ups was provided with a hygiene kit package.

Outcome 5: Data

The SPT has 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 of Statistics, and CSOs to revise and harmonize tools and instruments of the agencies involved with production, collection, monitoring and analysis of data related to GBV, and to ensure common definitions, 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 GBV data across government agencies.

The preliminary report and its policy briefings were prepared and shared with the RUNOs. Due to the delay in signing the programme document and its official launch, the process of obtaining Government counterparts' comments and validation was delayed.

Early next year, once the report is validated and the proposed recommendations on the GBV administrative data system are accepted by the relevant Government counterparts, the SPT will proceed with finalization of harmonized tools and instruments of the seven agencies involved with production, collection, monitoring and analysis of data related to GBV. Moreover, additional activities will also include training of data officers on applying the newly created unified indicators and procedures to implement collection and reporting on GBV data to the Agency of Statistics.

Outcome 6: Women's Movement

In 2021, the SPT officially opened the first-of-a-kind **School of Gender Activists** in Tajikistan. The goal of this intervention was to increase the capacity of CSOs representing less-protected groups of the population, women, and girls in particular, for promoting new initiatives that ensure de facto gender equality, the elimination of GBV, and to strengthen the contribution of gender activists to awareness-raising transformative work in local communities.

The SPT local partner Gender and Development, jointly with the Coalition of NGOs "From equality de-jure to equality de facto" and the CSRG, carried out the selection of candidates from among a high number of potential candidates to secure transparency of the process. As a result, 20 activists (18 women, 2 men), coming from diverse background and different target districts, were selected as the first 'students' at the School, including women and men, young girls, women living with HIV, and people with disabilities, and the school started classes in October 2021. The SPT strictly observed the principle of 'Leave No One Behind' and supported 2 participants with disabilities by provision of transportation fees to attend the School and selecting places for classes that have lift elevators and ramps. Through October to December, the students completed an introductory and the first two courses of practical exercises, which helped them in team building and learning the specifics of the activities by representing groups of women and organizations.

More than 40 CSOs from different regions united to develop and implement the first ever **Civil Society Strategy leading to transformative change on the issues of elimination of VAWG**. The Strategy was developed by CSOs for CSOs, and during the drafting process, information was collected from participating CSOs on the situation in the field of SGBV with statistical data, legislation, the potential of CSOs and the public sector, the availability of a legal framework for the development of this strategy, the experience of CSOs working for more than 20 years in the area of SGBV, as well as experience of the formed coalitions and networks that work together to advance the goals set, including on SGBV. This information became the basis for the development of the Strategy, the formulation of problems and the solution of the necessary tasks that should lead to behavioural changes.

The main goal of the Strategy is the formation of zero tolerance for discrimination and violence against girls and women, including women and girls who are subjected to multiple discrimination, in society through the consolidation and strengthening of the capacity of CSOs, advocacy for improving legislation, and development coordination among key stakeholders. The strategy consists of two tasks; each task has its own directions and activities. Actions have executors, indicators and sources of financing.

Two offline meetings were held: one to discuss the vision of the concept of the Strategy, followed by a meeting with the UN Gender Theme Group discussing the draft vision of the Strategy and its Action Plan; and a finalization meeting with CSOs to discuss the pre-final drafts, including a

number of online public consultations. The CSRG members' participation in the process made the consultation process more comprehensive and considered the key LNOB principle, as the CSRG members represented different vulnerable groups, including women with disabilities, children and youth, people living with HIV, aged, families run by single mothers, and migrants' wives.

The experts, facilitating the process, also considered some key recommendations to be included in the Strategy and/or its Action Plan: on the role of CSOs in ending VAWG/SGBV; specific components of CSOs' work with the population, beneficiaries and local jamoats; effective communication between CSOs to combine efforts and form a unified approach in working with key stakeholders; providing a platform for discussions on the implementation of the strategy twice a year by the UN GTG; participation of the CSOs in the National Development Council; inclusion of activities that should lead to the sustainability of the Strategy; studying the experience of CSOs' participation in the state order; strengthening the institutional, human and technical capacity of the NGOs in the field of SGBV to influence NGOs at the decision-making level; taking into account innovative approaches – use of social networks, new technologies and creativity in the exchange of information materials; making a summary-insertion of a list of activities that relate to microprojects or local awareness campaigns that could be already supported in Phase II of SPT; including volunteer work in the Action Plan; and establishing effective communication between CSOs to unite efforts and form a unified approach in working with key stakeholders (government agencies, the public, the media) to change gender stereotypes.

The final version of the CSOs Strategy's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analysis, developed jointly by the CSOs, the CSOs Strategy, and its Action Plan were presented by the IPs to the RUNOs. The Action Plan prioritized types of activities that would be a basis for awarding mini grants, following the Responsible Partner NGO "Gender & Development" grants policy, for NGOs as a contribution to implementation of the Strategy's Action Plan in 2022. The definition of clear, transparent, and measurable strategic goals in the field of preventing SGBV against women for CSOs will create a basis for improving the interaction of CSOs among themselves, with government agencies and with development partners, as well as strengthen national platforms and coalitions of CSOs to eliminate SGBV in Tajikistan, which is consistent with SDG 5. Currently, the prioritized steps of the Strategy's Action Plan are under preparation for implementation.

The environment to translate into plans the legislative/policy frameworks addressing SGBV was enabled through Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and UPR reporting processes and participation of the local NGOs in the process. As a result, voices of women and girls were heard through different consultative platforms with the beneficiaries themselves and the NGOs and reflected in the UNCT submissions: the UNCT joint submission to the CEDAW Committee in June 2021, and the Joint UNCT Report in the context of Tajikistan's third UPR Cycle in March 2021.

The SPT team and UNCT, with engagement of local NGOs¹, identified recommendations from the second cycle of UPR; brought updated information on the status of implementation; identified sources of information (Common Country Analysis 2021, UN and national reports); and reflected the last 5 years of developments that needed to be covered in the third cycle. The local NGO Bureau of Human Rights and Rule of Law was consulted on UPR-related analysis. The UPR Working Group reviewed the state submission of the Republic of Tajikistan at the thirty-ninth session in November 2021. The RUNOs made a full spectrum of related gap analyses and recommendations to UNCT CEDAW submissions on Rec. 26.a: Criminalization of gender-based violence; Rec. 36.a: Elimination of negative stereotypes; and Rec. 46.c: Promote and encourage the official registration of marriages.

¹ *These consultations were arranged on account of the internal funds of RUNOs, as the SPT prodoc had not yet been signed by the Government of Tajikistan during that period. Nonetheless, the activity was important to continue.*

The SPT conducted a cycle of training on the Project Cycle, M&E and Fundraising as well as on documenting the cases of violence for CSOs working with women living with disabilities, women living with HIV and women from low-income communities. The participants in the training were 140 CSO representatives from both newly created NGOs with over a year of experience and established CSOs that have been working in the country for 15–20 years. As a result of this activity, the participants gained knowledge on the programme cycle, project development process, M&E mechanisms, legislative environment for fundraising as well as new strategies for resource mobilization for SGBV projects.



Photo 3: Opening ceremony of the School of Gender Activists, 27 November 2021

Rights Holders (“Beneficiaries”)

Indicative numbers	Direct for 2021	Indirect for 2021	Comments / Explanations
Women (18 and above)	5,346	24,925	Beneficiaries are participants of capacity-building events, like seminars, trainings, workshops for state officials, journalists and bloggers, round tables, health fair target local population, as well as women who have been using VSR services.
Girls (5–17)	21,288	24,114	Beneficiaries covered through community mobilization campaigns (sport games, school meetings/discussions, theatre performances, summer camps etc.) in target areas on raising awareness on SGBV, including on prevention and response measures.
Men (18 and above)	2,609	23,457	Beneficiaries are participants of capacity-building events, like training, workshops for state officials, journalists and bloggers, round tables, and target local population.
Boys (5–17)	12,603	23,112	Beneficiaries covered through community mobilization campaigns (sport games, school meetings/discussions, theatre performances, summer camps etc.) in target areas on raising awareness on SGBV, including on prevention and response measures.
TOTAL	41,846	95,608	

Challenges and Mitigating Measures

As already highlighted in the Contextual Shifts and Implementation Status section, 2021 has continued to be a challenging year not only for the SPT but for the country too.

Due to the unrest at the borders with the Kyrgyz Republic, it was particularly difficult to work with the law enforcement agencies for the capacity-building training activities planned to be conducted in Isfara district, which is one of the six target districts and where the military operations were taking place. Support from CoWFA, by sending letters to the HQs and regional authorities highlighting the importance of engaging at the district level for certain activities, has led to initiating certain interventions while the rest were postponed to early 2022.

Despite the delays of almost 8 months in programme direct implementation, since the SPT team had laid the groundwork in 2020 and the first half of 2021, this has helped the IPs and RUNOs to deliver in an expedited way. Most of the ToRs, calls for proposals, training modules, technical assessments, reviews, draft laws, etc., were prepared, which paved the way for immediate implementation. The IPs that were selected in 2020 committed to stay with the programme and re-started their work after the approval of the programme in July. Moreover, CoWFA has nominated focal points for the SPT in each of the districts, to support the programme implementation at district

level. They have been the main means of communication with the local authorities in addition to sending support letters from CoWFA at the national level.

There were also some constraints in accelerating the work on the baseline survey and knowledge, attitude, behaviour and practice (KABP) study. Although the process of selection of a company to do the baseline survey and KABP study was completed in 2020, the RUNOs and the selected company had to make further changes to the questionnaires after receiving feedback from Government counterparts. Also, the approval process to go to the field took longer than envisaged, due to the nationwide celebration of the 30th Anniversary of Independence. That further delayed the start of the survey.

The company faced a number of other challenges after all the approvals were granted, including the reluctance of men to provide responses to sensitive questions and some government employees being hard to reach to conduct interviews, given the busy period of reporting and planning. As a mitigation measure, in order to complete the survey, interviewers were trained once again, some interviewers were switched for doctors, and it was proposed to the men to complete the questionnaire by themselves (anonymously) without participation of the interviewer. After all these actions, with some delay, it was possible to complete data collection by the end of December 2021. The results of the survey and study will be made available to the programme in early 2022.

Further to the approval of the programme, one of the requests from the CoWFA was to transfer the management of Hotline 1313 from an NGO to CoWFA. CoWFA wished to have full ownership of the hotline and move forward to ensure its sustainability. The request was welcomed by the RUNOs and EU as a sign of national ownership and exit strategy, ensuring its sustainability. The process of handover took longer than anticipated and the functioning of Hotline 1313 in 2021 was not possible. The SPT is exploring all options to expedite the transfer of Hotline 1313 management from the NGO to CoWFA to ensure for immediate re-start of the hotline operation in early 2022.

In addition to the contextual and programmatic challenges, there was an issue with selecting national VAWG experts and companies to implement some activities planned under SPT. 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 a few of them have solid background in gender equality and women's empowerment, and even fewer show demonstrated knowledge and experience in SGBV. In addition to the technical knowledge, there was a linguistic issue as well. As a mitigating measure, the RUNOs have readvertised the ToRs, translated the Calls for Proposals and ToRs into native language and arranged online information sessions. As a result, NGOs were selected; however, the work on the specific activities will be done in 2022.

Lessons Learned and New Opportunities

a) Lessons Learned

Joint multi-sectoral capacity-building: It was observed that capacity-building events (trainings for the ministries and CoWFA) were more effective when trainees – representatives of all engaged ministries (MoES, MoHSPP, CoWFA, MoJ, MoIA) – were all in the same room. This approach boosted intersectoral discussions, addressed questions from one sector to other and clarified wrong expectations between sectors, during direct engagement with each other.

According to the feedback from the participants of the multi-sector training, the following approaches, used by trainers, fully justified themselves:

- Using up to 70 per cent of the time for practical exercises based on various interactive forms and no more than 30 per cent for thematic presentations of trainers;

- Referencing national and sectoral strategies, state programmes, departmental instructions, as well as specific cases/stories of women victims of violence in Tajikistan as the basic material for practical exercises;
- Intensive use of discussions about the alignment of forces in society and the definition of “supporters” and “opponents” of promoting gender equality, the presence of arguments on both sides, as well as how to combine the “Eastern mentality”, cultural traditions and gender equality;
- Conducting joint training for employees from various ministries and departments (the pilot training confirmed this).

SPT Consultant – National Coordinator based at CoWFA as a “one-stop shop”: After the approval of the SPT, the team had to go through lengthy bureaucratic and administrative obstacles (time-consuming procedures on getting official permissions/correspondence via the MoFA for each activity, permission to obtain official documents and statistics, attendance of state representatives at capacity-building events, etc.), that would hinder the rapid launch and implementation of SPT activities. Furthermore, CoWFA as a responsible National Coordinator for SPT has limited staff and heavy workload, which added to delayed responses from CoWFA on SPT requests.

In view of this, at the joint UN RC and Chair of CoWFA meeting, a suggestion was made to bring on board a SI Consultant – National Coordinator to be based at CoWFA, to ensure smooth and uninterrupted services are provided to the SPT team on the Government side. In October, one of the former staff of CoWFA was appointed as a consultant – National Coordinator for the SI, and they have been instrumental in assisting the overall SPT smooth implementation, assisting the RUNOs, and engaged CSOs and experts in getting direct support in lieu of following long-lasting bureaucratic procedures (official letters to the MoFA). This practice significantly eased the process of engaging state officials in the SPT interventions and ensured uninterrupted delivery by the RUNOs. This practice of appointing one single person within a responsible state entity benefited programme delivery, and thus is highly recommended for future interventions.

CSO-established networks – consortium-based agreements: While announcing competitive calls for proposals, the SPT encouraged applications from consortia of public organizations/CSOs that would allow more CSOs to be brought on board and connect them, as well as build the capacities of new and/or less competitive organizations on gender and response to violence issues. For example, within one of the RUNOs’ components, out of six released grants to CSOs, five are implemented within consortium-based agreements, allowing remote and left-behind NGOs to grow and strengthen their gender potential together with experienced ones. This practice was highly appreciated among civil society and state officials and is recommended for future projects/interventions as one of the CSO capacity-building tools. This also refers to the principles of the Spotlight Initiative of LNOB and bringing the furthest behind on board.

Persisting gaps in knowledge on gender and non-discrimination issues: Despite the fact that gender mainstreaming and promotion of gender equality and no-discrimination is not a new trend in Tajikistan, there is a lack of knowledge on gender equality, SGBV, existing national laws and/or international mechanisms to combat VAWG, etc., among diverse groups of the population (state officials, mass media representatives, CSOs’ representatives, direct beneficiaries – survivors of SGBV, and so on). In the light of this, it is highly recommended for the Government of Tajikistan and international community to continue supporting such “knowledge boosting” programmes in the country. One example could be the continuation of the School of Gender Activists that brings together wider group of like-minded people to refresh their knowledge on gender equality and SGBV, get the necessary information and continue with cascading the trainings throughout the country, spreading the knowledge and information.

b) New Opportunities

The SPT built a partnership with the Academy of Public Administration to carry out short-term and long-term training courses on child rights, including the rights of the child to grow in a violence-free, safe and protective family environment. Hence, this will sustain the work of SPT to continue building the capacity of child protection statutory system staff to receive regular training.

As a result of the School of Gender Activists' activity, new opportunities are arising for a greater CSO engagement:

- The idea of establishing a “House of NGOs”, located in Dushanbe (and later to be replicated in all big cities), operating on the basis of a big/experienced NGO to support other smaller/grass-roots NGOs' events and trainings through providing co-working space, access to a library and internet connection at a smaller cost.
- This will open many opportunities for less advanced (and even mid-level) NGOs to activate themselves by using the facilities for self-capacity-building, which will in turn capacitate them to provide support and services to beneficiaries more effectively. Small fees could go for maintaining the “House of NGOs” to continue provision of such services. This idea is beneficial both in terms of competing with the local market's high prices for services, and in terms of uniting NGOs as a technical and Knowledge Hub platform.
- The School of Gender Activists can be replicated in other regions and can cover other topics (peacebuilding, STEM/IT for girls, women's empowerment in tourism), subject to donor funding.

In terms of inter-agency collaboration, the SPT's joint programme structure and the systems created during the inception phase in 2020 – notably through the appointment of technical focal points – supported a growing spirit of ongoing collaboration. This has had a ripple effect beyond the SPT's implementation, influencing the design and implementation of other joint programmes. Namely, the 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 learned 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's empowerment and ending VAWG, which resonates with the SPT approaches.

Innovative, Promising or Good Practices

During the reporting period, one of the promising practices was the creation of the first-of-its-kind School of Gender Activities in Tajikistan. The concept was to create a pool of informal local experts as an extended hand of the CoWFA and other ministries to promote implementation of gender policy in the country. This will enable a strengthened partnership between the Government and the CSOs. It was also to bring activists in different sectors and areas, and from diverse geographical locations to a common understanding of gender mainstreaming, gender analysis and work on women and girls' empowerment and to provide them with necessary knowledge on ending VAWG/SGBV. The creation of the School of Gender Activists is an important and timely step that contributes to building the capacity of civil society in preventing any kind of VAWG.

The School brought together 20 activists (more details are provided in Annex D) and provided several rounds of non-classic training on a variety of topics with new entry points in gender equality and lobbying, and envisaged participation of the students (NGOs and gender activists) in Parliament hearings. The programme also provided practical exercises on identifying active institutions for promoting gender equality and their opponents, discussing various types of policies consider-

ing a gender approach, and making a rapid gender assessment (including use of data) of the policies of sectoral programmes.

The students not only learned from trainers, but in many cases, they learned from each other, as they represented different geographical areas and beneficiary groups and brought their own experiences to the School Knowledge Hub. The students were given the opportunity to get to know Tajik women leaders better through meeting and talking to them about their successes, the problems they faced on the way to achieving their goals, and how they juggled career and family balance.

As a result of the strengthened knowledge on issues of gender and GBV/SGBV and students' exposure to practical work, the SPT NGO partner used available opportunities to involve students in various events organized by different stakeholders. On 3 December 2021, the entire group of the School participated at the Forum of Public Organizations of Tajikistan on "The role of CSOs in promoting gender equality in Tajikistan", dedicated to the 30th Anniversary of Independence, and successfully presented their innovative projects.

The students also participated in the consultation conference of the UN and the Government of Tajikistan on pre-finalization of the UNSDCF 2023–2026, including mapping the areas of interest and engagement of development partners, and providing comments and inputs promoting new initiatives that ensure de facto gender equality and the elimination of GBV, to strengthen the contribution of gender activists to awareness-raising transformative work in local communities.

The graduates will have access to a gender repositarium on the School's website (to be developed in 2022), that will also include a gender calendar of events; chapters with normative acts, laws, policies and strategies; modules taught at the School; relevant contacts and links; and brochures with mapped services on ending VAWG/SGBV. Most importantly, the students and the trainers created an intergenerational knowledge exchange bond, which they have been very excited about.

Finally, the word about the School has spread and many people (who are not activists but want to gain knowledge on gender issues), NGOs and development partners have requested the continuation of the School so that more people can apply or enrol their own staff. The requests have been received via emails and phone calls. Also, a number of colleagues from line ministries inquired about the potential continuation of the School as well as consideration of providing similar classes to Government employees working in gender units or departments of line ministries and entities.

Communications and Visibility

a) Overview

The C&V Workplan for the reporting period was reviewed and updated in line with the overall programme vision and practical inputs from the RUNOs. The document was also reshaped considering the COVID-19 outbreak, with more interventions going online.

Spotlight Initiative programme communications were led by the C&V Task Force created with the engagement of the RUNOs and RCO and co-chaired by UNICEF and the RCO. The C&V Strategy and Workplan for the programme were designed using a participatory approach and all main documents within the component were agreed with state partners and the EU as a main partner.

The SPT C&V Strategy was designed in line with the global Spotlight Initiative's C&V Strategy with the aim to ensure a credible and consistent flow of information about the Initiative, its partners, and – most importantly – its impact on eliminating VAWG. Major communications interventions and support provided within the programme aimed at increasing its visibility and raising awareness, with a focus on the EU's support, and increasing public awareness on VAWG, with a focus on domestic and intimate partner violence.

C&V interventions were well coordinated through regular C&V Task Force meetings, including joint meetings with the EU to discuss the overall approach to C&V within the programme and aligning the approaches and workplans, and as a result, a calendar of events was introduced to keep the EU, Government and CSRG constantly updated.

All communications and advocacy/visibility related interventions within the Spotlight Initiative were incorporated into the wider framework of actions by the UNCT and other partners, including the UN Communications Group workplan and UN GTG concept note and matrix of actions for the global 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence campaign (see the [16 Days Matrix Spotlight Tajikistan](#)). Overall, the launch of SPT was conducted within the above-mentioned campaign for wider coverage and synergy. SPT messages were voiced by the UNRC using all major high-level events and widely disseminated through various media outlets, including national TV, radio, online and on social media. The UN in Tajikistan website was used as a central point for highlighting the programme and publishing regular updates under the One UN umbrella.

A national media campaign was implemented within the SPT launch to highlight the increased risk of VAWG across the country and included organization and broadcasting of several talk shows in Sugd, Khatlon and Dushanbe, rounds of face-to-face and online interventions, and wide social media campaigns with engagement of influencers, celebrities and decision makers.

All events and communication materials were coordinated to have a consistent branding, high-profile endorsements, publicity events and campaigns and captured the value and contribution of the EU to the Spotlight Initiative. In addition, the EU was engaged as partner on at least three of the national high-level events initiated or sponsored by Spotlight during the reporting period.

b) Messages

Various sets of messages were designed for SPT for the following key target audiences identified by the C&V Task Force and endorsed by the technical and management team and partners:

- Government (with a focus on the agencies that will be targeted as IPs under the programme at the national and local levels) and decision makers
- Women and girls, women's organizations and groups
- General public
- Journalists, opinion leaders and national and international media
- Influencer groups – youth groups and community influencers
- CSOs (with a focus on women's rights groups)
- Private sector (in case we will do partnerships and communications jointly)
- Educational institutions

Detailed SPT messages by Outcomes can be accessed [here](#).

Specific sets of messages were also designed for the SI launch and 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence campaign.

c) Media and Visibility Events

Several high-profile events were organized within the reporting period, considering it included the official launch of the Spotlight Initiative. The first high-profile visibility event was the First National Steering Committee Meeting of the Spotlight Programme in Tajikistan that took place in Dushanbe on 17 August 2021 with the aim to present the expectations from the NSC and approve the draft NSC ToR, among others.

Several high-level events were organized within the launch of the Spotlight Initiative programme in Tajikistan and 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence. The central event included the national launch of the SI and 16 Days of Activism followed by a separate press conference on SPT.

The national launch of the SPT, co-chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister of Tajikistan Matlubahon Sattoriyon, UN RC in Tajikistan Sezin Sinanoglu, and Deputy EU Ambassador to the Republic of Tajikistan Petra Gasparova. The launch event took place on 25 November 2021 to kick off the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence campaign in Tajikistan.

The national futsal tournament, named “Orange Ball”, was conducted for the first time with the support of SPT among girls aged 13–17 with a key mission to encourage more girls to engage in sports, particularly futsal, provide them with equal opportunities, and break gender-based stereotypes. A total of 224 girls, aged 13–17, participated in the tournament across the country and had the opportunity to perform at regional and national levels.



Photo 4: The SPT Press Conference, 25 November 2021

d) Campaigns

One of the widest jointly coordinated campaigns within the reporting period was dedicated to the launch of the Spotlight Initiative within the global 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence campaign at the national level. The main purpose of the campaign was to convene stakeholders and the media to bring public attention to the Spotlight Initiative and raise awareness on the issues of SGBV against women and girls during the 16 Days of Activism.



Photo 5: Official Launch of the Spotlight Programme in Tajikistan and start of the global campaign 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence, 25 November 2021

Dozens of well-executed and tailored events were also organized within the campaign to contribute to social and behavioural changes:

- National futsal tournament “Orange Ball” among girls (regional and national level)
- Social media campaign and sharing information about the campaign in mass media
- Theatre performances at university dormitories
- Talk shows on regional and national TV stations in Dushanbe, Sugd and Khatlon
- Round table of the current Multi-sectoral Coordination Group on Prevention of Violence Against Women and Girls
- Drawing competition among Dushanbe schoolchildren on prevention of violence

The series of activities also aimed to mobilize a wide range of stakeholders to leverage this moment and lay the foundations for longer-term efforts, in line with the SDGs. The discussions were built around the issue of how to galvanize momentum towards accelerated actions and accountability for the full realization of gender equality and ending VAWG as a crucial part of the 2030 Agenda.

Within the SPT, more than 60 interventions took place within the campaign period on prevention of SGBV against women and girls, strengthening institutions, ensuring essential services, and laws and policies. Notably, the campaign was largely supported and implemented jointly with the national and local governments, EU, CSOs and private sector, demonstrating a great example of cooperation for development.



Photo 6: EU Ambassador, UN RC and Deputy Chair of CoWFA with the winners of the national futsal tournament among girls, 10 December 2021

The SPT jointly with the Ombudsman for Children's Rights Office conducted a nationwide art competition for children aged 7–17 on the topic of “Eliminating violence against girls and women”, aiming at hearing the voices of children and giving them the opportunity to share their vision of the world free of violence. During the competition, children were also sensitized on the issues of GBV. After the competition 2,200 drawings were received and 800 of them were digitized. Thirteen of the drawings were selected and printed for the art exhibition during the programme's national launch event.

Recognizing the critical role culture and art play in reflecting the challenges faced by society, including the issues of gender equality and SGBV, SPT jointly with the public organization Hamsol ba Hamsol and in cooperation with the MoES supported nine theatre-based educational performances aimed to break down stereotypes, show different perspectives, change mindsets and engage in action. More than 1,000 students participated in mobile theatre shows in Dushanbe to raise awareness on gender-based and domestic violence, early marriages, bullying, family planning and SRHR.

SPT and the Tajik Family Planning Association conducted a high-level round table on multi-sectoral cooperation to address issues of prevention of GBV in Tajikistan. The meeting, chaired by the CoWFA, was attended by representatives of line ministries and agencies at the national and regional levels as well as UN agencies and CSO representatives (27 people in total). During the event, the group reviewed the results of the joint monitoring of the support rooms for survivors of GBV within maternity houses, the draft of the Civil Society Strategy to address GBV, and recommendations of the regional multi-sectoral cooperation group on the next year's workplan.

e) Human Interest Stories

For every girl, a right to study: How the Spotlight Programme helps girls in Tajikistan protect their right to education through school-based complaint mechanisms

It is an ordinary day in School #117 in Dushanbe. Rajabalizoda Pokravon, a school principal, and several other members of the complaints committee are opening the box to study complaints submitted by their school students. All letters placed in the box are being read and discussed one by one. One of the complaints gets the attention of Mr. Pokravon and the committee.

“I am a 9th grade student, Aziza Zoyrova, and I ask you to help me study at school. My mother and I live in my uncle’s house. My uncle provides our life. My uncle won’t let me go to school. He always says, ‘Who needs girls’ education?’... Better to stay at home and do household chores. But I am very interested in reading and want to continue my education. I ask you to help me. I also want my uncle not to know that I am complaining, otherwise he will punish me and my mother,” is written in the complaint.

After reading the complaint, Mr. Pokravon turns to Aziza’s teacher. As per the teacher, there were a few attempts already taken to ensure Aziza continues her studies, but the issue is still not solved. It turned out the main obstacle to Aziza’s school attendance is resistance from Aziza’s uncle, who in the absence of Aziza’s father is the main provider for the family.

In October 2021, together with the deputy director of the school, class teacher, head of the mahalla and school mentor, the committee visited Aziza’s family and had a long conversation with Aziza’s uncle. It was explained to Aziza’s uncle how his negligence towards Aziza’s right to education and fulfilling her potential might cause irreversible and negative impact on her future and empowerment. The committee managed to convince Aziza’s uncle that education would benefit Aziza and protect her from abuse in the future. Currently Aziza has been attending classes. In a recent conversation with her, Aziza said that her uncle no longer stopped her from going to school. As per her teacher’s feedback, Aziza became very active in the class.

Zebuniso Rasulzade, Tajik activist promoting women’s rights and participant in the School of Gender Activists

My activism was influenced by the story of a friend of mine. After 8 years of marriage with constant physical, psychological and economic abuse, she decided to divorce. During the trial, instead of support, she faced only accusations and injustice. She had to start from scratch. After she divorced, the attitude of society has negatively changed towards her. Based on this story, I wrote a poem: “If someone says ‘I’m a true man!’ don’t believe it”. After this poem was published, I started receiving a lot of messages from women claiming that I described the truth of life, and they began to share their stories.

I began to highlight these issues in my art to create zero tolerance towards and to prevent violence against women, and to deliver key messages to the audience through social networks, radio and television statements as well as meetings on my works with students and schoolchildren. To find like-minded people and to strengthen my capacity, I went through a competitive selection to the School of Gender Activists. I was happy to note the School has ensured a balanced student composition, which included women and men, young girls, women living with HIV and persons with disabilities – and students from different geographical areas. The School has given me the opportunity to learn, and to share my experience and knowledge with fellow students.

In November 2021, I became a member of the UN Women regional programme “Awake Not Sleeping!” and worked to reformulate fairy tales and change the position of their main characters from a person with passive position enduring violence to the one with active position that changes their lives for the better. Fairy tales are one of the methods of shaping girls’ way of thinking about their

role in society.

I was impressed by the inclusive approach in the selection of the school participants. Communicating with my course fellows, I realized that complaining about something is just a weakness. My colleagues and I are now better equipped with the knowledge and will consider the needs of various vulnerable groups in our future activities to ensure we contribute to changing society's attitude towards VAWG.

It would be unfair not to mention the inspiration that came to me thanks to the School of Gender Activists. As a result, an anthem for gender activists and several new poems in this direction were born. Writing the anthem revealed the other side of my talent, I realized that I could write and sing songs.

The school gave me new friends, with whom we stay in touch, try to support each other, and work together. Now I can further enhance the knowledge I acquired at this school in my activities and poetry creation.

f) Testimonials

“Spotlight Initiative promotes a society with no tolerance for gender-based violence. It’s a collective effort – in which the government, local governance bodies, international partners, and civil society together develop a capacity to better understand and effectively address violence against women and girls. In Tajikistan, the Spotlight Initiative provides a strong toolbox to act at all these levels. The global 16 Days of Activism campaign helps us bring these important issues into the spotlight, show solidarity with the survivors of domestic violence and create an environment in which it is safe to speak up and seek help, for the benefit of the thousands of girls and women who suffer in silence.” *Ms. Petra Gasparova, EU Deputy Ambassador to Tajikistan*

“At the national level, the futsal tournament among women’s teams was held for the first time and we can say that Spotlight Initiative in Tajikistan contributed to making a history by establishing the national women’s futsal tournament.” **Furkat Ahmedjanov, Director of Futsal League of Tajikistan**

“Recognition of my efforts, in my capacity as the Chair of the CSRG, is far more important for me than any money.” **Former Chair of CSRG (July 2020 to July 2021) Ms. Guljahon Bobosadykova, Chair of the Coalition of NGOs of the Republic of Tajikistan** “From equality de jure to equality de facto”.

“I have three children, two of whom are grown up now. When I participated in the training and concluded that it was too late to make changes in the upbringing of my two children, but now I know how to behave and deal with a third child. If I had attended this training earlier, I would have raised my two older children differently and much better.” **Chorshanbieva Latofat, participant of positive parenting training, Yovon, Tajikistan**

“We believe that the definition of clear, transparent and measurable strategic goals in the field of preventing sexual and gender-based violence against women for CSOs will create a basis for improving the interaction of CSOs among themselves, with government agencies and development partners, as well as strengthen national platforms and coalitions of CSOs to eliminate gender-based violence in Tajikistan, which is consistent with the SDG 5.” **Authors of the Civil Society Strategy, representing opinions of 40 CSOs**

g) Photos



Photo 7: Opening ceremony of the School of Gender Activists, 27 November 2021



Photo 8: Training for police in Khujand, Sughd region, 22 October 2021



Photo 9: Theatre performance in Isfara



Photo 10: Training for student council on complaint mechanism in School #36, Rudaki

h) Videos

SPT has developed several thematic video materials with overall Spotlight Initiative information and messages.

- [Launch of SI and 16 Days of Activism](#)
- [Children of Tajikistan dream about the world free of violence](#)

Additionally, thematic videos with engagement of children were prepared on the topic “World Free of Violence”. The video interview was placed on Asia Plus media channels and was dedicated to the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence campaign in Tajikistan. The total number of views is **19,953** and **180** engagements.

- [YouTube](#)
- [Instagram](#)

i) Illustrations

During the reporting period, SPT has developed a [series of thematic illustrations](#) with key messages for social media platforms. The series of illustrations depicted the life of Nuriya, a girl from Tajikistan, who is growing and through different life situations shows the audience what a world free of violence looks like. Each illustration addresses harmful gender stereotypes and shows the alternative positive way. The total reach for this content is 39,774 people (only UNICEF Tajikistan platforms: Instagram, Facebook, Twitter).

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1FbQJKyRS6_ZPUOgbojG3swTG-1iRq_1

Addendum

j) Media Coverage

- https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=192064696450235&id=100069401160624
- <https://oila.tj/news/sud-nisbati-74-fisadi-zanonu-dukhtaron-dar-oila-zrovar-didamshavad>
- <https://www.facebook.com/1470581256488551/posts/3093494960863831/>
- <https://eca.unwomen.org/ru/news/stories/2021/11/press-release-launch-of-spotlight-initiative-in-tajikistan>
- <https://www.facebook.com/128878693843929/posts/4623380851060335/>
- <https://tajikistan.un.org/en/160232-government-tajikistan-un-and-eu-officially-launch-spotlight-initiative-programme-and-start>
- <https://tajikistan.un.org/en/160235-launch-spotlight-initiative-and-16-days-activism-campaign-tajikistan>

The SPT developed and circulated through social media channels three short video materials on promotion of positive masculinity and challenging traditional norms among young people that is also focused on men’s involvement with care work at home to reduce the domestic burden on women and address the situation with self-isolation during COVID-19 and its negative impact of GBV:

- <https://www.facebook.com/tajikistan.unfpa.org/videos/605730617327154/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/tajikistan.unfpa.org/videos/606526090586019/>

- <https://www.facebook.com/tajikistan.unfpa.org/videos/290154009688637/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/tajikistan.unfpa.org/videos/922095731845097/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/tajikistan.unfpa.org/videos/2981610228754494/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/tajikistan.unfpa.org/videos/1227040321153218/>

Next Steps

As a next step, and during the remaining 6 months of the programme implementation within Phase I, SPT will continue its focus to finalize most of the activities that were initiated in 2021. Due to delayed approval of the programme, the baseline study and KABP survey will be finalized in early 2022. Based on the results of the study and survey, a comprehensive Communications Strategy with focus on different audiences will be developed.

SPT will also engage with and provide support to the midterm evaluation team that is planned for the first quarter of 2022. At the same time, the SPT will commence its consultations with partners and wider stakeholders' groups on the key focus of the programme during Phase II.

The SPT's implementation in the next reporting cycle will also focus on supporting the CSRG Workplan 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 Spotlight initiatives and CSOs in the country. This will include actively promoting opportunities for the CSRG to provide feedback and advice to the proposal for the next Phase during consultation meetings and joint Government, UN, EU and CSOs workshop to validate key activities for Phase II.

The SPT will also continue to work through the well-working and well-established SPT Task Forces at technical level, the SPT Coordination monthly meetings at senior management level, and the regular meetings with the EUD to ensure all are updated on programme implementation, on the bottlenecks it faces, and mitigation measures are put in place to address the bottlenecks. It will continue to rely on each other's expertise for programme coherence and piggybacking on long-term agreements and shared resources to maximize on joint efforts for better and quality programme impact.

Outcome 1

- Finalize legislation and policy gaps analysis related to SGBV in five sectors (justice, security, health, education and labour) and provide recommendations for amendments of laws, policies and procedures in line with international standards to Governmental Working Groups on GBV for further review and adoption.
- Develop plan for sensitization of key stakeholders in legislative and policy development processes on gender equality and response to violence and promote its adoption by respective agencies.
- Continue activities on sensitization of at least 240 representatives (including 80 per cent men, 20 per cent women) of legislative and executive branches on gender equality and response to violence and strengthen their evidence-based knowledge and capacities to assess gaps and draft new and/or strengthen existing legislations on ending SGBV and non-discrimination.
- Support strengthening of at least three DDPs with incorporation of priority prevention and response measures to SGBV.
- Conduct National Conference on creating an enabling environment for criminalization of domestic violence in Tajikistan.
- Support the midterm review of the National Action Plan on the law of the Republic of Tajikistan on prevention of violence in the family (post-2023), based on international standards,

including costing, with engagement of CSOs in the consultations including youth, people with disabilities and other groups that are traditionally left behind.

Outcome 2

- Promote adoption and implementation of Gender Mainstreaming Strategy on promotion of increased access of women to decision-making positions by respective state agencies.
- Continue with strengthening the capacities of at least additional 80 representatives of MoIA, MoJ and Judiciary (including police, judges/court workers, lawyers, advocates and paralegals) on gender equality, non-discrimination and response to violence.
- Conduct the remaining trainings for Muslim religious leaders on VAWG/SGBV issues based on the adapted training module on Islam and Gender to increase the knowledge of religious leaders on SGBV issues and techniques on how to use the provided materials during their consultation with the local population in target districts.
- Finalize the ToR for the National Multi-sectoral Coordination Group on VAWG, which was developed and submitted for the Government's approval in 2020. Conduct roundtables at the national, regional and district level in order to develop a joint workplan and proceed with its implementation.
- Conduct an exchange visit for the regional Multi-sectoral Coordination Group from Sughd region to Khatlon region to get familiarized with the work of the existing regional Multi-sectoral Coordination Group. The SPT will also conduct an exchange visit and knowledge-sharing study tour for the national Multi-sectoral Coordination Group to another country in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region.
- Continue finalization and adoption of sound complaint mechanisms during the next reporting period. Continue provision of psychosocial and legal support to sexual violence survivors during the next reporting period.
- Provide the departments of MoJ, MoIA, MoES, MoHSP and CoWFA, responsible for engagement in sectoral policymaking, with technical supplies (such as HP Colour LaserJet Pro multifunction printers, sets of cartridges and consumables).

Outcome 3

- Finalize and promote Gender-sensitive Guidelines to promote survivor-centred reporting and usage of gender-sensitive language among mass media.
- Sensitize at least an additional 60 journalists and bloggers on gender and non-discrimination issues and enable them to report using survivor-centred approaches and gender-sensitive language.
- Conduct awareness-raising and mobilization campaigns with at least 600 members of the local population on SGBV issues in target districts.
- 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 and 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.
- Conduct assessment to align the curriculum for grades 7–11 on HLSE with the UNESCO guidelines on sex education, specifically related to gender and GBV. 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 considering gender equality and GBV issues.
- Conduct the remaining parent-focused interventions to support ending VAWG, including the developed and rehearsed theatre-based educational performances to teach positive parenting practices and positive masculinity, as well as information sessions for parents

to learn to speak with their children about selected HLSE topics including dating violence, bullying and early marriage.

- Conduct additional sports summer camp for taekwondo athletes and para-badminton players to increase their knowledge on relevant gender issues and develop skills combating SGBV and discrimination as well as addressing the issues of gender sensitivity in the sports environment, and tools for promoting positive engagement of girls in sports and developing their ability to apply the knowledge gained in life.
- Based on the results of the KABP study, produce a Strategy on Social and Behaviour Change to address VAWG in Tajikistan, and further implement the Strategy by the end of Spotlight Phase I.
- Continue work at the school and community level to raise awareness and empower girls to speak up in case of any violence, including SGBV. Expand the number of schools from 35 to 45 during the next reporting period to cover more girls and community members to prevent and respond to SGBV cases with existing resources.
- Establish Innovation Labs as spaces for building soft skills for girls and boys, with a focus on the most vulnerable and at risks youth groups.
- Engage the Gender Action Learning System (GALS) international expert for provision of the Training of Trainers for the selected NGO and its partners from the target districts, and roll out component GALS in the communities, including communication and community mobilization interventions and actions.

Outcome 4

- Continue with strengthening the capacities of at least additional 300 representatives of MoIA, MoJ and the judiciary (including police, judges/court workers, lawyers, advocates and paralegals) on gender sensitivity, survivor-centred approach and correct implementation of SGBV legislation and policies.
- Support development and implementation of a programme on empowering female police inspectors and women in the security sector (with at least 54 women) for better prevention of and response to SGBV, including better support to SGBV survivors.
- Provide legal, psychological and referral support through renewed and strengthened operation of Hotline 1313 services and mobile application to at least 600 survivors of SGBV.
- Continue with strengthening the capacity of at least 42 women and survivors of SGBV on entrepreneurship, leadership, and social skills, including provision of mentorship and technical support to develop/extend their businesses.
- 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.
- Conduct the remaining six Mobile Health Fairs in Spotlight target districts to provide women and girls from remote areas with free professional services, including consultations on family planning and reproductive health, such as prevention and management of sexually transmitted infections, contraceptives and pre-conception counselling and management, cervical cancer, psychological and legal services, and prevention of gender-based and domestic violence.
- Integrate international best-practice guidance on response and provision of gender-sensitive quality services to victims of SGBV into primary health care institutions, including building capacities of health service providers.
- Continue provision of supportive supervision to teams of trained service providers – psychologists. This will include:

- Further orientation session will be carried out for the service providers and potential families on the need of children to live in a violence-free safe and protective family environment.
- Follow up with the cases of children placed under the family care.
- The draft Law on Guardianship will be further advanced and submitted to the Government for review.
- Procurement of equipment (items agreed with MoHSPP) for medical forensic services and related CSOs of target localities (medical adjustable inspection couches for women with disabilities; medical furniture/equipment and computer sets for medical forensic services) to make medical test of women and girls with special needs.

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 SDG indicator 5.2 during the round table.
- Revise and harmonize tools and instruments of the seven agencies involved with production, collection, monitoring and analysis of data related to SGBV to ensure common definitions, methodologies, indicators, definitions 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.
- Develop a training module 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 Agency of Statistics.
- Start the contracting process for 10 CSOs (after the training module is developed) from target districts 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 intersecting forms of discrimination for evidence-based monitoring and reporting (CEDAW, UPR).

Outcome 6

- Conduct the remaining training on the Project Cycle, M&E and Fundraising for CSOs working with women living with disabilities, women living with HIV and women from low-income communities. The SPT will also distribute small amounts for open calls for project proposals to organizations focusing on women with disabilities, women living with HIV, and women and girls from low-income communities for implementation of small-scale initiatives related to SGBV.
- Start implementation of microgrants for implementation of the activities at grassroot and local levels by six local NGOs. Grants were received as part of the newly developed Civil Society Strategy for Behavioural Change in Prevention of Violence against Women and Girls.

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 2021	Results for Reporting Period (2021)	Target	Reporting Notes	
	Legal age of marriage					
	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.00	Due to delay in CPD endorsement, the hired one international and four national consultants could not complete their tasks/present results on legislative gap analysis in 2021. The results of the legislative analysis are expected by 30 June 2022	
	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		
	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	Evidence-based Costed Rights of all women & girls	Evidence-based	Evidence-based Costed M&E framework Rights of all women & girls Participatory Development	The State Program for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (NAP PVF) was adopted for 2014–2023 and it is ongoing. Due to 1,5 years delay of the program start (it practically started in Sept. 2021), in 2021 SPT has not conducted the participatory mid-term review of the implementation of the NAP PVF (2014-2023) and developed the set of recommendations for enhancing the effectiveness of NAP implementation based on international standards, including proper costing/funding and M&E Framework.	
	Sub-National Level					
	Does not apply/ there is no plan	Evidence-based Costed Rights of all women & girls	Evidence-based	Evidence-based Costed M&E framework Rights of all women & girls Participatory Development		
Output Indicator	Baseline	Milestone 2021	Results for Reporting Period (2021)	Target	Reporting Notes	

Developed or Strengthened						
Indicator 1.1.1 Number of draft new and/or strengthened laws and/or policies on ending VAWG and/or gender equality and non-discrimination developed that respond to the rights of women and girls facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination and are in line with international HR standards, within the last year.	0	2	0	4	Due to delay in CPD endorsement, the hired consultants didn't complete their tasks. The results are expected by 30 June 2022.	
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	6	0	12	Due to delay in CPD endorsement, this activity is shifted to 2022 and will be completed by 30 June 2022	
	Women Parliamentarians					
	0	3	0	6		
	Human Rights Staff					
0	20	0	30			
Women Human Rights Staff						
0	4	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	Evidence-based Programs & activities costed Needs of ALL women & girls	<i>see comment box for reporting list of action plans</i>	Evidence-based Programs & activities costed M&E Plan Needs of ALL women & girls	Action Plan: State program for prevention of domestic violence, Sector: This program includes all sectors, Over reporting period: Evidence-Based	

Outcome 2 Summary table					
Outcome Indicator	Baseline	Milestone 2021	Results for Reporting Period (2021)	Target	Reporting Notes
Coordination Mechanism?					
Indicator 2.1 Existence of a functioning regional, national and/or sub-national coordination and oversight mechanisms at the highest levels for addressing VAWG/HP that include representation from marginalized groups.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	The SPT in cooperation with the COWFA developed the ToR for the MSCG and submitted it to the Government for review. The ToR will be revised based on the comments received from the ministries and governmental agencies and resubmitted for approval in 2022. Currently the SPT is supporting the work of the existing (unofficial) multi-sectoral working group led by COWFA, including building their capacity, assisting them in development of annual workplan and providing platform for advocating for SGBV issues.
Health					
Indicator 2.3 Extent to which VAWG/HP is integrated in 5 other sectors (health, social services, education, justice, security, culture) development plans that are evidence-based and in line with globally agreed standards.	Low integration	Low integration	Low integration	Medium integration	The State Program for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (NAP PVF) was adopted for 2014–2023 and it is ongoing, as well as its current Action Plan is being implemented by the State. This Action Plan will be valid till the end of 2023. Since the SPT started program activity only in September 2021, the SPT managed to contribute to capacity building of the related departments of key ministries, but those didn't have yet a chance to participate in the drafting process for integrationEVAWG issues in their sectoral plans as such processes are not yet initiated by the State. In Tajikistan SI is not working with the Culture sector
	No integration	Low integration	No integration	Medium integration	
	Low integration	Low integration	Low integration	Medium integration	
	No integration	Low integration	Low integration	Medium integration	
	No integration	Low integration	Medium integration	Medium integration	
Output Indicator	Baseline	Milestone 2021	Results for Reporting Period (2021)	Target	
Social Services					
Indicator 2.1.3 Number of strategies, new plans and programmes of other relevant sectors (health, social services, education, justice, security, culture) that integrate efforts to combat VAWG developed in line with international HR standards, within the last year.	0	0	3	7	Other sectors baseline and targets are not set as there is not clarity of what kinds of development plans, strategies and programmes must be considered and targeted for the SPT to integrate the VAWG/HP. The three plans on social sectors are taken from the MtDP and three district development plans which already have medium level of integration of VAWG/HP
Government Officials					
Indicator 2.1.6 Number of key government officials trained on human rights and	0	420	424	420	Besides, 88 women took part in the capacity assessment survey and focus groups discussions; 70 men in the capacity assessment survey, 15 boys and 12 girls in FGDs.

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.	Women Government Officials				Due to delay in CPD endorsement, some activities under this output have moved to 2022; more beneficiaries will be reached/covered by 30 June 2022
	0	200	178	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	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	The SPT in cooperation with the COWFA developed the ToR for the MSCG and submitted it to the Government for review. The ToR will be revised based on the comments received from the ministries and governmental agencies and resubmitted for approval in 2022. Currently, the SPT is supporting the work of the existing (unofficial) multi-sectoral working group led by COWFA, including building their capacity, assisting them in the development of annual work plans, and providing a platform for advocating for SGBV issues.
Indicator 2.2.4 Number of meetings of regional, national and/or sub-national multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms, within the last year.	National Level Meetings				Due to the delay in signing the CPD, while waiting for the approval of the ToR for the official MSCG, the SPT managed to support only the year-end meeting of the existing (unofficial) multi-sectoral working group led by COWFA.
	0	0	0	2	
	Sub-National Level Meetings				Three round tables of the regional MSCGs were conducted in Khujand, Isfara, and B. Ghafurov.
	0	0	3	3	

Outcome 3 Summary table

Outcome Indicator	Baseline	Milestone 2021	Results for Reporting Period (2021)	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%	The data source is from DHS 2017, but DHS asks this question only from women of age 15-49, for the general population this is not available. Since this indicator is measured once every five years, the target will be measured by the next DHS or Spotlight end-line evaluation. The baseline might be changed if Spotlight conducts/completes a baseline study in 2021/2022.		
Child Marriage							
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)	0.00%	4.10%	4.10%	3.60%	FGM is not relevant to the context of Tajikistan. For 3.2.b. The indicator was measured by the SI baseline survey report which has just been completed. It should be noted that the data is not representative of the whole country as the sampling was done in the 6 targeted districts.		
b) Percentage of people who think it is justifiable to subject a woman or girl to child marriage.							
Output Indicator	Baseline	Milestone 2021	Results for Reporting Period (2021)	Target	Reporting Notes		
Indicator 3.1.1 Existence of a draft new and/or strengthened Comprehensive Sexuality Education in line with international standards	No	No	No	No	Indicator formulation changed based on local context to: 3.1.1 Existence of a draft new and/or strengthened Healthy Life-style Education in line with international standards. Due to the delay in signing of the CPD the assessment of the existing Healthy Life-style Education curriculum will be completed in 2022 to be in line in line with international standards		
In-School Programmes							
Indicator 3.1.2 Number of young women and girls, young men and boys who participate in either/both in- and out-of school programmes that promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours and exercise of rights, including reproductive rights, within the last year.	0	350	29,263	700	General outreach campaigns in schools to challenge harmful practices and gender-equitable norms. These campaigns were aimed to promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes, behaviors, and the exercise of human rights except for reproductive rights. The project was not signed at the moment of target setting, so so precautions were taken not to be very ambitious, and expected to adjust the targets afterward. But it was suggested later that baseline and targets should not be adjusted, thus there is a huge difference between the 2021 report and overall targeted people.		
	In-School Programmes Girls						
	0	175	18,988	350			
	In-School Programmes Boys						
	0	175	10,275	350			
	Out-of-School Programmes						
	0	800	827	1,800			
	Out-of-School Programmes Girls						
0	400	419	900				
Out-of-School Programmes Boys							
0	400	408	900				

Indicator 3.2.2 Number of people reached by campaigns challenging harmful social norms and gender stereotyping, within the last year.	0	5,500	12,644	844,200	For some events disaggregation to age and sex is not possible, as it is hard to do so. Disaggregation was possible for the following: In-door community mobilization campaigns (in-door volleyball games with the participation of girls, theatre performances, in-school meetings, and discussions that made it easy to disaggregate the participants) on raising awareness on SGBV and changing harmful social norms and stereotypes. Due to the delay in CPD's endorsement, the activities have been partially moved to 2022 and more people will be covered through such community mobilization campaigns in 2022. Also, this includes the number of people who participated in the theatre-based performances as well as the number of people reached via the videos on positive masculinity.
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 during the past year.	0	42	21	58	4 in-door community mobilization campaigns (UNDP) conducted in one of SI target areas (districts) in 2021. At least 21 more campaigns to be conducted by 30 June 2022. This includes theatre-based performances - 6 in the target districts, 8 at universities as well as distribution of 3 videos on positive masculinity.

Outcome 4 Summary table

Outcome Indicator	Baseline	Milestone 2021	Results for Reporting Period (2021)	Target	Reporting Notes	
	Women					
<u>Indicator 4.1</u> 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	26	600	Support was provided to 9 children of who 7 were girls under, for women the figures comes from the newly established victims support room in the targeted districts.	
	Girls					
	7	50	17	150		
Output Indicator	Baseline	Milestone 2021	Results for Reporting Period (2021)	Target	Reporting Notes	
	Developed					
<u>Indicator 4.1.3</u> 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 was adopted for the frontline SGBV health service providers to improve quality of service delivery in response to GBV and strengthen a referral system and multi-sectoral cooperation to respond to GBV in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population (MoHSP). The national protocol for provision of quality essential services for survivors of rape and SGBV including GBV Pocket Guide were adapted for the frontline SGBV health service providers in cooperation with UN ESP	
	Strengthened					
	No	Yes	Yes	Yes		
	Government Service Providers					
<u>Indicator 4.1.4</u> 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, the the last year.	0	907	687	1,103	The disaggregation to sectors and gender is not fully available for all sectors, thus the grand totals and the sectors' total do not match	
	Women Government Service Providers					
	0	400	379	545		
	a) Girls with Knowledge of ES					
<u>Indicator 4.2.1</u> 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	400	1	1,160	Measuring this indicator is complicated, as the real number of survivors is not known, and direct access to a representative sample of the survivors of violence is not possible. The data provided is from the baseline survey, where interviews with survivors of violence that approached different bodies for support were conducted. since the number was limited to 100 interviews the data is not representative even for the targeted districts.	
	a) Women with Knowledge of ES					
	0	1,600	65	4,640		
	b) Girls with Knowledge of longer term services					
	0	400	2	1,160		
	b) Women with Knowledge of longer term services					
	0	1,600	30	4,640		

	a) Girls with ACCESS to ES				
	120	300	0	995	This activity was shifted to 2022. SI didn't work on Pillar 4 in 2021. High results on the indicators in 2020 were related to the activities in the framework of the COVID-19 Response Plan that was finished by 2021.
Indicator 4.2.2 Number of women and girl survivors/victims and their families, including groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, that have increased ACCESS to a) to quality essential services and b) accompaniment/support initiatives, including longer-term recovery services , within the last 12 months	a) Women with ACCESS to ES				
	450	900	0	3,075	
	b) Girls with Access to Recovery Services				
	0	75	0	310	
	b) Women with Access to Recovery Services				
	50	225	0	940	

Outcome 5 Summary table					
Outcome Indicator	Baseline	Milestone 2021	Results for Reporting Period (2021)	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 is collected only by the DHSs, and the data is renewed after each five years cycle. So annual data on this is not available. SI will not work on this indicator. Within the project, only Incidence data collection will be focused on, but due to the delay in signing of the program document and its official launch, the process of obtaining government counterparts' comments and validation for the prepared assessment was delayed. This process will be continued in 2022. It should be noted that initially the proposed activities were planned for 2 years, however, the 1,5-year delay has played a significant role in realistically achieving this indicator. The SPT will accelerate the speed of implementation to the extent possible without compromising on the quality of the work.
	Incidence				
	No	Yes	No	Yes	
Output Indicator	Baseline	Milestone 2021	Results for Reporting Period (2021)	Target	Reporting Notes
	Indicator 5.1.1 National Statistical Offices has developed/adapted and contextualized methods and standards at national level to produce prevalence and/or incidence data				
	No	Yes	No	Yes	Due to the delay in signing of the program document and its official launch, the process of obtaining government counterparts' comments and validation for the prepared assessment was delayed. This process will be continued in 2022.
	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				
	Government Personnel				
	0	140	0	280	The capacity-building activities have not yet been conducted as the admin data collection system has not been yet established due to the delay in signing the CPD. This will be conducted in 2022.
	Women Government Personnel				
	0	74	0	148	
	Indicator 5.1.5 Number of women's rights advocates with strengthened capacities to collect prevalence and/or incidence data, and qualitative data, on VAWG				
	0	20	0	40	Works in this indicator will start in 2022

Outcome 6 Summary table

Outcome Indicator	Baseline	Milestone 2	Results for Reporting Period (2021)	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	8	0	20	20 NGOs trained in the SI's School of Gender Activists, and they have been linked with the CWFA, CWFA's Departments in target districts and with members of Parliament (via implementing NGO Gender & Development). The activity on cascading trainings in target districts will start in 2022 in coordination with CWFA's departments. In end of December 2021, 6 NGOs received mini-grants (thru a transparent contest) for grass-root activity as a partial implementation of the Action Plan of the CSO's Strategy for transformative behaviour change towards VAW/ SGBV . This activity will start in 2022 and embrace different types of activities (Men engage/ partnership around SDGs/ capacity building of Presidential Fellows/ work on attitudes and behaviour change, etc.) The activity of various 6 NGOs-grantees (incl. run by WWDs, youth, WROs) is contributing and linked to SCOs' developed CSO's Strategy on transformative behaviour change towards VAW/SGBV. Some of grantees are graduates of the School of Gender Activists. Besides, CWFA committed to create the Network of Gender CSOs as its Advisory Board and "extended hand in the field, and 20 graduates of the School (representing 20 NGOs) are first in the CWFA's contact list.
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 on ending VAWG	0	5	11	10	As recommended by the methodological Notes, data for this indicator will be collected by conducting a short online survey, the questions asked are also provided in the MN for indicator 6.3. The survey was circulated among the 46 organizations that are considered for this indicator. Only 17 returned completed forms and the analysis is made based on the 17 responses.
Output Indicator	Baseline	Milestone 2	Results for Reporting Period (2021)	Target	Reporting Notes
Indicator 6.1.1 Number of jointly agreed recommendations on ending VAWG produced as a result of multi-stakeholder dialogues that include representatives of groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination within the last year	0	2	0	5	Recommendations of the related target groups (CSOs representing vulnerable groups) were considered in the CSO's Strategy on transformative behavior change towards VAWG/SBV and its Actin Plan. But this is the CSO's Strategy for their own implementation, so recommendations were not passed to GoT, that's why zero is put.
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	10	20	41	School of Gender Activists - 20; about 40 NGOs took part in the development of the CSO's Strategy on transformative change of attitude & behavior towards VAWG.

	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	6	30	12	The SPT conducted a cycle of training on the Project Cycle, Monitoring and Evaluation, and Fundraising training as well on documenting the cases of violence for CSOs working with women living with disabilities, women living with HIV, and women from low-income communities. 100 CSO representatives from 30 CSOs participated in the training.
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	5	6	10	40 CSOs received CSO's Strategy for transformative behavior change towards SGBV/VAWG for further perusing. Based on the CSO's Strategy and as a contribution to the implementation of its Action Plan, 6 NGOs received mini-grants to implement a part of the activity under the CSO's Strategy on transformative change of attitude & behavior towards VAWG. They used both the CSO's Strategy, its Action Plan; 20 NGOs considered Global International Standards Action 4 their study in the School of Gender

Annex B

Risk Matrix

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
Risk Please include new risks, if any, denoting these with [New Risk]			Periodicity	Source for monitoring		
Contextual risks						
Resistance from family, community, traditional and religious leaders	Likely (4)	Moderate (3)			Adoptive pathways of communication; user-friendly approaches; use of win-win policy; engagement of the entire communities.	UNDP/UNFPA and national partners
Cyclones, earthquakes, flooding and other natural disasters	Likely (4)	Major (4)			No major natural hazards occurred during the period of this report.	
COVID-19	Likely (4)	Major (4)			Although there were still cases of COVID-19 registered during the reporting period, they did not pose major limitations in programme implementation. Moreover, the programme adopted into the new way of working under the pandemic and the mode of interventions were hybrid. The SPT built the capacity of health service providers on the UN Essential Services Package and the national protocol on rape that will allow health specialists to identify the cases of violence and provide quality and coordinated support, including referral to other GBV services. The SPT has also established 10 new Victim Support Rooms within maternity houses for women and girls who are survivors of GBV.	UNDP/UNICEF/UNFPA/ UNWomen
Lack of legal incentives for creation and running of NGOs, particularly for local grassroots organizations	Possible (3)	Major (4)	Quarterly	Meeting of the CSRG and other NGOs	The SPT is planning to cooperate with gender machinery and stakeholders to tailor a comprehensive National Action Plan on ending all forms of violence against women and girls. In part related to cross-cutting structures, during the drafting of the new Action Plan, special attention will be paid to the fact that the new plan commits not only to constitute local-level working groups comprising government organizations, but also to strengthening support structures for community-based organizations for their participation in these and to better enable community interventions. It will continue building the capacity of relevant CSOs, not only through resourcing, but also by recommending legal incentives for their creation and running (including NGO-run shelters), by supporting structures to enable coordination of effort, information, and practice sharing.	UNDP/UNICEF/UNFPA/ UNWomen
Stigmatization of victims of GBV at community level, resistance from family and unwillingness to seek professional support	Possible (3)	Major (4)	Frequent	Meeting with service providers, community leaders and CSRG	This risk has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Campaigns designed to fight stigmatization have been implemented as part of the community mobilization awareness raising activities in the target districts. While creation of additional services for SGBV survivors, locations and accessibility were taken into consideration.	UNDP/UNICEF/UNFPA/ UNWomen
Limited national ownership and commitment to effective change	Possible (3)	Major (4)			During the reporting period, Government counterparts have demonstrated dedication and commitment to SPT interventions and discussed possibilities to sustain interventions after the programme life to effect change.	

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
Risk Please include new risks, if any, denoting these with [New Risk]			Periodicity	Source for monitoring		
Programmatic risks						
Country Programmes are not fully funded to achieve all deliverables due to the lack of required resources (resources additional to the EU envelopes)	Unlikely (2)	Moderate (3)			This has not yet been a focus during the period of reporting. The SPT jointly with Government counterparts are planning to reach out to a number of other development partners and donors to advocate for sustainability and funding of the current activities to ensure they do not stop after the closure of the Spotlight Intervention.	
Funding and services not available after Initiative ends due to lack of resources	Possible (3)	Major (4)			This has not yet been a full focus during the period of reporting; however, the SPT used all avenues to call on Government counterparts for increasing national ownership and sustainability of interventions after the programme ends.	
Acquired capacity and knowledge not translated into transformative action	Possible (3)	Major (4)			Establishing Spotlight focal points in each RUNO and RCO and the creation and effective operation of task forces in key areas (M&E, communications, 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.	
Lack of technical and financial resources, including to improve service delivery	Unlikely (2)	Major (4)			This has not yet been a focus during the period of reporting. However, moving forward, this will be a focus in 2022. A number of potential donors have been mapped and this will be discussed and shared with them.	
Human resources for key programmatic positions are not available	Likely (3)	Moderate (3)			During the reporting period, all the required human resources for key programmatic and coordination positions were on board, which has ensured smooth programme delivery. RUNOs faced some challenges in terms of bringing on board experts and consultants due to a shallow market of experts. As a mitigation, local experts were paired with international, and where possible, the capacity of local NGOs was enhanced to be able to apply for specific calls for proposals.	UNDP/UNFPA/UNWomen
Quality of evidence and data amid a pandemic	Likely (3)	Moderate (3)			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
Given the 1½-year delay in getting the ProDoc signed, the SPT team is concerned about the feasibility of implementing 2-year activities in 6 months	Likely (4)	Major (4)		Programme design and implementation timeframe	During the reporting period, as a mitigation the RUNOs have accelerated the programme implementation to the extent possible. The SPT also welcomed the provision of a no-cost extension until 30 June 2022 to enable the team to have meaningful impact and empower the intended grass-roots CSOs.	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
Risk Please include new risks, if any, denoting these with [New Risk]			Periodicity	Source for monitoring		
Programmatic risks						
Capacity of grantees	Likely (3)	Moderate (3)			Many of the NGOs that apply do not match CFPs' basic quality criteria. As mitigation, a number of activities were conducted, including pre-bidding conferences; capacity training of local and national CSOs as potential participants of calls and requests for proposals on the related topics concerned; close consultations.	UNDP/UNWomen/UNFPA/UNICEF and partners
Shallow SGBV/VAWG expert market in the country	Likely (4)	Moderate (3)	Constantly	Results of recruitment procedures	Capacity of local and grass-roots NGOs was enhanced under Pillar 6, and as a result a number of them have already applied and secured mini-grants from the SPT. The shallow expert market was addressed with the establishment of the school of gender activists. During the programme, the 20 potential gender experts had an opportunity to participate in several rounds of non-classic training on a variety of topics with new entry points in gender equality and lobbying (70% practice, 30% theory).	UNDP/UNWomen/UNFPA/UNICEF
NEW RISK – Quality of programme interventions affected as a result of an accelerated delivery due to reduced implementation period from 24 months to 6 months	Almost Certain (5)	Extreme (5)		Meeting of the implementing partners	The concern was raised by the RC with the Secretariat and the EU that the expedited delivery might impact the quality. As a mitigation, the SPT team jointly with CoWFA and implementing partners used all available means to ensure quality interventions to the extent possible. During the waiting period, a lot of materials were prepared, networks and partnerships were built and links with relevant authorities were established.	UNDP/UNWomen/UNFPA/UNICEF
NEW RISK – Knowledge, Attitude, Behaviour and Practice study was not completed on the planned date due to several reasons: men were reluctant to provide responses to sensitive questions, and Government employees were hard to reach to conduct interviews	Likely (4)	Major (4)			To address this risk, as a mitigation action, the interviewers were trained once again; some interviewers were switched to doctors; and it was proposed to the men to complete the questionnaire by themselves without participation of the interviewer. After all these actions, with some delay, it was possible to complete data collection.	UNICEF
NEW RISK – With shuffling of personnel in high positions in the Government, the new personnel are not familiar with the program (did not participate in consultations when all activities are pre-agreed)	Likely (4)	Major (4)			To mitigate such delays in the future, signing of bilateral workplans might be beneficial, though the issue of succession will remain.	UNDP/UNWomen/UNFPA/UNICEF
New RISK – Lengthy bureaucratic procedures on the Government side hinder uninterrupted and accelerated programme delivery	Likely (4)	Moderate (3)			The local and national authorities required official letters, permissions and approvals for any activities. As a mitigation, a Consultant – National Coordinator was hired to be based in CoWFA, who assisted and supported with the implementation, coordination and promotion of programme activities on the Government side and ensured timely implementation of SPT activities. Moreover, CoWFA nominated focal points in each of the SPT target districts, who have contributed to accomplishing a lot of planned intervention within 4 months.	UNDP/UNWomen/UNFPA/UNICEF
New RISK – The functioning of Hotline 1313 could not be renewed in 2021 due to several technical reasons, e.g. CoWFA's willingness to take full ownership over the Hotline, and lengthy procedures for Government initiation to receive direct funds from development partners	Almost Certain (5)	Moderate (3)			Negotiations and official correspondence were initiated on transferring the management of the Hotline from the NGO to CoWFA, followed up by involving RUNO in signing the Letter of Agreement. The process was delayed due to lengthy internal Government procedures. It is anticipated to re-start the work of the Hotline in early 2022.	UNDP

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
Risk Please include new risks, if any, denoting these with [New Risk]			Periodicity	Source for monitoring		
Institutional risks						
Varying procedures for budgeting and procurement by RUNOs	Likely (4)	Moderate (3)			To date this has been mitigated by establishing Spotlight focal points in each RUNO and RCO (with regular coordination at this level) and creating the finance and operations task force. Several RUNOs use the common financial e-system ATLAS, where they can apply GLGE procedures (UNFPA, UNDP, UN Women). Some procedures were fast-tracked due to COVID-19. Common long-term agreements speed up the procurement and buying process, along with joint procurement and piggy-backing on each others' long-term agreements.	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)			As mentioned above, this risk has been mitigated through effective and regular coordination and a clear workplan and prioritization.	
Lack of donor commitment to funding domestic violence/intimate partner violence action	Possible (3)	Moderate (3)			This has not yet been a focus during the period of reporting.	
NEW RISK – Due to linkages between two different activities, delay in the implementation of one can impede the launch of another, thus impeding overall programme implementation	Almost Certain (5)	Major (4)	Every quarter	Coordination Meetings	To the extent possible, the STP team took actions in acceleration of interlinked activities; however, the activities that were sequenced were affected and will be implemented during the no-cost extension period.	All relevant staff
Fiduciary risks						
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 was avoided by clustering activities and strategic approaches (calls and requests for proposals).	
Assumptions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 organizations • 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 COVID-19 will not increase and will gradually be lifted 						

Outcome	Output	Name of Civil Society Organisation (CSO)	Type of CSO (important 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 definition below table)
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	PO Gender and Development	National	34 628,71	UNFPA	Implementing Partner (IP)	Yes	Existing	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context
6	6,1	PO Gender and Development	National	29 821,08	UN Women	Implementing Partner (IP)	Yes	Existing	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context
6	6,1								
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	PO Gender and Development	National	62 744,46	UN Women	Implementing Partner (IP)	Yes	Existing	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context
6	6,2								
6	6,2								
6	6,2								
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	PO Gender and Development	National	122 645,08	UN Women	Implementing Partner (IP)	Yes	Existing	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context
6	6,3	The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan, NGO	National	39 122,60	UN Women	Implementing Partner (IP)	No	New	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context
PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT COSTS (including pre-funding)									
PMC	PMC								
PMC	PMC								
		TOTAL AWARDS TO CSOs		1 309 558,73					

Type of CSOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -International CSOs operate in two or more countries across different regions. -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. -National CSOs operate only in one particular country. -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.
Award Amount	In this context, an “award” is any financial grant, contract, or partnership agreement with a CSO.
Type of Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Implementing Partner (IP): Programmes may contract out particular activities for a CSO to implement. -Grantee: Programmes may issue a broad Call for Proposals to which CSOs submit proposals for grant funding. -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.
Woman-Led and/or Women’s Rights Organisation (WRO)/Feminist CSOs	<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 EAWG and gender based violence and work to transform these.</p> <p>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>
New or Existing Partner	<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>
Primary Vulnerable/Marginalised Population Supported by Award	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-up¹** in the field of EVAWG and chart a new way of working, both within the UN system and with various stakeholders to maximize the transformative potential of the Initiative are documented and shared.

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

Definition of a Promising Practice

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

Definition of a Good Practice

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

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

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

Title of the Innovative, Promising or Good Practice	The School of Gender Activists
<p>Provide a description of the innovative, promising, or good practice. What pillars/principles of the Spotlight Initiative does it address?</p>	<p>In 2021, the Spotlight Programme in Tajikistan Responsible Party NGO Gender & Development established a School of Gender Activists (School), created under Outcome 6, “Women’s Movements”.</p> <p>The concept was to support the Committee of Women and Family Affairs (CoWFA) by creating a pool of informal local experts as an extended hand of the CoWFA and other ministries to promote gender policy in the country. The School also aimed to bring specialists of different levels, specialisations and geographical locations to a common understanding of gender mainstreaming, gender analysis and work on women’s and girls’ empowerment, and to provide them with an EVAW/Gender Knowledge Hub.</p> <p>This implied bringing together different gender activists (some were beginners, others experienced) to create a network and build their capacities on different aspects of gender equality (policies, tools, data management), and to develop a common approach for lobbying change and considering the “Leave No One Behind” approach with the support of engaged national trainers.</p> <p>The School management strictly observed the “Leave No One Behind” principle during the selection process, and with technical guidance of participants with disabilities ensured they had proper access to places where the classes took place.</p> <p>The School will continue in 2022. The students will return to their districts in February 2022 to provide cascade trainings to beneficiaries in the own districts and cities, as part of an agreed methodology using the received modules and informational materials. The cascading will increase the number of beneficiaries in an arithmetical progression (20 × 15) and the School will have 300 followers on board by the end of June 2022.</p>
<p>Objective of the practice:</p>	<p>The goal was to increase the capacity of CSOs representing less-protected groups of women and girls for promoting new initiatives that ensure de facto gender equality, the elimination of GBV and to strengthen the contribution of gender activists to awareness-raising transformative work in local communities.</p>

<p>Stakeholders involved:</p>	<p>The beneficiaries of the School are 20 representatives of CSOs working with a diverse group of vulnerable people, including people with disabilities, women living with HIV, NGOs working on protecting human rights, youth development, as well as representatives of the media.</p> <p>The School supported two participants with disabilities by providing transportation fees to attend the School. The places for provision of the School programme were also selected considering the availability of lift elevators and ramps. Out of 20 School students, two were men.</p> <p>The RUNO's NGO partner, jointly with the Coalition of NGOs "From equality de jure to equality de facto" and the Civil Society Reference Group, carried out the selection of candidates to ensure transparency of the process through a nationally announced contest.</p>
<p>What makes this an innovative, promising, or good practice?</p>	<p>The School appeared as an outstanding tool for serving as a uniting platform for different sectors' gender activists to lobby for positive change with one voice. It provides common understanding of the context and gender-related barriers for women's empowerment and for the elimination of discrimination and violence.</p> <p>The School, having started from a project level, became a real stronghold at a national level. It is a good combination of capacity-building activities and practical work, linking with formal and informal leaders, creating new networks and supporting the students via a Knowledge Hub.</p> <p>The list of contacts of the School students (gender activists) will be handed over to the Committee on Women and Family Affairs and to the Members of Parliament of the Republic of Tajikistan. The Chair of the CoWFA has already supported the idea of an NGO partner to establish the Network of CSO Gender Activists under the Committee, and the students of the School will be among the first to be part of this network.</p>
<p>What challenges were encountered and how were they overcome?</p>	<p>The main challenge was the delayed process of the formal approval of the programme. Instead of 2 years, the NGO partner had to reduce the timelines and implement this activity in 10 months – 4 months in 2021 and 6 months in 2022. This put a lot of pressure on experts and trainers, and on beneficiaries as well, as the schedule of programme trainings was intense.</p> <p>The NGO partner jointly with the trainers agreed on shortening the timing between the sessions, as initially it was envisaged that after each session there will be breaks for students to digest the information and do homework. Classes were also rescheduled to be all-day and with a full programme, including practical and theoretical parts.</p>

Outputs and Impact:	<p>The creation of the School of Gender Activists is an important and timely step that contributes to building the capacity of civil society in preventing all kinds of VAWG in the long term.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To date, 20 gender activists have increased their knowledge and skills for promoting new initiatives that ensure de facto gender equality, the elimination of GBV, and a strengthened contribution of gender activists to awareness-raising and transformative work in local communities. - As a group, the entire class attended the Forum of CSOs of Tajikistan, “The role of CSOs in promoting gender equality in Tajikistan”, dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the country’s independence, and successfully presented their innovative projects that will be implemented in 2022. - The students (gender activists) participated at the consultation of the United Nations and the Government of Tajikistan on pre-finalization of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023–2026, including the mapping of the areas of engagement of development partners, and contributed to the process. - If they were not members of the School, they would have not had the chance to participate in such a level of consultations. The students succeeded at including their recommendations on gender aspects into the pre-final draft of the document (on farming, among other issues). - Intergenerational ties for the transfer of experience and knowledge between the senior experts and a younger generation of experts were strengthened.
Adaptable (Optional)	<p>This activity is fully adoptable in other contexts and countries, and it is easy to implement, as the steps of its operationalization are simple.</p> <p>In fact, the School of Gender Activists can have many formats and can be adopted to different sectors. School managers can adopt its programme for beginners only or can upshift it to an advanced level.</p>
Replicable/Scale-Up (Optional)	<p>The Regulation of the School has been approved by the CoWFA. The School, if funded further, will deepen capacity-building of the current students (advanced level) and enrol new students.</p> <p>The idea of the School is being contemplated and localised in other UN projects, for example a peacebuilding regional joint programme (currently under development), to be applied in their selected target districts. A major role of the School is not only training, but creating networks and linking students with actors from different sectors at different levels.</p> <p>From the financial side, the School requires fees for experts/trainers, rental of the hall, travel, moderate costs for food and lodging (for selected students at district-level Schools these costs will not be required), and minor costs for some practical exercises. The School management can allocate funds for support of graduates to cascade the trainings in their home communities.</p>

<p>Sustainable</p>	<p>The cascading of trainings by the School students will increase the number of beneficiaries in an arithmetical progression (20 × 15) and the School will already have 300 direct beneficiaries on board by the end of June 2022.</p> <p>The results of such a School are very sustainable as the graduates continue their networking, maintaining working relations with each other's NGOs and organisations, and they can unite for concrete tasks or purposes.</p> <p>Importantly, the CoWFA as a key beneficiary of this School can rely on the pool of experts during implementation of the national programmes and strategies related to prevention of violence in the family, activation of roles of women 2030, national campaigns, etc., as well as attract them during thematic and technical discussions in their places of origin.</p>
<p>Validated (for a good practice only):</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regulation of the School has been validated by the CoWFA. - The list of contacts of the School's graduates (gender activists) will be handed over to the CoWFA and to the Members of Parliament of the Republic of Tajikistan in early 2022. - The Chair of the CoWFA has already supported the idea of the NGO partner to establish the Network of CSO Gender Activists under the Committee, and the first names will be the School graduates.
<p>Additional details and contact information:</p>	<p>Contacts: Diana Ismailova, Programme Coordinator, UN Women, Tajikistan Tel: (+992) 777 07 0730 E-mail: diana.ismailova@unwomen.org</p> <p>Viloyat Mirzoyeva, Project Manager, NGO Gender & Development, partner Tel: (+992) 907 15 5000 E-mail: viloyat.mirzoeva@mail.ru</p> <p>Annex: LoP of the School of Gender Activists Here Order of enrolment and schedule of work: Here Press release: Here Trainers' reports: Here</p>

Section B: Knowledge Production

Please list all Knowledge Products developed by the Spotlight Initiative Regional/Country programme below, as well as Knowledge Products in the pipeline.

#	Title of Knowledge Product	Product type(s)* (Select from the list above. If other, please specify)	Brief Description & Purpose	Date completed/ published or expected to be	Link to Knowledge Product (if available)
1	Guide on conducting public hearings on incorporation of SGBV prevention and response measures into DDPs	Guidance Note	Guidance on conducting of public hearings with populations of target districts on incorporation of priority preventions and response measures to SGBV	December 2021	Here
2	Training module of two-days workshops on “Incorporation of prevention and response measures on SGBV into DDPs of target districts”	Capacity Development Modules	Module of two-day workshops with target groups on incorporation of priority prevention and response measures to SGBV into DDPs	October 2021	Here
3	Three DDPs for 2021–2025 with incorporated priority prevention and response measures to SGBV (Isfara, B. Gafurov and Gissar districts)	Policy Document	Strengthened DDPs with incorporation of priority prevention and response measures to SGBV for 2021–2025 for Isfara, B. Gafurov and Gissar districts	December 2021	Here
4	Training Package on strengthening cooperation between ministries and departments on transformative change to prevent SGBV/VAWG institutionally (main package in Russian, handouts in Tajik language)	Capacity Development Modules	Training Module and training-related materials on strengthening cooperation between ministries and departments on transformative change to prevent SGBV/VAWG institutionally	September 2021	Here
5	Training module on “Strengthening cooperation between ministries and agencies of justice and law enforcement sectors to achieve the goals of promoting gender equality and elimination of gender-based violence”	Capacity Development Modules	Training Module and guidance on improving/strengthening the cooperation between law enforcement and justice sector ministries and agencies on promotion of gender equality and elimination of GBV in Russian language	October 2021	Here

6	Training module on “Strengthening cooperation between ministries and agencies of justice and law enforcement sectors to achieve the goals of promoting gender equality and elimination of gender-based violence” translated from Russian into Tajik	Capacity Development Modules	Training Module and guidance on improving/strengthening the cooperation between law enforcement and justice sector ministries and agencies on promotion of gender equality and elimination of GBV	October 2021	Here
7	Training materials for practical work in groups	Tools/Capacity Development Modules	Distribution materials for practical group work during the training on “Strengthening cooperation between ministries and agencies of justice and law enforcement sector to achieve the goals of promoting gender equality and elimination of gender-based violence” in Tajik language	October 2021	Here
8	Gender Mainstreaming Strategy on promotion of increased access of women in decision making positions in Russian and Tajik languages	Policy Document/ Capacity Development Modules	Gender Mainstreaming Strategy on promotion of increased access of women to decision-making positions in state institutions (organs) of RT competent in prevention of VAWG, to 2030, in Russian and Tajik languages	December 2021	Both Strategies are available here
9	Plan of Actions on implementation of Gender Mainstreaming Strategy on promotion of increased access of women to decision making positions, for the period of 2021–2025, in Russian and Tajik languages	Policy Document/ Capacity Development Modules	Plan of Actions on implementation of Gender Mainstreaming Strategy on promotion of increased access of women to decision-making positions in state institutions (organs) of RT competent in prevention of VAWG, for the period of 2021–2025, in Russian and Tajik languages	December 2021	Both Plans of Actions are available here
10	Training module for journalists and bloggers on covering SGBV issues	Capacity Development Modules	Training module for journalists and bloggers on gender-sensitive coverage of SGBV issues in the media in Tajikistan	October 2021	Here
11	Three training modules on prevention and response measures on SGBV for MoIA, MoJ and Judiciary (3 modules for different target groups)	Capacity Development Modules	Three training modules on increasing gender sensitivity on prevention and response measures to SGBV for police, lawyers/advocates and judges (MoIA, MoJ and Judiciary)	October 2021	All three modules are available here
12	Module for conducting information sessions on SGBV, including domestic violence	Capacity Development Modules	Module/Guidance for conducting information sessions/ meetings on SGBV with representatives of MoIA, MoJ and Judiciary, in Russian language	October 2021	Here

13	Training materials for participants (judges, police, lawyers) on SGBV in Russian and Tajik	Capacity Development Modules	Distribution materials for training participants on increasing gender sensitivity, survivor-centred approach, and correct implementation of laws, in Russian and Tajik languages	October 2021	Both materials in Tajik and Russian are available here
14	Training Module on Positive Parenting and prevention of VAC	Capacity Development Modules	Module for schoolteachers on positive parenting and prevention of VAC/SGBV	June 2021	Here
15	Legislation and practice review on cases of sexual violence against children	Assessment	Assessment of real cases on sexual VAC	October 2021	Here
16	Complaint mechanism	Tools	Complaint mechanisms at schools	June 2021	Here
17	Training module of documenting cases of violence for CSOs	Capacity Development Modules	To build the capacity of CSOs working with women with disabilities, women living with HIV and women from low-income communities on documenting cases of SGBV/GBV for evidence-based advocacy at the national and global level (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women)	November 2021	Here
18	Flier/posters/brochure on SGBV	Brochures	Flyer/posters/brochure on SGBV, reproductive health and GBV for dissemination in universities and Spotlight target districts	August 2021	Here
19	Training module on capacity building for CSOs	Capacity Development Modules	To build the capacity of CSOs working with women with disabilities, women living with HIV and women from low-income communities on programme cycle, project development process, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, and fundraising	October 2021	Here

Acronym List

CoWFA	Committee of Women and Family Affairs
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
DDP	District Development Plan
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
MoIA	Ministry of Internal Affairs
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
VAC	Violence Against Children
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls



Spotlight Initiative

To eliminate violence against women and girls

