



**ANNUAL NARRATIVE PROGRAMME REPORT**

**PROGRAMME TITLE: SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE IN TIMOR-LESTE**

**PROGRAMME START DATE: 01 JANUARY 2020**

**REPORTING PERIOD: 01 JANUARY 2021 – 31 DECEMBER 2021**



<b>Programme Title &amp; Programme Number</b>	<b>Priority regions/areas/localities for the programme</b>																					
Programme Title: <b>Spotlight Initiative in Timor-Leste – A Joint EU-UN Initiative to Eliminate Violence Against Women and Girls</b> MPTF Office Project Reference Number: <sup>1</sup> <b>00119127</b>	Bobonaro, Ermera, Viqueque																					
<b>Recipient Organization(s)</b>	<b>Key Partners</b>																					
ILO – International Labour Organization UNDP – United Nations Development Programme UNFPA – United Nations Population Fund UNICEF – United Nations Children’s Fund UN Women – United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women	- Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education Youth and Sport, Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion, Secretary of State for Youth and Sport, Secretary of State for Equality and Inclusion, Ministry of Justice, Chamber of Commerce and Industry TL, National Police of Timor Leste, Secretary of State for Vocational Training and Employment, Scouts Timor Leste, Alumni Association of the Youth Parliament (APFTL) - <b>Associated UN Agencies:</b> International Organization for Migration - <b>Non-governmental organizations and CSOs:</b> Belun, FOKUPERS, Aloia Foundation, Plan International, Catholic Relief Services, Ba Futuru, JSMP, World Vision, CODIVA, ALFELA, CBRN, Rede Feto, AJAR. - <b>Academic Institutions:</b> Nossal Institute for Global Health																					
<b>Programme Cost (US\$)</b>	<b>Programme Start and End Dates</b>																					
<b>Total Phase I approved budget as per the Spotlight CPD/RPD: USD \$10,838,786</b>  <b>Phase I Spotlight funding:<sup>2</sup> USD \$9,900,000</b> <b>Agency Contribution: USD \$938,785</b>  <b>Spotlight Funding and Agency Contribution by Agency:</b>	<b>Start Date:</b> 01 January 2020  <b>End Date:</b> 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2022																					
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Name of RUNO</th> <th>Spotlight Phase I (USD)</th> <th>UN Agency Contributions (USD)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>UN Women</td> <td>3,411,497</td> <td>114,497</td> </tr> <tr> <td>UNDP</td> <td>2,448,706</td> <td>338,996</td> </tr> <tr> <td>UNICEF</td> <td>1,758,519</td> <td>134,454</td> </tr> <tr> <td>UNFPA</td> <td>1,624,202</td> <td>146,810</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ILO</td> <td>657,076</td> <td>204,028</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>TOTAL</b></td> <td><b>9,900,000</b></td> <td><b>938,785</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Name of RUNO	Spotlight Phase I (USD)	UN Agency Contributions (USD)	UN Women	3,411,497	114,497	UNDP	2,448,706	338,996	UNICEF	1,758,519	134,454	UNFPA	1,624,202	146,810	ILO	657,076	204,028	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,900,000</b>	<b>938,785</b>	<b>Report Submitted By:</b> <b>Mr. Roy Trivedy, Resident Coordinator, Timor-Leste</b> <a href="mailto:roy.trivedy@one.un.org">roy.trivedy@one.un.org</a>
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<sup>1</sup> The Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) Office Project Reference Number is the same number as the one on the Notification message. It is also referred to as “Project ID” on the project’s factsheet page the MPTF Office GATEWAY.

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

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## Acronym List

<b>AEMTL</b>	Associação Empresarial das Mulheres Timor-Leste
<b>AJC</b>	Access to Justice Clinics
<b>AJTL</b>	Journalist Association
<b>AWP</b>	Annual Work Plan
<b>AYPTL</b>	Alumni of the Youth Parliament of Timor-Leste
<b>ALFELA</b>	Asistencia Legal ba Feto no Labarik Feto
<b>CBRNTL</b>	Community Based Rehabilitation Network of Timor-Leste
<b>CCITL</b>	Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Timor-Leste
<b>COA</b>	Court of Appeal
<b>CoC</b>	Code of Conduct
<b>CPD</b>	Country Programme Document
<b>CSC</b>	Civil Service Commission
<b>CSE</b>	Comprehensive Sexuality Education
<b>CSNRG</b>	Civil Society National Reference Group
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organization
<b>COVID-19</b>	Coronavirus Disease 2019
<b>CWR</b>	Connect With Respect
<b>DNH</b>	Do No Harm
<b>DV</b>	Domestic Violence
<b>ERA</b>	Enhancing Rural Access
<b>EU</b>	European Union

<b>EUD</b>	European Union Delegation
<b>EVAWG</b>	Ending Violence Against Women and Girls
<b>GDS</b>	General Directorate of Statistics
<b>GBV</b>	Gender Based Violence
<b>HRAU</b>	Human Rights Advisory Unit
<b>IEC</b>	Information, Education and Communication
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization
<b>ILS</b>	International Labour Standards
<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration
<b>IPV</b>	Intimate Partner Violence
<b>JSMP</b>	Justice System Monitoring Programme
<b>KSTL</b>	Trade Union Confederation
<b>LADV</b>	Law Against Domestic Violence
<b>LGBTI</b>	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or intersex
<b>LJTC</b>	Legal and Judicial Training Center
<b>LNOB</b>	Leaving No One Behind
<b>LOA</b>	Letter of Agreement
<b>MEAL</b>	Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability Learning
<b>MEJD</b>	Ministério da Educação Juventude e Desporto
<b>MoEYS</b>	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport
<b>MoF</b>	Ministry of Finance
<b>MoH</b>	Ministry of Health
<b>MoJ</b>	Ministry of Justice

<b>MSA</b>	Ministry of State Administration
<b>MSSI</b>	Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion
<b>MTA</b>	Mid-Term Assessment for Spotlight (global process)
<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring & Evaluation
<b>NAP-GBV</b>	National Action Plan on Gender-Based Violence
<b>OSH</b>	Occupational Safety and Health
<b>PCA</b>	Programme Cooperation Agreements
<b>PDO</b>	Public Defender's Office
<b>PNTL</b>	National Police of Timor-Leste
<b>PPE</b>	Personal Protective Equipment
<b>PSEA</b>	Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
<b>PWD</b>	Persons with Disabilities
<b>RC</b>	Resident Coordinator
<b>RCO</b>	Resident Coordinator's Office
<b>R4D</b>	Road for Development
<b>RUNO</b>	Recipient United Nations Organization
<b>SBCC</b>	Social and Behaviour Change Communications
<b>SEFOPE</b>	Secretary of State for Vocational Training and Employment
<b>SEII</b>	Secretariat of State for Equality and Inclusion
<b>SOE</b>	State of Emergency
<b>SRHR</b>	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
<b>SSYS</b>	Secretary of State for Youth and Sports
<b>TLPDP</b>	Timor-Leste Police Development Programme

<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNDS</b>	United Nations Development System
<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children’s Fund
<b>UPMA</b>	Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit
<b>UNSDCF</b>	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
<b>UNTL</b>	National University of Timor-Leste
<b>UN Women</b>	UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
<b>VAWG</b>	Violence Against Women and Girls
<b>VAWG/C</b>	Violence Against Women, Girls and Children
<b>VPU</b>	Vulnerable Persons Unit
<b>WAGGS</b>	UN Women and the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization

## Executive Summary

The Spotlight Initiative that started in Timor-Leste in January 2020 is contributing to transformational, sustainable change across all six pillars of the programme, towards eliminating violence against women and girls (VAWG), particularly domestic violence (DV) and intimate partner violence (IPV). In line with UN reforms, and in partnership with the European Union (EU), the Spotlight Initiative delivered a collective, comprehensive and integrated approach to address VAWG, strengthening the capacity of key development actors and institutional response to VAWG. During the implementation, the country benefited from coordinated inter-agency, multi-sectoral efforts to prevent and respond to VAWG through the delivery of activities promoting gender-equitable norms across the individual, interpersonal, institutional and societal levels. In total, **216,362** direct beneficiaries were reached in 2021 and 38 % of the total population of Timor-Leste was reached during the 2-year Spotlight Initiative.

The Spotlight Initiative generated evidence to strengthen the legal and policy framework through a Gender Justice Baseline, which assessed policy and legislation from a gender lens, in 2020. In the year 2021, the baseline was developed into policy advisory to inform Parliamentarians. This provided a basis for a better informed and stronger National Action Plan on Gender-Based Violence (NAP GBV). The Spotlight Initiative supported Secretariat of State for Equality and Inclusion (SEII) in convening the senior level Inter-Ministerial Meeting to oversee the implementation of NAP, Completion of 2020 report on the NAP, Assessments on NAP national and sub-national mechanisms, which will contribute to evaluation and development of a new NAP, and enhanced understanding and support for the NAP GBV, gender responsive budgeting and planning. These shifts in 2021 will provide a stronger starting point for the next NAP GBV, which will be finalized in 2022. Furthermore, building on interest from the National Parliament, Spotlight Initiative, provided support for the development of a Child Protection Law, which enables both prevention and response to risks faced by children and families.

The programme has established partnerships with key State institutions towards strengthening institutional capacities to address VAWG, particularly national and sub-national coordination mechanisms. Technical expertise has been strategically embedded at the national and municipal level to enable implementation and sharing of insights and analysis between structures of government. It has been particularly important to strengthen mechanisms at municipal level, where front-line services for women and girls are provided. The Spotlight Initiative has enabled this through direct funding and technical support to SEII Gender Focal Points in each municipality and community and embedding Gender Specialists.



The Spotlight Initiative developed public messaging on the urgency and need to break the cycle of violence toward promoting prevention and behavioral change, raising visibility of the root causes and risk factors of violence. The quality and accessibility of services has improved through increased understanding and abilities of duty-bearers to provide better quality essential services. Additionally, in line with the principle of “leaving no one behind”, the Initiative supported rights-holders, such as women with disabilities and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender or Intersex (LGBTI) persons, to have increased information and access to these services. The Initiative has generated analysis to inform the use and quality of data on VAWG, preparing for further investments to increase data literacy and use for relevant Government personnel and civil society partners.

Finally, the Spotlight Initiative strengthened engagement with the National Civil Society Reference Group (CSNRG) and across the six pillars. The CSNRG provided strategic direction to the programme on effectively responding to the pandemic that impacted 31,029 households in the April Floods, especially to issues of increasing violence and abuse in these situations. The CSNRG continues to guide the Spotlight team to integrate the principle of “leaving no one behind” through its efforts to engage with civil society as well as in programming more broadly.

By 31 December 2021, the programme utilized USD 6.8 million, which is 69 % of total programme budget for Phase 1. Programme delivery remained challenged by the pandemic led movement restrictions (both into and within Timor-Leste), which reduced the Initiative’s access to external technical expertise and limited planned activities involving in-person gatherings. This was further exacerbated by floods in April 2021.

Despite the unforeseen challenges and new working modalities, under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator, Spotlight continued to work with CSOs and government partners to share risk communication messages related to COVID-19, including information on managing stress, prevention of violence and information on services. These were incorporated into training for healthcare workers, multi sectoral coordination meetings led by the Ministry of Health, preparation for partners to go to communities, and during the Basic GBV and Data training. Similar findings were also highlighted in the Mid – Term Assessment of the programme.

As committed in the Country Programme Document (CPD), the Spotlight Initiative underwent midterm assessment, which highlighted that not only are the programme interventions well designed, but they are also founded in the Spotlight Initiatives principles. Furthermore, the programme responds to national priorities and is aligned with the National Action Plan for Gender

Based Violence. Along with this, the MTA notes that the Spotlight Initiative mobilized support from the highest administrative office in the Country. The Prime Minister expressed his commitment to the Spotlight Initiative, and the national implementation modality is considered an effective one, ensuring that activities are government led. The Spotlight Initiative is also working with a network of CSOs that represent different marginalized populations. This is perceived by many stakeholders, who participated in the MTA, as contributing to the success of the programme. These key findings are central to inform the closure of Phase 1 and the design of Phase 2 to ensure continuity, scalability and sustainability, guiding principles that are central to the Spotlight Initiative.

### **Contextual Shifts and Implementation Status**

Joint implementation under a single programmatic framework in the spirit of UN Reform continued to enable UN Timor - Leste to deliver a collective multi-sectoral approach to EVAWG, addressing the issue comprehensively, through different entry points and at different levels. This has fostered cross agency learning, promoting synergies between activities and strengthen technical coherence. This also provided valuable opportunities for all agencies to build on existing partnerships. The joint office continued to actively function when remote work was not required.

The programme put a strong focus on delivery and the Technical Unit and Resident Coordinator engaged with all RUNOs regularly to take stock of progress and identify any bottlenecks which could be resolved. Mid-year, Timor - Leste initiated the process for a no-cost extension and the same has been approved, extending the end date to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022. To ensure, there was a strong upswing in activities, leading to an increase in coordination to track the planned activities, along with managing representation and visibility. Furthermore, many knowledge products that were in development were finalized and launched publicly.

2021, saw the start of the evaluation and revision of the current National Action Plan – Gender Based Violence (NAP GBV), with Spotlight Initiative (SI) actively contributing to a “technical” group to advise and support the Secretariat of State for Equality and Inclusion (SEII) in this process. Contributions were based in the technical capacities of the Spotlight Initiative Team and evidence and learnings generated through partners’ activities, at the field level. Furthermore, the timelines for the finalization of the new NAP GBV shifted from November 2021 to 2<sup>nd</sup> Half of 2022.

Towards the year end, the programme celebrated 16 Days of Activism, with partners from across the programme geographies, who gathered for the first time in Q4 (not possible previously due to pre-cautionary measures) which created awareness and a coherent picture of progress across the

programme. To kick off the 16 Days, Spotlight supported the lighting of an iconic statue on the Dili beachfront, in keeping with the theme “Orange the World”<sup>3</sup>. There were more than 90 - 16 Days activities across the country, with Spotlight Initiative partners playing a lead role in municipalities of focus and contributing nationally through partnership with the SEII. SI also hosted a public event for sharing learnings and experiences with a highlight on Leaving No One Behind which exceeded expectations for participation from other actors in the sector and provided important visibility for partners.<sup>4</sup>

Initial findings from the global Mid-Term Assessment (MTA) which were shared in Q4 indicated that the programme was progressing, despite challenges, and there were no serious concerns identified. Timor-Leste was recognized for the high response rates of partners in the process. Key findings were that the programme was relevant, efficient and aligned to national priorities though some actors felt they could have been more involved in design. Coordination and engagement with senior government officials, Heads of Agencies and municipal officials was identified as an area to strengthen. Furthermore, the MTA, recommended capacity building of staff, of generating a strong understanding of results framework and highlighted the challenges experienced because of COVID-19 and the flooding in March – April.

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the declaration of several States of Emergencies (SOEs) and establishment of precautionary measures, limiting travel between the capital and municipalities of focus. Health care workers and other government staff were re-deployed to vaccination efforts, resulting in further delays. Gatherings were restricted to 10 people at a time, impacting community awareness activities and meetings convened by the Government, such as on NAP GBV mechanisms.

Women and girls have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19, due to structural barriers and pre-existing gender inequalities. National responses to COVID-19 highlighted the urgent need to identify the specific needs and capacities of vulnerable population groups, such as women, to inform prevention, response, and recovery mechanisms, and strengthen the adaptive capacity of people most at risk and reduce vulnerabilities. The 2016 Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) reported that more than a third (38%) of women have experienced physical/sexual intimate partner violence (IPV) during their lifetime, and the Nabilan Study suggests that prevalence is at 59%, while over

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<sup>3</sup> [https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1CE\\_EOw44oUQK8l\\_xrawlFmrrSJCG4vNL](https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1CE_EOw44oUQK8l_xrawlFmrrSJCG4vNL)

<sup>4</sup> Speakers were Youth Parliament participants; woman with disabilities from municipal partner; members of LGBTI community at municipal level about impact of COVID; municipal Gender Specialist; leaders of new programming for adolescent girls; researcher on LADV in communities; representative of labour unions; women’s network about impact of natural hazards.

80% of men and women in Timor-Leste believe domestic violence is justifiable. Women and girls face an even greater risk of violence during emergencies like COVID-19<sup>5</sup>.

Therefore, despite the obstacles presented and new working modalities, Spotlight Initiative continued to work with Civil Society Organisations (CSO) and government partners to share risk communication messages related to COVID-19, including information on managing stress, prevention of violence and information on services. These were incorporated into training for healthcare workers, multi sectoral coordination meetings led by the Ministry of Health, preparation for partners to go to communities, and during the Basic GBV and Data training. Furthermore, recognizing the impact of COVID-19 on personnel and partners, the agencies continued to ensure staff well-being, with remote and flexible work modalities. Most staff worked remotely for six months during the year (Mar – Sept).

Ongoing pandemic, heavy rains across Timor Leste precipitated by Cyclone Seroja resulted in flash floods and landslides in March – April, deepening economic vulnerabilities. While poverty levels remain high and inequality deepened during the past two years because of the COVID pandemic, progress has been made in improving living standards. The proportion of Timorese living in poverty, measured by the national poverty line, declined from 50% in 2007 to an estimated 42% in 2014. Yet, communities and infrastructure remains vulnerable to natural hazards. The April 2021 floods affected all 13 Municipalities in Timor-Leste to varying degrees, with the capital, Dili, and the surrounding low-lying areas the worst affected. 48 fatalities were reported and 30,564 households across the country were affected<sup>6</sup>. This affected road access to target communities and resulted in local authorities shifting attention to disaster response work. The Post-Disaster Needs Assessment revealed that the total damage and loss due to the floods was approx. US\$307.7 million and the recovery needs estimated to be approximately US\$530 million. The COVID-19 pandemic spiked in the months following the floods resulting in the continuation of the State of Emergency (SoE).

Recognizing that the most vulnerable are most impacted by crisis, and the potential for more frequent natural hazard, Spotlight re-programmed over USD 300,000 as response and supported an unanticipated position for a national consultant to conduct Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability Learning (MEAL) to evaluate and strengthen humanitarian protection response (GBV and Child Protection), and national coordination mechanisms.

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<sup>5</sup> [https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Field%20Office%20ESEAsia/Docs/Publications/2020/05/TL%20Comms%20Brief\\_29April\\_TV.pdf](https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Field%20Office%20ESEAsia/Docs/Publications/2020/05/TL%20Comms%20Brief_29April_TV.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> Situation Disaster Report Update for period 4 April – 10 August 2021 from National Disaster Operation Center (NDOC), Secretary of State for Civil Protection.



**Implementation progress by outcome area:**

*Percentage of total expenditure to date (from the programme start) against the total budget for that outcome*

<b>Spotlight Initiative - Outcome areas</b>	Implementation progress as of 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec 2021
<b>Outcome 1: Legal and Policy Framework</b>	81%
<b>Outcome 2: Institutions</b>	32%
<b>Outcome 3: Prevention and Norm Change</b>	44%
<b>Outcome 4: Quality Services</b>	41%
<b>Outcome 5: Data</b>	19%
<b>Outcome 6: Women's Movement</b>	37%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>41%</b>

**Programme Governance and Coordination**
**a) National Steering Committee**

The highest governance structure for Spotlight in Timor-Leste, the National Steering Committee, was established by the Council of Ministers under Resolution in January 2020. With the objective of promoting Government ownership and sustainability, the Committee was founded under the Inter-Ministerial NAP GBV Commission, which is led by SEII. SEII is delegated by the Prime Minister to Chair together with the UN Resident Coordinator (RC). The Committee is composed of appointed members from relevant line ministries, municipalities of focus and representatives of the Civil Society Reference Group. The Committee provides strategic leadership and oversight of the programme. It has the authority to make decisions in accordance with its objectives and ensures accountability and alignment with the Spotlight Annual Workplan, NAP GBV, the Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2021-2025 and relevant government policies. Meetings take place in the national language Tetum. Despite challenges, the Committee has met twice in each year of Spotlight (four meetings in total).

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

According to Spotlight theory of change, civil society organisations have a strong role to play in this initiative. The CSNRG has remained active and supportive, with 16 members and limited changes in membership (only one member, who became a Member of Parliament). Twelve meetings have taken place since the beginning of the programme. At the end of 2021, the group re-affirmed the Chair and key positions, and agreed to continue their involvement during the 6 months carry-over and re-affirmed their commitment to continue working together with the Government beyond the SI. The RCO serves as the Secretariat with UN Women providing leadership for the Initiative in the content of the meetings. The CSNRG is inclusive, with members who are leaders from marginalized communities facing intersecting forms of discrimination, including faith communities, youth, domestic workers, LGBTI persons, people with disabilities, men and boys, women's movements, and grassroots activists. This inclusivity aims to ensure the programme's implementation of the principle of leaving no one behind (LNOB) and improves the programme's responsiveness and accountability to rights-holders.

As in 2020, the CSNRG provided inputs on re-programming related to COVID-19, and in 2021 also provided inputs on how to respond to a high-profile legal case on sexual abuse issues, flooding response, extension of Phase 1 and sustainability. A What's App group remained active to enable effective communication, as did a shared Google folder for accessing relevant Spotlight documents. 4 identified members made contributions at the National Steering Committee and the Chair represented the CSNRG at several key Spotlight events nationally and internationally. Each target Municipality has a member and these people, in their voluntary role, made essential contributions by representing Spotlight at municipal level, being a contact point in the locations, and monitoring activities. The CSNRG had a work plan for 2020 and 2021 and budget for Phase 1 focused on training for members, and translation and monitoring activities. Unfortunately, due to COVID - 19 related travel restrictions, limited the number of monitoring visits.

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

The **Gender and Protection Working Sector**, which is a part of the national disaster coordination mechanism, was transformed from the existing Gender and Protection Working Group in response to 2021 April Floods Emergency in Timor-Leste.

The Sector had two response coordination meetings in April 2021, and two Child Protection Sub-group meetings in April 2021, as well as four GBV Sub-group meetings from April to July 2021. The Sector supported floods response coordination amongst humanitarian actors in the gender equality and protection areas. The Sector provided a platform to connect humanitarian actors and promote



information and knowledge sharing. Local civil society and marginalized groups were enabled to regularly share priorities and access updates with up to 50 international and national organizations, including the European Union Delegation (EUD) and CSNRG members. Leveraging the existing Gender and Protection Sector, the Spotlight Initiative in collaboration with Timor-Leste Police Development Programme (TLPDP), provided support to Vulnerable Persons Unit of National Police (PNTL VPU) in drafting a Code of Conduct for workers at evacuation center for floods-affected internally displaced persons on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and violence prevention. PNTL VPU and Dili Municipality members distributed the CoC to the security guards at the remaining evacuation centers in July 2021. This contributed towards strengthening a survivor-centered human rights-based approach to addressing and preventing violence against women and girls during crises. Additionally, the Sector called for three more meetings in August - November 2021 to discuss disaster preparedness planning.

The Spotlight Technical Coherence Specialist convened a EVAWG Technical Group Meeting with international and national actors working on VAWG to discuss programming in the sector. Due to the disruption from floods and other relevant meetings in the sector (particularly consultations on the new NAP GBV), this larger group was convened only once in 2021, but smaller coordination meetings were convened between key EVAWG programmes – Spotlight, Together for Equality (funded by the Korean Government) and Nabilan (funded by the Australian Government) which enabled focused coordination regarding implementing partners, contributions to key national programming (NAP GBV) and training for staff and partners working on VAWG (collaboration in testing a new training package on prevention).

The Spotlight Initiative is integrated into the Timor-Leste **UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2021-2025** which was approved in May 2020. The work specifically captured under Outcome 5 on Governance, integrating relevant results and indicators from Spotlight, representing a joint contribution of Spotlight agencies to the framework.<sup>7</sup>

The Spotlight Initiative supports Sub-Outcome 5.4 on the “*Elimination of Gender-Based Violence and violence against children*” and is explicitly contributing to two key indicators on elimination of VAWG and help-seeking behaviour by survivors.

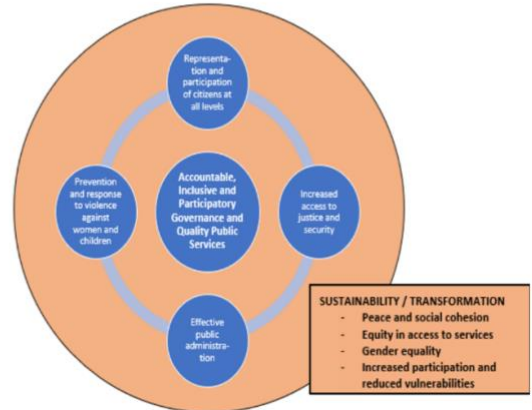
Spotlight agencies have contributed to development, monitoring and implementation of the UNSDCF Joint Work Plans (JWPs) and provided technical advice on EVAWG and joint programming. The Initiative has also provided inputs to the UN COVID-19 Socio-Economic Response Plan (SERP), which includes the reporting on 18 globally adapted COVID-19 indicators, between 2020 Q2 to 2021 Q4. The COVID-19 SERP was developed in 2020 and was originally a standalone JWP, but in 2021 was incorporated into the UNSDCF. Spotlight has been instrumental in ensuring that VAWG is integrated in the UN-wide COVID-19 response.

Spotlight also contributes to Strategic Priority 3: “By 2025, all people of Timor-Leste, regardless of gender identity, abilities, geographic location and particular vulnerabilities, have increased access to quality formal and innovative learning pathways (from early childhood through life-long learning) and acquire foundational, transferable, digital and job-specific skills” particularly through development of Comprehensive Sexual Education (CSE), which, once completed, will reach all students in Class 7 to 9, in the country.

**UNSDCF Outcome 5**

**Accountable, Inclusive and Participatory Governance and Quality Public Services**

“By 2025, the most excluded people of Timor-Leste are empowered to claim their rights, including freedom from violence, through accessible, accountable and gender responsive governance systems, institutions and services at national and subnational levels”



<sup>7</sup> This aims to ensure that “By 2025, the most excluded people of Timor-Leste are empowered to claim their rights, including freedom from violence, through accessible, accountable and gender-responsive governance systems, institutions and services at national and sub-national levels.”



**Three internal task groups** continued to enable inter-agency collaboration, reporting and alignment on approaches and plans. These are: Communications; Monitoring and Evaluation; and Finance. A common office for RUNO officers allocated to Spotlight and the Technical Coordination Unit enabled strong teamwork, planning of events and efficient communication, though staff had to work remotely for 6 months due to COVID - 19 and was further impacted by flooding in April.

Shared platforms for document and calendar storage continued to operate, but some challenges remained, due to significant requirements faced by staff, to maintain connections within RUNO systems and different IT set up regulations. Coordination was most effective through meetings and the Technical Unit gathered monthly updates on planned activities, to support visibility and engagement of the EU and RC. Furthermore, agencies were invited to participate in meetings with the CSNRG, as well.

The RUNOs continued to support each other in recruitment processes to enable a common approach and knowledge base for staff recruited into the programme. The Programme Specialist engaged with all RUNOs in these processes and participated in induction as able and requested. Coordinated engagement with government was facilitated by sharing of information at Programme Officer level and efforts to have joint meetings with key government partners.

Spotlight provided updates to UN agencies via the UN Country Team and Gender Theme Group. The RCO convened meetings of the Spotlight Heads of Agencies approximately every two months. Spotlight's programming was a key reference point in the development of a further joint UN programme on EVAWG, the Together for Equality (T4E) Programme, funded by the Government of Korea.

### **Programme Partnerships**

The Spotlight Initiative's partnerships with Government, civil society, the EU and others emphasize the importance of local ownership, sustainability and upholding the principle of LNOB. As with 2020, activities delivered through some partnerships faced delays due to changes in personnel, consequences of COVID-19 (including office closures due to outbreaks), and April floods that had a damaged some offices and re-directed the attentions of government staff. During this challenging year, Spotlight was able to adapt and re-programme, to address the critical new issues utilizing existing partnerships and maintaining the central focus of the programme.



### a) Government

The **Secretary of State for Equality and Inclusion (SEII)** as the body responsible for the NAP GBV is the highest level of partnership, including governance, as well as direct budget support for activities across three result areas.

Partnership with the **Secretary of State for Youth and Sports (SSYS)**, aims to mobilize children, adolescent girls and youth around EVAWG, and amplify Youth Parliamentarians voices. The **Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MOEYS)** is a partner for engagement with students and teachers. To enable more accessible and quality Survivor-Centered health care services, **Ministry of Health (MOH)** front-line workers were supported to gain knowledge on services and the needs of Survivors, as well as extension of services through development of new facilities.

For more effective and survivor-centered, justice sector responses were supported through partnership with all key entities, such as the **Ministry of Justice (MOJ)**, to enable training of local leaders responsible to enact the Law Against Domestic Violence (LADV), in collaboration with SEII and the **Ministry of State Administration (MSA)**. The **Court of Appeal (COA)** was supported to advance the quality of survivor services during court processes through training of court staff and the **Public Defender's Office (PDO)** to expand access to justice information and services through free Access to Justice Clinics (AJCs). Support was also provided to the **Legal and Judicial Training Center (LJTC)** for the integration of VAWG into the curriculum for justice professional.

As the lead agency for the coordination of response services for women, children, and vulnerable groups **the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion (MSSI)** was supported to analyze and re-develop its existing social protection programme to support survivors and based on the recommendations, MSSI has agree for the submission of action plan to address and take the recommendations forward. To break the cycle of violence, MSSI was supported to integrate EVAWG into existing programme on parenting skills, which reached thousands of families in rural and isolated areas, and for developing specialized programming for adolescent girls at risk and/or survivors.

To address violence in the workplace and survivor's economic empowerment, the **Secretary of State for Vocational Training and Employment (SEFOPE)** was supported to lead the process for the promotion and adoption of the ILO Violence and Harassment Convention (No 190) with the **Civil Service Commission (CSC)** supported for reviewing its policies in line with C190 implementation, where the public service can be seen as 'a role model' for taking action on gender-based violence and harassment.

To strengthen data collection and analysis, relevant to all result areas, the **Ministry of Finance (MoF) - General Directorate of Statistics (GDS)** was supported through advice on data collection, sharing and analysis and engagement of Junior Professionals to train key staff at municipal level, in line with the NAP GBV and international standards.

Under decentralization efforts, **Municipal Authorities** have increasing responsibilities and could support strengthening of services for Survivors, to be a step closer to the communities, that the Programme aims to support. Linking NAP GBV obligations to municipal authorities' strategies and annual workplans, supported the implementation of the obligations in prevention and response to VAWG.

### **b) Civil Society**

The Spotlight Initiative collaborates with various international, national, and grassroots CSOs, including non-traditional actors on EVAWG (see Outcome 6). By the end of 2021, there were 26 funding (see Annex C) relationships with CSO established. Six of these involved joint management, which further expanded Spotlight's connection to a total of 27 civil society organizations, a significant portion of organizations working in the country on EVAWG.<sup>8</sup> Further, several activities engage with networks of organizations, expanding relationships to more than 60 other organizations. This enabled newer and smaller groups to develop experience and skills which can unlock more opportunities to access funding in the future. Several partners engaged on more than one activity.

Working closely with civil society, and specifically local CSO's helped the programme to leverage the capacities and networks that each organization brings, allowing for scaled up interventions and acceleration of activities at the community level and contributing to movement building from the ground up. Partnerships were established across 5 of the Result areas at all levels of the Ecological Model (see below – "Results" Section). Some partners are new to the EVAWG work and bring new perspectives and linkages for a more integrated approach to EVAWG, including in the world of work. Several of the partnerships are with Consortia or network organizations, with Spotlight facilitating formation, thus expanding the programmes' reach.

**Organizations with a strong background in EVAWG** were involved:

- **Rede Feto** is the national women's umbrella network with 46 members across the country

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<sup>8</sup> A mapping in 2019 conducted by SEII indicated 30 CSOs working on EVAWG in the country at national or municipal level (based on organizations which are registered as CSOs – this mapping did not count grassroots organizations)

- **JSMP** is the lead organization monitoring VAWG justice issues for almost 20 years and has been working on both prevention and access to services
- **ALFeLa** is the lead organization for legal assistance for women and children who experience violence is working on both assessment of existing systems and direct access to services
- The **Alola Foundation** works with women and girls across a wide variety of issues, with staff and networks in every municipality
- **FOKUPERS** is one of the longest standing women’s organizations and leads the Gender Responsive Budgeting Working Group composed of 15 organizations, including from marginalized groups
- **Plan International** which brings demonstrated experience on communications and advocacy on prevention and rights promotion for girls
- **Ba Futuru** brings experience in theatre and media and community organizing on EVAWG
- **AJAR** and **ACBit** bring experience in human rights advocacy nationally and regionally and innovative approaches to support and empower Survivors of violence

Organizations **representing marginalized groups:**

- **Community Based Rehabilitation Network Timor-Leste (CBRN-TL)** which is advocating for health, rehabilitation, education and other services for persons with disabilities (PWD)
- **Fundasaun Hamutuk iha Diversidade (CODIVA)** in Consortium with new organization **Arcoiris** (enabling Arcoiris to develop institutional systems) focused on reducing discrimination against LGBTI persons and improving their access to services.

Organizations **engaged in research, monitoring and community organizing:**

- **Belun** brought its experience in organizing community level research and monitoring conflict
- The Alumni Association of Youth Parliament has existing networks of youth throughout the country

**New partnerships in a diversity of sectors** were created:

- The **Press Council** recognized the critical role of media in information dissemination and raising awareness on EVAWG and will develop survivor -centered reporting guidelines
- **The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Timor-Leste (CCITL)** for training and support for survivors<sup>9</sup>. This partnership enables mutual learnings – both for survivors receiving the training and support, as well as to CCITL for implementation and reaching out to a new target group.

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<sup>9</sup> Utilizing the ILO-developed “GET Ahead” (Gender and Entrepreneurship Together) curriculum

- The Trade Union Confederation (KSTL) has a wide reach through its broad work on promoting the rights of workers', including the right to work free from violence and harassment. KSTL produced a poster to encourage reporting of violence and promote help-seeking support distributed to reach new audiences at the local level.
- The national NGO Forum which has an extensive network across the country and years of experience in capacity development for civil society for institutional strengthening and mainstreaming of EVAWG into CSO sectoral work for maximum reach.
- Faith based groups through partnership with **Catholic Relief Service (CRS)** and sub partner **Justice and Peace commission Bobonaro Diocese** to develop faith-based prevention work in communities.
- The **National Scouts** bring their networks down to municipal level with both adults and youth. They will roll-out the Voices against Violence Curriculum in the target municipalities and integration of EVAWG into this type of civic engagement enables sustainability through existing networks.

### c) EU

The EU Delegation (EUD) was closely involved in the design and implementation of the programme. The RCO and Spotlight Technical Unit met with the EUD delegation every 2 – 3 months to discuss progress. Discussions focused on financial delivery, adapting to new challenges in the present context and progress (there was a need to build mutual understanding of the global results framework and targets for Timor-Leste). The EU Ambassador actively contributed to the National Steering Committee. There was a high level of interest to engage the EUD in Spotlight activities. This was managed through requesting monthly activity plans from partners via RUNOs, with the Technical Unit then reviewing which events were most appropriate. An ongoing challenge was receiving this information and invitations in a timely way. The EUD also participated in key Civil Society Organization meetings and events, and the Communications Task Group meetings, which was an opportunity to discuss visibility processes, plans, common messaging and to receive feedback from the EUD.

### d) Cooperation with other UN agencies

Spotlight coordinated with other UN agencies and related organizations through the Gender Theme Group, Gender and Protection Working Group and UN Country Team meetings, to ensure that violence against women and girls is comprehensively addressed. The response to COVID - 19 involved collaboration with the World Health Organization for inputs to printed materials. Spotlight engaged with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on events related to Pride and

LGBTI rights. The International Organization of Migration was consulted on protection responses to VAWG in COVID - 19 quarantine facilities.

### e) Other Partners

The **National Parliament (NP)** of Timor-Leste is the foremost representation body and develops legislation as well as reviewing programming of the government, including the Annual Budget. UN agencies had existing programming with the NP (including those funded by the EU) and Spotlight has broadened the scope of this, particularly with *Committee F* which is focused on issues related to gender and protection, by providing in depth analysis and impact of existing laws, and essentially mainstreaming gender into different legislation.

Partnership with **National Police of Timor-Leste (PNTL)** will advance institutional strengthening, through training on VAWG case management for the **Vulnerable Persons Unit (VPU)** (oversees cases involving individuals characterized as “vulnerable”, particularly women or children with units in every municipality) and **the Community Police** (develops strategies to prevent and respond to safety and security concerns affecting communities), with an officer in every village. Due to the presence of an officer in every village, work with VPU has impacts beyond the three focus municipalities.

The **Legal and Judicial Training Center (LJTC)** is the only institution authorized to train law graduates to become prosecutors, lawyers, judges, or public defenders. Spotlight is supporting revision of the LJTC curriculum to strengthen practice on handling VAWG cases. The **Court of Appeal (COA)** oversees district courts and Spotlight is supporting training for key front-line staff to enable better handling of VAWG cases. The **Public Defender’s Office (PDO)** is responsible for increasing access to justice and Spotlight is supporting existing Access to Justice Clinics and aims to add two more clinics.

The **Nossal Institute of Global Health** (University of Melbourne) conducted the Spotlight Baseline Study. The Connect with Respect expert team is also based at the **University of Melbourne** and provides remote support to implement this global programming model in Timor-Leste.



**Results**  
**Capturing Broader Transformations Across Outcomes**

The Spotlight Initiative in Timor-Leste works from ecological model, recognizing that intervention is needed at all levels to address root causes and risk factors of violence, changes in norms, support these changes, and ensure that institutions and services provide an enabling environment for comprehensive and sensitive services for women and children who experience violence.<sup>10</sup>

Essential front-line actors – particularly health care workers and Police are key partners in the programme, along with staff of the courts, so that cases are handled with sensitivity and an understanding of the complicated dynamics of VAWG. At community level, government actors, CSOs and community members have become more aware of how to respond to VAWG and seek justice and support.



While this is important, it is not sufficient, as many victims and/or survivors do not seek support from formal actors. Most people seek support from their family or neighbours, and Spotlight’s work in prevention is building an understanding about harmful social norms, which contribute to violence and alternatives to using violence to resolve problems in families, which can lead to more supportive responses. Ultimately, the hope is that people do not experience violence at all and never need to seek justice or health treatments, and Spotlight Timor-Leste’s largest area of investment is in prevention within institutions which have important and ongoing connections in the community – particularly schools, Faith Based Organizations, and networks with reach to the community (such as Scouts, Youth Parliament) – to engage with Youth as they begin to develop intimate relationships. Local awareness-raising, and dialogues were held, through community work interventions in

<sup>10</sup> The graphic was developed for the Steering Committee and public events in Q4 and provides a visual demonstration of the partnerships across the ecological model. This graphic does not include all the sub-partnerships and alliances that Spotlight has through partners, particularly through Consortia and networks in Pillars 2, 4 and 6. Research indicated that reasons for not taking a case to the Police included concerns about family economy, transport to Police and court, lack of understanding of formal system and documentation, impact on family and community if violence is reported.

municipalities through the ILO Road for Development (R4D) and Enhancing Rural Access (ERA) projects, where men were an important target in terms of prevention.

Personal and interpersonal/community change requires an enabling and well-coordinated ecosystem, including laws, policies, and government services and infrastructure which are planned and implemented with an understanding of EVAWG and with a sense of importance to invest in this. Supported research and assessments demonstrate that a continuing area of work at all levels is addressing the shame and stigma that allows violence to continue and causes many victims to remain silent or enables responses which prioritize social relationships over the needs of survivors. A continued and long-term area of focus is to shift the shame from the victims - to a sense of accountability for violence, an understanding of the many forms that violence can take and recognition of the impacts of violence not just on victims, but on the entire community, especially on children who live in families where violence takes place and may take multiple forms, including control on women's earnings and which contributes to further marginalization.

Partners have shared numerous stories of victims having the courage to bring forward cases, once they receive information about the justice process – and know that they will be supported particularly with transport and within the court system.<sup>11</sup> They also shared stories of local authorities responding more supportively after receiving information and training. Delivery of programming through local organizations has enabled information to be contextualized and taken to communities in local languages, which has increased the relevance and scope of community connections.

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

This was an area challenged by COVID-19 as many projects were agreed in Q1/Q2/Q3 so were only getting underway and faced COVID – 19 restrictions to travel and gatherings. Monitoring tools were developed in 2021 but these restrictions posed challenges to implement. Members of the CSNRG were interested in participating in monitoring, and there was budget allocated for this, but due to travel restrictions and scheduling issues, it was not possible to action this monitoring in 2021. Institutionally, there are challenges in terms of receiving information about activities within the timelines needed to approve funds and transport for CSNRG members to visit activities.

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<sup>11</sup> Research indicated that reasons for not taking a case to the Police included concerns about family economy, transport to Police and court, lack of understanding of formal system and documentation, impact on family and community if violence is reported.



The presence of members of the CSNRG in the target municipalities, who participated in activities and provided feedback to Spotlight Initiative and RCO and is a key aspect of monitoring. Going forward this feedback will be more systematically processed. Some activities directly requested feedback from participants, and this will need to be analyzed in 2022. The Learning Event and Steering Committee Meeting in November 2021 was an opportunity to convene key actors in Spotlight and profile their learnings and feedback to the programme.

## **Capturing Change at Outcome Level**

### Outcome 1: Legal and Policy Framework

Timor-Leste has a strong foundation for work on EVAWG through the LADV and there is a sense of pride that this law is in place with the accompanying NAP GBV, making it the centre-point of programming. Spotlight Initiative's design supports policy makers and civil society to build out from the LADV - to gather evidence about experiences of legislation and to identify areas for further policy and legislation. This enables more comprehensive services for survivors and supports the breaking of the cycle of violence. It is important to recognize that many victims never seek support from formal actors, and so this work must also link to Pillars 3 and 4, to prevent violence before it begins and enable increased access to services.

**Opportunities for strengthening legislation** through strategic partnership with the National Parliament provided an opening to expand legislative advice in areas of gender equality (in response to learnings from the Pandemic) and prevention focused protection for children. A Letter of Agreement (LOA) was agreed with the National Parliament of Timor-Leste, which supports the engagement between Parliament and public; and to support an international legal advisor and a national junior legal advisor for the Parliament's Committee F (focusing on gender). This provided Spotlight with the opportunity to advise on VAWG at key stages of legislation including:

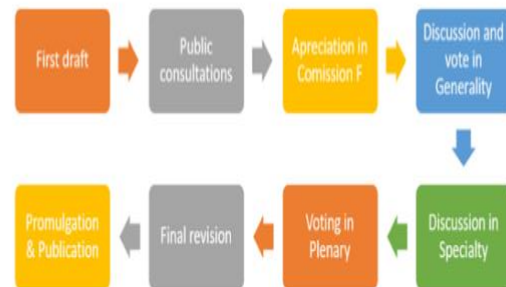
- Inputs to a new law on the Health System - part of a wider strategy to create a legal framework for action during current and future pandemics that could contribute to equitable provision of health services and economic recovery of vulnerable groups.
- Inputs to a new Law on Judiciary Organizations – key focus for Spotlight was establishment of specialized courts on family and minors which could contribute to improve access to justice for Survivors of VAWG
- Analysis of 2022 State Budget – support to Committee F and the Women's Caucus with substantial gender-sensitive analysis across ministries

- Preliminary study on domestic work – at the request of the Women’s Caucus, to identify key issues leading to legislation in 2022. Domestic workers are a target group for Spotlight, which are not yet fully programmed.

**Evidence and information for policy makers** was supported through further utilization of the “Gender Justice Baseline” (completed in 2020) in development of knowledge products to share the content, the research and propose a roadmap for action for policymakers.<sup>12</sup> A launch will take place in 2022 with a view to respond to the rights of women and girls facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination and ensure revisions are in line with international HR standards.

Building on interest from the National Parliament, Spotlight re-programmed funds to provide support to development of the Child Protection Law, which enables both **prevention and response to risks faced by children and families**. This enabled Committee F of Parliament to conduct 7 public hearings in 4 municipalities (Dili, Liquica, Bobonaro and Baucau) on the draft law. Public consultations with 110 (35% females) people and community visits to 4 municipalities for Members of Parliament were undertaken, making it possible for people, specifically women, and vulnerable groups, to make their voices heard and inform legislation. The draft legislation was in second reading at the end of December.

## Legislative process



**Experiences of survivors and communities were given profile through community-based research** on experiences of the LADV. The implementation of the activity faced challenges, due to technical advisors not being able to enter the country and therefore, ambitions of research were scaled back. The research found that customary responses to VAWG remain active because there is a perception that these are more accessible, effective and less costly than formal responses. There is a lack of understanding of the LADV and options to access the formal system, and a priority

<sup>12</sup> 1) A color-coded map on current compliance with international human rights standards 2) an Executive Summary of the report. Produced in Tetum, Portuguese and English.

<sup>10</sup> Impacts of this were interviews only in groups to manage Do No Harm without on the ground support, budgetary issues with funds needed for translation of transcripts to forward to remote advisors and significant input from Technical Specialist to analyze and present findings.

on restoration of community and cultural relationships, rather than survivor needs. With the research conducted by CSO Belun, which has a strong understanding of security and conflict, strategic opportunities were identified and presentation of key findings were an opportunity to problem solve with a broad group of actors. Results will be publicized in 2022 and used as a basis for Spotlight's ongoing work.

**Eliminating Violence and Harassment, including gender-based violence and harassment, in the World of Work** was advanced through support for the promotion and ratification of ILO Convention No. 190 and its Recommendation No. 206. To ensure sustainability and ownership, Spotlight supported the Secretary of State for Vocational Training and Employment (SEPFPOPE) to engage with key labour institutions (government, Workers' Organizations/trade unions, Employers' Organizations/private sector) and formed a working group to orient them on the importance of this convention and on how to implement specific recommendations for implementation into Timor-Leste legislation and policy. The working group will take forward the process of ratification. These recommendations were based on technical inputs and review of legislature provided by consultants supported by Spotlight and Specialists from UN Agencies.

#### Outcome 2: Institutions

**Placement of human resources at municipal level re-energized sub-national mechanisms,** assessments and trainings to strengthen existing mechanisms. A central aspect of Spotlight's design is that it seeks to **support and strengthen existing mechanisms and enhance implementation of the NAP GBV** and related frameworks, rather than establishing new structures. The policy environment at both national and sub-national level is dynamic, and many of the challenges experienced in implementation of the NAP GBV and provision of services are related to larger policy issues. Spotlight's enhanced engagement at municipal/sub-national level, as well as civil society partnerships enabled assessments, training and planning at Municipal level. This re-engaged key actors with gender-based planning and the NAP GBV and **demonstrated interest in more fully resourcing and implementing the NAP GBV**, with an aim to end violence and provide better services.

**For enhanced sustainability and strengthened links** between the Municipal Gender Working Groups (GWG), the NAP GBV and service providers, three Gender Specialists were placed at municipal level within the Municipality Authority Planning Unit (Ministry of State Administration).

Based on **needs assessments conducted**<sup>13</sup> the specialists developed tailored actions with municipal authorities and the GWGs.<sup>14</sup> Key findings were:

- Most GWG members were not aware of the NAP GBV and had not received training on gender (22% had received training)
- Transportation (Police to get to victims and then to transport for health care and access to justice) and communication was a challenge for provision of services to Survivors – this was affirmed also in assessments in Pillar 4 and 6
- Identified future training priorities were Gender Based Violence and Domestic Violence

**Enabled integration of VAWG and gender considerations into Municipal Workplans and budgets 2022 and monitoring the implementation of 2021 plans** by providing training for 160 people at municipal level, undertaken by the Specialists and other Spotlight partners (particularly SEII). This had not taken place in previous years and was a result of awareness raising about the NAP GBV and orientation to the planning process, which was new to some staff, due to transitions of staff at municipal level. These processes will contribute towards access to services of marginalized groups (this links to work in Pillar 4).

**Investments made to strengthen mechanisms** in several sectors. In the **justice sector** CSO partner ALFeLa conducted capacity assessment of PNTL's response to VAWG cases, interviewing 102 police officers from various departments. The assessment found that: 55% were not familiar with the LADV; 45% were not clear on how to handle cases; and only 60% knew how to properly categorize cases. These findings will be used by CSO partner ALFeLa to develop gender responsive training for VPU and Community Police that will be held in 2022.

Recognizing the national scope of the issue, ALFeLa also organized a day-long roundtable discussion with national VPU officers and from the three Municipalities (141 participants, 43 females, 98 males) VPU and Community Police from 10 municipalities. An ongoing issue raised, was more **training on how to handle cases of VAWG** and the need to share learnings. These issues were forwarded to the national Chief of VPU and will also be used in developing training (as above). Training was conducted by ALFeLa on VAWG case handling in three Municipalities which

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<sup>13</sup> Interviews and workshops - total participants 72; 58% women.

<sup>14</sup> For example, the Gender Specialist in Bobonaro, in collaboration with SEII Gender Focal Point and Directorate of Municipal Planning organized a one-day workshop

involved 188 people (62 females and 126 males) with a view to ensure an increased survivor centered informed handling of cases of VAWG.

**Strengthened municipal Coordination Mechanisms** through community UN volunteers in each municipality, who provided logistical support as well as budget line funding to SEII Gender Focal Points in the municipalities of focus. With this support, Gender Working Groups were re-activated after many not being active, and conducted meetings enhanced coordination among line ministries, CSOs and enabled co-organizing of the 16 Days events in all three municipalities.

**Increasing access to services** by support provided to the MoH, PNTL and PDO to establish new facilities more appropriate to the needs of survivors. In 2021, contracting for VPU spaces in Bobonaro and Viqueque were finalized and discussions with local actors regarding implementation began. To address **misunderstandings about VAWG, which can impact handling of cases in the legal system**, a Psycho-Social Adviser was engaged to support the LJTC. In Q4 a two-day seminar on the 'Do No Harm Approach' was conducted. This involved in-depth discussion on the current actions of judicial institutions and CSOs and the importance of a trauma sensitive approach. The seminar saw participation from 128 persons (65 females and 63 males)<sup>15</sup>.

Building from this, a law firm was contracted to develop training modules for the LJTC, the COA and AJCs to strengthen understanding and skills, to deal with complexities of VAWG cases. The partnership required ongoing engagement from the Spotlight team - to receive approval for the staff who could be trained. This was further complicated due to COVID - 19. The initial focus will be on court clerks because they handle processing of cases, and there is a hope to train new magistrate (lawyers who undergo training to be Judges, Prosecutors and Public Defenders) students as well in 2022.

**Information dissemination to Village leaders and local police**, as they have a central role in EAWG, for they are based in the community and asked to intervene in cases. Both have a legislated role to respond to VAWG. Spotlight supported an initiative of the Ministry of Justice to share information about the Law Against Domestic Violence which reached 30 villages (10 in each municipality) totaling 922 people (336 females and 586 males). This involved collaboration with IOM and Municipal Authorities which provided local logistical support. The objective being that increased knowledge will contribute to informed decision making.

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<sup>15</sup> Participants were SEII, Ministry of Justice, VPU, District Court, General Prosecutor, Public Defender Office and CSOs including representatives of DPOs. Further advocacy to take place in 2022.

**Investment in youth, to break the cycle of violence** before it begins is critical and gender sensitivity in youth programming is central to this. As such, engaging with the Secretary of State for Youth and Sports (SSYS) and the Alumni of the Youth Parliament Timor-Leste (APFTL) is key. Training was conducted for 121 Youth Parliament (YP) members (59 girls and 62 boys), which included sessions on gender-equality and gender-based violence. After the training, the YP conducted one week of plenary sessions and met with government representatives (SSYS) and Women’s Caucus of Parliament to provide recommendations for actions to address the challenges that children and youth face in the country.<sup>16</sup> To further strengthen this work, a gender assessment of the sessions was conducted and will be used to inform standardized curriculum for future YP trainings, which will have impacts beyond Spotlight. The report was shared with SYSS and YP in Q4.

**Furthering the agenda on violence and harassment in the world of work**, in Q3 a consultant was onboarded to analyze and determine whether the CSC’s existing policies, regulations and other measures, including the existing practices comply with the requirements of the elimination of violence and harassment, including gender-based violence and harassment, in line with Convention No. 190 and Recommendation No. 206 and provides recommendations to improve civil servants’ regulations, based on agreed International Labour Standards framework on a the right to all to a world of work free from violence and harassment. This supports the government to lead by example in reviewing its own policies, programmes and regulations to prevent and address violence and harassment, including gender-based violence and harassment at work.

**Spotlight made key investments to support and enable implementation of the NAP GBV**, which faces financial, human resources and institutional challenges (particularly through lack of understanding about issues), roles and how to budget and staffing changes at municipal level. Spotlight continued to fund a consultant to **support SEII on Inter-Ministerial Coordination**. The support focused on the GBV Prevention Department for strengthening monitoring and evaluation (particularly the NAP GBV 2020 report) and the Gender Mainstreaming Department to enhance capacity building with key line ministries at municipal level, as well as support to review of ministry budgets for 2022, as this places significant demands on SEII. Training in two municipalities on Mainstreaming, Gender Responsive Budgeting, and Results Based Management involved 49 participants (22 females and 27 males). These events offered an opportunity for national and

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<sup>16</sup> Further advocacy to take place in 2022.





municipal networking and gave Spotlight a platform to orient key actors about the programme<sup>17</sup>. Participants were provided with tools for ongoing work in their municipalities. This was also an opportunity to distribute 100 posters on inclusive legislation and planning and 8 steps on how to integrate disability in planning and budgeting, linked to work in Result Area 4.

*“We have seen our fellow women in Viqueque struggling to find ways to survive independently. Mainstreaming GRB will give them opportunity to be empowered and engage in the women’s group to be exposed opportunities. As GRB is less discussed in the government’s budget, we wanted to raise our voice in the budget discussion,”*

Maria Pascoela Campos, the Statistic focal point in Viqueque.

**Assessing of implementation and coordination structures for the NAP GBV** was undertaken by the engagement of a consultant to map out experiences and interactions from national down to municipal level with findings presented in Q3. This will contribute to the evaluation of the current NAP GBV and development of the new NAP with improved coordination and implementation mechanisms for addressing violence.

**Provided support and ensured participation** of organizations of PWD and LGBTI community. SEII is responsible for convening national meetings on VAWG coordination, referral and advocacy<sup>18</sup> but issues regarding the important role SEII should play in collecting and reporting data on cases were also raised (links to work in Result Area 5 on data). In Q2, SEII organized the Inter-Ministerial Commission which is the highest body to provide oversight on the NAP GBV (involving 3 CSO partners which lead on Pillars of the NAP). This meeting validated the 2020 NAP GBV report which is submitted to Parliament annually. In Q3 SEII established a technical committee to work on the NAP GBV evaluation and revision and Spotlight is a leading supporter, along with other key agencies and programmes working on EVAW.<sup>19</sup> In Q4, the NAP GBV coordination meeting was used as an opportunity to reflect on the progress made so far on implementation and discussed plans for 16 Days of Activism in 2021.

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<sup>17</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/101756898295429/posts/365999235204526/>

<sup>18</sup> The inter-ministerial commission established/delegated by H.E of Prime Ministry of RDTL for all 20-line ministries including 3 CSOs to play a key role for the implementation and monitoring of the NAP-GBV based on the government resolution number 34/2017. 21 government focal points to implement and monitor the NAP-GBV (2017 – 2021). This will be done by meeting three times a year. The Secretary of state for Equality and Inclusion with 21-line ministries, leads the meeting.

<sup>19</sup> Also including UN Women and UNFPA in non-Spotlight capacity, the Together for Equality Programme (Govt of Korea) and the Nabilan Programme (Govt of Australia)

**Leveraged Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) for allocation of resources**, engaged with SEII and line ministries at national and municipal level for inclusion of the NAP GBV and gender in 2022 budget planning. Civil society voices are critical in budgeting for inclusive development, as such a partnership was established with FOKUPERS which leads the GRB Working Group comprising of 23 CSOs which was re-organized with support from Spotlight (women's rights organizations, faith-based organizations, OPDs and LGBTI community both from national and municipality level). Two meetings discussed the state budget cycle and civil society GRB, NAP GBV and social inclusion issues. These also involved other actors and Spotlight partners, particularly UPMA, SEII and Rede Feto as resources. IEC materials were also produced such as – T- Shirts (500), Water Bottle (250), Notebooks (250). Out of which 115 T-shirts, 115 Water Bottles, 115 Notebooks have been distributed among the staff of Fokupers at Dili & Maliana, Fokupers partners, Rede Feto members, SEII, National Parliament, GRB working group members and to SEII Focal Point at 3 Municipalities, with a view to increasing awareness and changing perceptions about VAWG

The Working Group submitted recommendations to SEII and the Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit (UPMA) of the Office of the Prime Minister and met with the National Parliament's Women's Caucus (GMPTL). The group met early in the planning cycle to provide inputs to SEII and was an observer in the committee of Parliament which analyzed gender commitments in the NAP GBV as well as the National Action Plan UNCR 1325 Women, Peace and Security, CEDAW recommendations and the Maubisse Declaration on women and economic empowerment. Prior to budget submission, the Director General of SEII informed FOKUPERS that all recommendations were included in the *Pasta Verde* ("Green Folder" which contains all documents for budget submission) and distributed to all government institutions. The Women's Caucus (GMPTL) also received recommendations from the GRB Working Group and took these up for discussion in the process.

As a result of advocacy from Spotlight partners and others, 12.18% of the 2022 State Budget was allocated to Gender Equality and Social Inclusion. Budget allocated for Gender Equality and Social Inclusion in 2021 was \$58,663.370, whereas the budget allocated for Gender Equality and Social Inclusion in 2022 is \$203,784.892. Advocacy was enhanced with visibility materials. Building on work with Parliament (Outcome 1) FOKUPERS established coordination with the UNDP-PALOP team to aid analysis.

In the **health sector** through supporting the Ministry of Health, to lead on multi-sectorial coordination meetings (142 participants: 65 females and 77 males) on health sector response to VAWG at municipal level to ensure proper referral and comprehensive services for survivors. The focus was



on sub-municipal level, to expand access to services. Training to sensitize workers on VAWG and a survivor-centered approach continued, including the impact of crises such as COVID - 19 and natural hazard on women, building from the National Guidelines on GBV, which are based in World Health Organization global guidelines.

*“To ensure quality of services regular update on the progress in the municipality is essential”*  
VPU Commander in Bobonaro, Ermera and Viqueque Municipalities

### Outcome 3: Prevention and Norm Change

As mentioned above, Spotlight Timor-Leste is working across the Ecological model, **recognizing that transformation of harmful social norms which contribute to the cycle of violence requires information, action and alliances across all levels** of society. Significant investments were started, and will continue to be supported in 2022, as meaningful prevention requires continued conversation, engagement and support.

**Assessment and experience sharing** of prevention actors for building a common understanding of “Prevention” is the first step towards effective prevention. This requires a key set of common messages and clarity on the human, financial and time resources needed to be effective. To identify these key factors an assessment was conducted between April – September 2021. It included an extensive desk review of over 200 documents such as detailing frameworks, research, program documents and materials, 60 people involved in prevention were consulted through interviews, group discussions and a validation workshop. Key learnings led to identifying priority areas, including the need for strong conceptual frameworks and tools which rely on a clear definition of prevention and accompanying common vocabulary, ensuring prevention workers have the right competencies to do their work effectively and having a solid and growing body of evidence on which to design and implement interventions. Lastly, prevention initiatives need to be efficient in using existing resources, make sure it is inclusive and intersectional and has a strong monitoring framework that relies on measurable indicators that show both progress towards change and impact. The results of this assessment will be a contribution towards a **strategy for prevention** in the new NAP GBV.

One of the issues identified in the assessment was that existing prevention materials are not easily accessible, leading to inefficiencies and lack of building upon experiences. To respond, Spotlight has supported CSO partner Plan to develop an **online platform for sharing prevention**

**documentation** and will work with prevention actors to upload information. This will be linked to SEII's website to ensure sustainability<sup>20</sup>.

**Enhanced evidence base** for work on gender norms by the completion of research on gender norms and pornography, with a validation in Q4 and finalization in 2021.

*“Reflecting the dominant social norm that pornography is bad, the impacts of consuming pornography were described negatively in the main. The examples provided were speculative but could be extreme. For example, consuming pornography leads to early and unwanted pregnancy, incest, and rape”.*

Excerpt from research of the impact of pornography on VAWG

Recognizing the importance of **engagement with youth as they start to form intimate relationships**, Spotlight established a second partnership with Secretary of State for Youth and Sports<sup>21</sup> to provide comprehensive sexual education both inside and outside of the curriculum. This will be based on a manual about healthy relationships which includes components on VAWG as well as Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) to address issues of early pregnancy, and Spotlight supported training of 39 trainers already engaged with UN agencies to enhance sustainability (22 Females and 17 males).

**Supporting transformative prevention and behavioral change**, in Q4 consultation was conducted to determine how to support prevention within the curriculum, building from findings of the gender norms study. This was convened by CSO partner Belun and involved key stakeholders including MoEYS, SSYS, SECOMs, with agreement that adjustments were needed to the curriculum. It was also recognized that **other locations such as youth centers** could be used to access youth.

As a key entry point with children and youth, Spotlight engaged with **educational institutions** in several ways, based on a “whole school approach” to integrate prevention approaches in the **curriculum, teaching methods and out of school activities**. While work on curriculum was interrupted due to changes in the Ministry of Education and closure of schools due to COVID - 19. Spotlight **adapted to this through utilizing other entry points - online learning**. In Q3 Spotlight handed over 51 projectors, pen drives and other IT materials for use in schools across the country

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<sup>20</sup> [www.si-formatuasesivel-seii.org](http://www.si-formatuasesivel-seii.org) Spotlight has another partnership in Outcome 2.

<sup>21</sup> Spotlight has another partnership in Outcome 2. <https://prevention-collaborative.org/>

so that they could utilize the distance learning platform "Eskola ba Uma" which contains a variety of resources and materials for students and teachers.

Additional resources for violence prevention will be developed for this platform in 2022, to enable future adaptations to home-based learning. Existing films "Foinsae Preparadu ba Futuru Nabilan" (Youth prepared for a bright future, with a focus on teenage pregnancy and violence in schools) were re-purposed with new messages from the Vice Minister of MoEYS and with guidance for facilitators to use these films as a basis for discussion. Linking with other Spotlight networks, 15 members of Youth Parliament were then trained to be facilitators. They will be active in Q1 2022 (based on approval of MoESYS) to roll out these films. Spotlight supported implementation of Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) through the Ministry as well as CSO partners to develop suitable campaign materials and integration of a more inclusive approach. Terms of Reference were drawn up, to develop **training programme for teachers on non-violence**, the same will be finalized in 2022.

At interpersonal and community level, to develop **supportive relationships in families** to prevent violence and change harmful norms Spotlight trained 453 parents in a new package to accompany and reinforce the "Connect with Respect" programme which will be offered to youth in extra-curricular programming. Training sessions for 75 teachers in 15 targeted schools will be undertaken by the end Q1 2022.

**Strengthening of programmes** of MSSSI for parents to promote healthy family relationships and gender equitable norms. By the end of the year a local consultancy group was contracted to revise the parenting programme offered by MSSSI and a refresher session was offered to 26 facilitators in Viqueque and Ermera. The existing programme will be reviewed and enhanced through collaboration with global leaders, the Prevention Collaborative<sup>22</sup>, an organization which has provided technical support to Timor-Leste in a variety of roles.

Youth were also engaged through the active network of the **Scouting movement** (UNE-TL), which has a network down to village level, involving both girls and boys. The platform for engagement is through implementation of the "Voices against Violence" programme, developed globally by UN Women and the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGS)<sup>23</sup>. This enabled regional and international connections, holding two meetings with WAGGGS (England and Malaysia) to

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<sup>22</sup> Spotlight has another partnership in Outcome 2.

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.waggs.org/en/what-we-do/stop-the-violence/about-campaign/>



share experiences and how to adapt in the COVID - 19 context.<sup>24</sup> Scouts continued to share their activities on a Facebook page (reaching 2,200 people) and created a What's App group to connect to municipalities.

Because of these local networks, programming was able to continue during limitations on travel. The manual was adapted for the Timor-Leste context and ten trainers (5 females and 5 males) were prepared to roll out the programming. Feedback from the facilitators was that though it was their first time conducting VAWG training, they felt confident due to the support from the Spotlight consultant and municipal partners (SEII, Police and CSOs).

To ensure sustainability and engagement, UNE-TL engaged with the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth and Ministry of State Administration to coordinate activities at local level. To strengthen the organization into the future and aligned with the principle of leaving no one behind, UNE-TL recruited a consultant to review statutes and internal regulations to ensure access for people with disabilities and the LGBTI community.

Three schools were involved in initial activities (120 females; 40 males; 10 people with disabilities – 5 males and 5 females). 150 members have become advocates for preventing violence. Based on feedback from participants, early marriage and ongoing domestic violence were identified as a key issue during trainings. These people will continue to engage with local networks on EVAWG in their communities, particularly for advocacy. The Scouts also sought support from other Spotlight partners to facilitate engagement of people with disabilities and from the LGBTI community and an advocacy strategy was finalized by the consultant. The strategy is to improve their internal regulations to involve people from marginalised communities, especially LGBTI and PWDs, in their programming.

**Prevention messaging through media for strong shifts in understanding and attitudes towards gender-based violence**, was an active focus in 2021:

- Partner JSMP used television to air three episodes of a **television** talk show, with content that linked to other activities and partners within Spotlight: healthy family relationships, preventing violence in schools and dating relationships. These reached around 17,086 (episode 1 viewed by 6,650 people and shared 369 times; episode 2 viewed by 6,800 and shared 138 times;

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<sup>24</sup> 20 participants from national and municipal levels

episode 3 viewed by 3,636 and shared 202 times). The target audience for the episodes was the general community, as content integrated information relevant to a variety of groups.

- The **Press Council** was supported to develop national guidelines on gender-sensitive and survivor-centered reporting to be finalized in 2022. To ensure sustainability and accountability, the guidelines will be integrated into already existing training programs for future journalists and become a requirement for acquiring accreditation as a journalist. Implementation will be monitored by the Press Council through a framework that will be developed by this institution. To support change, a national mechanism will recognize journalists who report on VAWG in a respectful manner.
- **17 community radio stations** reached an estimated audience of 50,000 people with 3 public service announcements (PSA), broadcast 1 – 5 per day since Q1. Trade Union partner **KSTL** developed a radio talk show in Viqueque, where their network was most active. This reached approximately **50,000** women and men with information on EAWG and promoting the Violence and harassment Convention (No.190).
- **Two edutainment (entertainment-education) films** “Domin Nakloke” (*Open to Love*) were launched in Q4, in addition to two existing episodes being aired earlier in the year. The new episodes covered normalization of domestic violence and promotion of respectful relationships with a focus on the relationships between parents and children. A “Chatbot” was developed for use with What’s App to engage with audience and seek responses and feedback. This was also supported by a group of “Changemakers” who were trained to discuss with members of the audience after watching the shows. Three brochures (Anger Management; Positive Discipline; Conflict Resolution) were also developed to accompany the episodes. The new episodes were launched in December. There was a good audience (over 92K views and 2,843 engagements) response through the Chatbot and on social media.

Local **municipal connections** were also utilized to share prevention messaging:

- **SEII Gender Focal Points** in Bobonaro and Ermera chose to engage with both male and female students to provide basic information on violence prevention as well as where to seek service when violence does take place.
- **Trade Union** KSTL utilized their networks through Road for Development (R4D) and Enhancing Rural Access (ERA) project with support from each respective community development officers, organized “Social Dialogues” at community level reaching 1,062 persons, including community members and workers (412 females and 650 males).

Distributed 604 Spotlight Poster “Labele Tauk Atu Koalia Sai” and at the same time campaigned for safe work, in alignment with the ILO Violence and Harassment Convention No.190 on elimination of violence and harassment in the world of work. Established **18 volunteer advocacy groups at three targeted municipalities (6 for each municipality)** to directly support survivors and refer them to relevant service providers. These groups are committed to contributing towards ending violence in each target Municipality. They will be the voice for the voiceless people particularly the victims of domestic violence. A Radio outreach at the local radio in the three-municipality aiming for raising awareness on GBV and DV and campaigning and promoting the Convention 190, targeted **12,500 beneficiaries**. Furthermore, they established the partnership with ALFELA for legal support to victims of GBV and DV. Women workers, victims of GBV and DV have started making formal complaints to **KSTL and 7 cases were registered in 2021 and** referred to ALFELA for further support.

**Faith Based Organizations (FBO)** became involved in 2021, involving Muslim, Protestant and Catholic organizations, the main groups in Timor-Leste. Building from existing experience of partner Catholic Relief Services (CRS), training materials were revised and updated, based on a discussion with authorities from Mosques and Churches. The programme was informed by the “SASA! Faith” approach<sup>25</sup>, but due to timelines of Spotlight, it was not possible to fully implement this transformative approach. Development of a contextualized approach took place through 32 discussions in Bobonaro and Ermera led by local partners such as Justice and Peace commission of Bobonaro and Ermera parish (demonstrating the value of local partnerships, while staff could not travel from Dili, due to travel restrictions) and were informed by a baseline study.<sup>26</sup> A broad group of actors validated training materials in Q3. The materials were launched in Q4 at a national event (jointly planned and funded with SEII), which was held in the parish of Viqueque and led by Caritas Baucau, clearly engaging church structures and as a part of the 16 Days of Activism events.

#### Outcome 4: Quality Services

Spotlight supported **both duty-bearers and rights-holders** in this Pillar. This aligns with the programme’s Theory of Change that work is needed both on supply and demand side, and that more victims and/or survivors will seek support for experiences of violence if they know about their options and that service providers will receive them with sensitivity. This reality was confirmed in

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<sup>25</sup> <https://raisingvoices.org/sasa-faith-guide/>

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/101756898295429/posts/374015601069556/> Communities as well as groups of youth received information on Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression (SOGIE) well, and many communities asked for more information and to expand the training.



research conducted in Pillar 1. Service providers require information, policy and infrastructure in order to be able to meet the needs of survivors. Work in this Pillar ranged from sharing information with service users to training for service providers and plans to expand points of service.

**Ministry of Health was supported to lead on health sector response** coordination meetings to ensure better referral and comprehensive services. To ensure that front line service providers are sensitized to handle the needs of people presenting with issues of violence 169 health care workers were trained (88 males and 81 females). This training was delivered by Spotlight staff, based on MoH regulations, due to MoH not currently having any trainers sufficiently experienced for training on VAWG. This training also prepared communities to establish safe spaces in health facilities. Through training, healthcare workers said they were more aware of the importance of ensuring survivors' safety via ensuring confidentiality and privacy.

Aligned with the principle of leaving no one behind and recognizing the **increased risk and barriers to access for people from marginalized communities**, CSO partners from communities of LGBTI people and people with disabilities conducted activities for their communities and service providers. These were the first partnerships established by Spotlight Timor-Leste. CSO partners COVIDA and Arcoiris trained police and municipal referral networks (coordination with 32 organizations that focus on prevention and provision of essential services, including 20 Police Officers and community leaders) and established partnerships to increase knowledge and skills to make services more sensitive to **needs of the LGBTI community**.<sup>27</sup> The Municipal President participated in Viqueque. To provide information to the LGBTI community MOUs were established with community radio in target municipalities, one national radio station and a Facebook page was created reaching 2,582 people, with a view to increase awareness on inclusion of marginalised communities such as LGBTI and PWDs.

In Q1 alone, a total of 500 LGBTI group members were reached in two target municipalities (Ermera and Viqueque) and at national level. As a new organization, Arcoiris used Spotlight's funding to seek legal advice to finalize its legal registration and developed a five-year strategic plan, both critical to sustainability and opportunities for further funding. During the 16 Days campaign an advocacy march was jointly planned with disability partner Community based Rehabilitation Network CBRN bringing together issues of marginalized people in a great example of coordination between

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<sup>27</sup> Communities as well as groups of youth received information on Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression (SOGIE) well, and many communities asked for more information and to expand the training.

partners. 55 people participated (24 females, 9 males, 7 females with disabilities, 5 males with disabilities, 10 people from LGBTI community)<sup>28</sup>.

CSO partner CBRN worked together with three newer municipality-based organizations of people with disabilities, thus supporting the development of these grassroots organizations. This partner has been one of the most effective in implementation, due to their technical expertise on GBV for women with disabilities, strong network and connections with essential service providers government and CSO's. CBRN worked with its partners to conduct an assessment on disabilities with community leaders and women with disabilities - 64 people in total (27 females, 37 males, including 11 females with disabilities and 1 male with disabilities) participated.<sup>29</sup> CBRN's municipal partners conducted awareness raising training across all three municipalities to several groups, including schools, community leaders, Police, youth centres (89 participants - 40 females; 49 males; 5 males with disabilities). They engaged with community radio in the three municipalities (weekly talk shows) and trained 8 journalists (3 females; 5 males). Within its networks CBRN tried to increase demand for care-seeking through engaging with 60 people with disabilities (44 females; 16 males) to conduct assessments and provide training. CBRN was also active in consultations regarding development of a new NAP GBV.

To create demand for services, CBRN provided training to women and girls with disabilities to enable them to advocate for prevention of violence against women with disabilities in their community and to build their confidence in public speaking and advocacy. These people will work with their communities to develop action plans. 12 females from this group became more active as advocates. An existing toolkit, developed in partnership with CBRN, for prevention of violence against people with disabilities was rolled out through training community leaders. 10 individuals have been selected and trained to be lead facilitators.

*"I have never known that there are organizations and many institutions out there to support women who are facing violence from their communities and family until I heard from a radio program hosted by Maliana community radio with participation of Mana Norberta, since then I have heard many radio programs on GBV. If I face violence I know where to report and seek help"*  
Ms. Delfina Gomes

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<sup>28</sup> [https://m.facebook.com/cbrn.timorleste/posts/pcb.642901246737280/?photo\\_id=642901076737297&mds=%2Fphotos%2Fviewer%2F%3Fphotoset\\_token%3Dpcb.642901246737280%26photo%3D642901076737297%26profileid%3D223200912%26source%3D48%26refid%3D52%26\\_tn\\_%3DEHH-R%26cached\\_data%3Dfalse%26ftid%3D&mdp=1&mdf=1](https://m.facebook.com/cbrn.timorleste/posts/pcb.642901246737280/?photo_id=642901076737297&mds=%2Fphotos%2Fviewer%2F%3Fphotoset_token%3Dpcb.642901246737280%26photo%3D642901076737297%26profileid%3D223200912%26source%3D48%26refid%3D52%26_tn_%3DEHH-R%26cached_data%3Dfalse%26ftid%3D&mdp=1&mdf=1)

<sup>29</sup> Among key findings were - lack of understanding about VAWG and people with disabilities; people with disabilities face a number of human rights violence but do not know how to access services; community leaders need sensitization.

<sup>28</sup> Topics were disability, human rights, gender equality, legal frameworks, prevention.



**Access to justice** was supported through initiatives with judicial actors as well as the community or survivors:

- A Letter of Agreement was signed with the **Court of Appeal** to provide capacity building to newly hired and current justice officials who work in the front line with survivors (for example court clerks). As these people are engaged with processing cases from an early stage, their role is very important. Timelines for training were delayed due to travel restrictions.
- Existing **Access to Justice Clinics (AJC) were supported** by Spotlight CSO partners JSMP and ALFELA through providing **legal counselling and assistance** to 306 people (200 females and 106 girls aged 19 and under) and with 35 VAWG cases brought to the Court and 2 cases decided.
- **Expanded access through AJCs** was supported through contracts to build new clinics in Bobonaro and Ermera, which will be completed in 2022
- **Awareness building on justice processes was undertaken** through partner JSMP's newspaper campaign (3 newspapers) which reached 5,800 people (viewed by 5,721 people and shared 484 times). Furthermore, JSMP also produced two TV programs as part of community outreach campaigns. The programs covered "Sanitary Fence, mandatory self-confinement inhibits people's rights to access formal justice system". In addition, 11,778 people accessed information through JSMP's e-mail list and 8,059 people through Facebook. Partner ALFELA reached 119 people (71 females and 48 males) with information on the Law Against Domestic Violence.
- **Expanded access through Police was** supported through contracts to build new facilities in Vulnerable Persons Units in Viqueque and Bobonaro, which will be completed in 2022
- **Police** (VPU) were provided with further Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), communications and ICT Equipment to enable communication and safety for both Police and Survivors across the country<sup>30</sup>. These items responded to ongoing infrastructure challenges identified by both Police and service providers (including being identified in municipal assessments).

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<sup>30</sup> 25 thermometers, 1,000 bottles of hand sanitizer, mobile credit for 121 VPU members, 3 computers and related items, 1 Projector, 2 cameras, and office furniture.



### *Case Examples: JSMP*

*A woman with disabilities who experienced sexual violence recounted that she and her family agreed to solve the problem through traditional ways after they were approached by the family of defendant to give her US\$20 as compensation. However, after her case was referred to JSMP, she decided to bring her case to the court. This happened as JSMP explained the nature of her case and also explained about the benefits of using formal justice system.*

*With JSMP's support - A case of domestic violence was reported to the Police in Ermera; however, this was not investigated. After the case was referred to JSMP, they explained to the Police about the victim's rights under Penal Code Procedure. Based on this, the police immediately initiated investigations and the case was referred to the Public Prosecutor.*

To increase access to quality services, Spotlight Initiative, in partnership with a consortium of World Vision and the national CSO PRADET, and with the oversight and guidance of MSSSI, has designed a **new model for empowerment** and psychosocial support for girls and adolescents' survivors of violence and at risk. This new approach was piloted in Ermera municipality (with support from an international consultant) to address the gap of insufficient specialized survivor-centered services for adolescents outside of the capital. This service will combine prevention, response and long-term recovery. Consultation and mapping were done with local actors and the beneficiary group. This reached over 1,000 adolescents (522 boys and 527 girls).

A National Advocacy Workshop on Specialised Services was held in Q3 and involved government, civil society and marginalized groups.<sup>31</sup> To enable continuation and sustainability, a task force group led by MSSSI was established. The pilot involved 40 participants (10 girls in 4 groups) in 12 sessions (2 meetings per week). The focus of groups is to develop knowledge and skills in social emotional and life skills, sexual and reproductive health, gender-based violence prevention, financial literacy and career guidance. This pilot was completed in December 2021.

**Community level support was enabled** through a new municipal level grant mechanism to support initiatives that link the work of the Gender Working Group from municipal level and the NAP GBV obligations for service provision. This work will be implemented in 2022.

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<sup>31</sup> 30 participants from government and CSOs (18 women and 12 men, 2 from PwD, 2 from LGBTI community).



To **build community awareness on violence and its impacts, SRH and available services** 5,081 community members participated in events (2,162 females; 2919 males; 7% youth; 5% people with disabilities). These events were an opportunity to address information gaps in the community with less than 10% of participants indicating they had previously attended events within the last year.

Spotlight also **supported existing structures**, including the Child Protection Network of the Ermera municipality. This was achieved by coordinating with MSSI and other CSOs organizing the “Socialization of the Child Protection Referral Network” event in Suco Samalete and Suco Taraço, with the objective for strengthening the “referral network” in the community. 86 individuals, (42 females, 38 males, 4 girls, 2 boys) representing aldeia council members, teachers, students and communities participated during the socialization event.

To enable **Survivors to re-build their lives**, Spotlight supported training on financial and business skills. The first phase involved training of **98 beneficiaries** including the **20 new trainers** from IADE and CCITL/AEMTL, who will replicate the programme in the future, these were IADE and CCITL/AEMTL members from across the target municipalities – 63 females and 35 males. This is an innovative partnership, as IADE and CCITL/AEMTL, have not previously been directly involved in VAWG work but have a critical role to play in an integrated approach to EVAWG. Through strong collaboration across Spotlight partnerships, newer partners benefitted from EVAWG training from other partners.

#### Outcome 5: Data

The **need for quality, disaggregated and globally comparable data on VAWG became even more obvious during COVID crises and Natural hazards (April Floods) as well NAP GBV evaluation and development**. While Timor-Leste has nationally representative and globally comparable prevalence data through the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS)<sup>32</sup>, data on incidence which is generated through administrative data faces challenges of clarity, consistency in collection and processes to share between institutions, leading to difficulties to consolidate and analyze information to report on the NAP GBV and to track trends in times of crisis. There were some delays in progress in this Pillar: while technical support was enabled, consultants were not able to come into the country until Q4; difficulties convening meetings and trainings; key partners the GDS and SEII faced limitations in operations due to flood damage and COVID 19 exposures.

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<sup>32</sup> Nationally representative and globally comparable, based on global standards and guidance. Data on prevalence and perpetration is also available through a study by the Nabilan programme, based on WHO questionnaire. The consultants identified some issues with sampling in this study, but results remain very useful for Timor-Leste.

Consultants (contracted by two RUNOs) collaborated with facilitation of the Technical Unit and two new Junior Professionals (GDS staff)<sup>33</sup> on the ground for information gathering and training, which enhanced sustainability. Despite these challenges, this outcome moved forward, with more clarity on how data is collected and used, utilizing this information for training and interactions with key actors, and actions plans for data generation and use, particularly related to the NAP GBV.

Under, Spotlight directly engaged in **analysis of current data and how data could be better utilized for monitoring and decision making**. An analysis was conducted on the DHS<sup>34</sup> and key prevalence data for Timor-Leste. Some of the key findings are:

- A secondary analysis of the DHS Domestic Violence data showed that 17 % of women who had ever suffered from violence had also suffered an **injury**, such as bruises, dislocations, eye injuries, burns, broken bones or teeth.
- The analysis also showed that a woman was four times more likely to suffer an injury if the **husband had no education or never finished** primary school compared to husbands who had completed his education.
- Violence can occur in any household – regardless of the household’s socio-economic status. The prevalence of violence reduces as the economic status of the household increases.
- Also, women who have experienced sexual and physical violence, are more likely to be underweight.
- The evidence generated shows that EVAWG is not only an issue for achieving SDG 5 (Gender Equality), but also confirms that VAWG affects health, nutrition and education outcomes.

Based on this analysis two knowledge products (GBV & Health and GBV Risk Factors) were produced and utilized in training. This analysis will contribute to the development of the upcoming DHS, through technical support to the GDS through Spotlight and other UN relationships, thus enabling the DHS to give a more complete picture of violence and its impacts.

A questionnaire and interviews were utilized to **better understand current work on VAWG data as there have been challenges in receiving timely and relevant information** for reporting and programming.<sup>35</sup> This was conducted with reference to the NAP GBV and Spotlight indicators.

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<sup>33</sup> Adjustment to mechanism made when a suitable independent national consultant was not identified.

<sup>34</sup> Amongst key findings were data only covers the age group 15-49 and therefore prevalence data is not available for children under 15, or for nor for persons aged 50 and over; prevalence data is not disaggregated by disabilities

<sup>35</sup> In Q4 consultants were finally able to enter the country to gather and confirm information about current administrative data on VAWG.

Engagement with ministries and CSOs involved in implementing the NAP GBV will contribute to the development of the NAP GBV particularly in terms of monitoring and evaluation and training needs related to implementation of the new NAP. A key focus was looking at how monitoring information for the NAP GBV could be aligned to administrative data which is available through line ministries. Results indicated that line ministries were not familiar with reporting requirements and unsure of their role, information was not gathered and consolidated regularly, data systems were not interconnected, and ministries were not clear about policies to guide information sharing. For example, data collected by various organizations does not use consistent categorization of issues and may not regularly be reported, which means that trends and emerging issues cannot be tracked. There is also uncertainty regarding how to protect confidentiality and share information between institutions.

In consultations and training, support was expressed for a more coherent system.

*“Regular collection of quality data is important in not just Monitoring and Evaluation but also in ensuring decision are made based on evidence”*

Municipal President Ermera

A first phase of **Data Literacy Training** was delivered in Q3 and Q4 to key actors in the municipalities and Dili, led by national staff from GDS. The first phase was an opportunity for Spotlight to introduce concepts on data, definitions of VAWG and “Do No Harm” principles for collecting data on GBV before introducing the Gender Data Statistic. Training was well received, indicated that training was overdue and requested to be offered to non-Spotlight municipalities.

There were a total of 110 participants (94 females, 48 males) from government and CSOs. Further training is planned for 2022, and will cover practical issues of data entry, analysis and reporting as well as visits to CSOs and other government partners to build understanding of connections needed. This needs to be conducted before the process for the Census begins.

*“The Spotlight Initiative has given me the opportunity to transfer my knowledge to others and as a way for me to better build capacity as a learning journey”*

GDS Junior Professional Trainer

## Outcome 6: Women’s Movement

Case Example: 22 Member consortium under Pillar 6 Spotlight Initiative is removing barriers and promoting sustainable organization management for Ending Violence Against Women and Girls.



In six months, the consortium members have increased their knowledges and skills, via undergoing substantive learning exercises which consisted of peer learning at national and regional level, reflection workshops, virtual exposure visit, participatory action research, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning, Financial Management and Resource Mobilisation, and Organizational development. After six months, the 22 members can apply their learning internally and for the benefit of 1,915 beneficiaries. With grants from AJAR to each member, four organizations have developed internal regulations and monitoring and evaluation tools, 22 members have strengthened their staff and beneficiaries' knowledge on advocacy for Ending Violence Against Women and Girls, participatory action research and monitoring evaluation learning.

A consortium of 3 CSOs (Asia Justice and Rights (AJAR), Asosiasaun Chega! Ba Ita (ACbit) and the National NGO Forum (FONGTIL) implement Spotlight's largest partnership focused on **institutional and organizational development** to position local organizations to be better placed to access new funding and opportunities. The Consortium was launched in February by the EU Ambassador. The objective of the Consortium is to: (i) assess the achievements and gaps in approaches to end violence against women (ii) facilitate trainings, mentoring and virtual exposure visits; and (iii) establish a locally driven knowledge facility to produce manuals, case studies, short videos, best practice on programming on violence against women and girls. The consortium engages with 22 member organizations (10 national organizations and 12 municipally based organization in 7 municipalities which directly benefits 1,916 people in these organizations (1,160 females; 739 males; 5 people from LGBTI community; 5 people with disabilities; 7 people from grassroots organizations) which were selected through an assessment process.

To ensure relevance, the support began with a baseline assessment. The purpose of the baseline assessment was to 1) understand the context of VAWG in each of the municipalities (2) challenges that organizations face in reducing violence against women and girls (3) the type of work that the organizations are currently doing to reduce VAWG and (4) training needs identified by potential partner organizations. The Key findings were that all municipalities experience increasing cases of violence against women and girls (VAWG). They do have a coordination mechanism and those local authorities believed that the mechanisms work well. However, some NGOs noted that coordination could improve.

Following from this, specific training was provided on financial management, advocacy, strategies for women's empowerment, participatory action research (PAR), gender justice (training to provide information on how to change attitudes, behaviours, beliefs that occur in our society and as factor



contribute to violence against women and girls) and cultural transformation and organizational development. Virtual exposure trips were made to other EAWG actors in the region (Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and Fiji with 56 participants) and case studies will be available in Q1 2022. Organizations also receive mentoring outside of the training sessions. Throughout the activities there was a strong emphasis on reflection on how to strengthen practice and maintain the well-being of survivors and their allies, who can be impacted by vicarious traumatization.

Furthermore, locally driven knowledge has been documented through several knowledge products that have been produced: a “Body Mapping” toolkit (for well-being and to cope with trauma); PAR manual; the “Stone and flower Methodology” (an arts-based research method to explore memorialization, healing, advocacy and empowerment with the hope that survivors will use their products to encourage others), case studies and public audio-visual documentation<sup>36</sup> about the first 6 months of their activities. At the end of the year each member organization developed “Learning Innovation” activities to apply new information and skills in their community. The results of these will be seen in 2022. AJAR produced a 23-minute video to represent the work accomplished in the first six months of programming.

Examples of capacity building activities that members conducted in 2021 are:

- Training on participatory action research, a specific study on the impact of early marriage on young women and community level discussion
- Training on monitoring and evaluation for shelter staff
- Training on data analysis and how to use graphics in reporting
- Training on Human Resources Management
- Survey on public opinion on patriarchy cultural practices in lives and its impact on development for men and women in Dili that involved 300 participants (150 males and 150 females) with results to be shared in 2022
- Local workshops on Transforming Patriarchal Values into Equality in Village Aidabalet (53 participants: 35 females and 17 males) and Lauhate (32 participants: 24 females and 8 males)
- Training on how to write news and small articles for social media (involved 22 participants: 15 males and 7 females)
- Development of a gender equality policy for an organization
- Training on case referral mechanisms

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<sup>36</sup> <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1mhTbd4X7fFVw8LLFL85NHSJD9OV1hiMZ?usp=sharing>



- Training for DPOs on developing proposals, how to use Theory of Change, develop organization's profile, and develop monitoring and evaluation tools for 20 DPOs (9 males and 11 females).
- Training on trauma
- Training on suicide as part of 16 Days Campaign with 104 participants (49 females and 55 males)
- Emotional management for staff
- Training on PAR to gather information on the condition of women survivors of the past conflict and impact of COVID - 19 on their lives

Rede Feto, the women's umbrella network, with 46 member organizations, has been networking with members and others through a virtual EAWG Forum to identify key practices and challenges, (such as not all community members understand well the roles of service provider both at national and local level), working on EAWG (beneficiaries 2,026 people) and build collaboration between organizations working on gender equality, from both government and civil society. The Forum was launched by the Secretary of State in Q1.

Efforts have been made to connect to organizations less often involved in EAWG for example faith-based groups and organizations of people with disabilities. Supported by World Vision, Rede Feto convened 30 organizations to regularly participate in Forum activities. This also began with a capacity assessment in which 333 people were interviewed (199 females, 124 males, 5 people from the LGBTI community and 5 people with disabilities). Approximately 411 people have benefitted from the EAWG forum. The assessment indicated the need to standardise the training module for prevention and service providers, increased knowledge on legal frameworks, on referral and coordination mechanisms, greater coordination on case management and knowledge sharing and skill among service provider organizations.

A key area of engagement was to meet with local referral networks and marginalized groups (62 participants - 42 females, 18 males, with representatives from DPOs, LGBTI community, women survivors of violence in Bobonaro and Viqueque) to seek experiences and suggestions to strengthen services. Assessments and discussions in municipalities of focus were also an opportunity to engage with local media. Television and radio (10 Radio Talk Shows in 3 targets municipalities) were also used to communicate messages about the important role that civil society must play in EAWG.

### Additional area of work: Response to new crises

The COVID-19 pandemic and flooding in April required the programme and partners to re-programme to respond to new needs. The EUD and SEII were supportive in re-programming funds to respond. For both COVID - 19 and floods, after initial agreement to re-programme, it was found that the maximum amount of funding was not needed, due to RUNOs being able to access funds through other sources. Particularly during the flood response, Spotlight was able to assist with and highlight the needs of women and girls in a time of crisis. To support learning and strengthening of future responses, Spotlight supported a consultant to work with SEII to review the response and make policy suggestions for future. The report highlights the needs and priorities of the most vulnerable groups; and recommendations for action points, including the Gender Responsive Disaster Management System, Post Disaster Accomplishment and annual workplan including annual state budget and strengthening of the Gender and Protection Coordination mechanism.

In 2020, the UN and EU agreed to re-programming funds to respond to the emerging COVID - 19 pandemic. By the end of 2021, approximately USD 400,000 was reprogrammed: USD 107,313 for direct programmatic support through partners and USD 290,493 for staff time spent on COVID related programming. To respond to floods, USD 100,000 was re-programmed through 11 partners and encouraged and enabled partners to participate in response coordination mechanisms. Following this, when the Flood Response Plan was issued, the Spotlight Steering Committee indicated that an additional up to USD 540,000 could be reprogrammed based on Spotlight agencies' activities in the Flood Response Plan (note: not all Spotlight agencies were included in the Response Plan). A further USD 212,000 was then re-programmed.

A total of 4,022 beneficiaries were assisted<sup>37</sup>, representing 6% of the people targeted by the Gender and Protection Sector. An estimated 1.3 million people were indirect beneficiaries through advocacy and inclusion of VAWG response in humanitarian crises. Amongst the responses were:

- Several partners distributed food and non-food items
- Youth Parliament members and Alumni conducted peer-to-peer based sessions focused on life skills activities with 299 adolescents in 10 evacuation sites
- Ba Futuru conducted Mental Health and Psychosocial support (MHPSS) activities for children and parenting sessions for parents at evacuation centers and communities most affected by the floods

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<sup>37</sup> Including 1,284 women; 949 girls; 451 boys; 17 people with disabilities; 136 people from LGBTI community

- 69 volunteers were trained (29 females; 40 males – both CSOs and government) to be facilitators of Child friendly spaces in the communities most affected by the floods and COVID -19 in Dili. Unfortunately, these activities were delayed due to COVID restrictions, but started again in September 2021. This enabled activities for children and caregivers on structured play, recreation and leisure to support children’s mental health during times of crisis, and as such can have impacts beyond Spotlight, particularly in the context of increased risk of displacement due to climate change. By October 2021, 15 communities were involved with 1609 children (856 boys and 753 girls) participating.
- 60 members of the LGBTI community who were affected stayed at partner offices and were provided training and opportunity for discussion on LGBTI rights during this period.

### **Rights Holders (“Beneficiaries”)**

<b>Indicative numbers</b>	<b>Direct for 2021</b>	<b>Indirect for 2021</b>	<b>Comments / Explanations</b>
<b>Women (18 yrs. and above)</b>	<b>87,887</b>	<b>242,951</b>	Beyond the total number of direct beneficiaries - 208 members of LGBTI community were also reached in 2021.
<b>Girls (5-17)</b>	<b>16,236</b>	<b>238,942</b>	
<b>Men (18 yrs. and above)</b>	<b>94,072</b>	<b>245,676</b>	Total number of 322 PWDs are included in the total direct beneficiaries.
<b>Boys (5-17 yrs.)</b>	<b>15,667</b>	<b>246,843</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>213,862</b>	<b>974,412</b>	

### **Challenges and Mitigating Measures**

The primary challenges during the period were the result of COVID-19 and floods in April 2021. Staff and partners worked remotely or had work disrupted for almost six months of the year due to movement restrictions, limitations on gatherings and remote work, which was challenging due to poor internet connections. During an upswing in COVID 19 cases in March – May 2021, many

partner offices were impacted, with several offices closing due to the number of cases. Travel restrictions also had an impact on construction and the ability to fully utilize technical support, with several key consultants not being able to enter the country.

With several large projects supported through Spotlight, procurement processes were more complicated and timelines for construction and engaging consultants required to be longer than anticipated. Institutional changes in partner ministries, particularly the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports led to some activities being revised. Many of the partners struggled with providing the content needed for reporting, within agreed timelines. Internal approval processes within RUNOs also posed some challenges in terms of consolidating information from the participating agencies.

Budgeting for EVAWG was challenged due to several different entities being involved and differing practices. There was a gap in national technical support (limitations on available human resources capacity), which was beginning to be addressed at the end of the reporting period. Data on service provision and any changes in reports of violence were challenging for Spotlight to produce quickly, as at present the programme does not work directly with key service providers such as shelters. Front line service data needed to be requested through formal institutions (SEII, Police, Ministry of Health) which required time.

Despite the challenges mentioned above, for the Spotlight Initiative, delivery was a key focus and the staff focused on achieving a balance between ensuring coherence and that the implementation of activities was on track. Some Key Mitigation measures adopted by the programme are mentioned below (details in Annex B):

- Through partnerships with CSOs which have local networks many activities at municipal level could be continued during travel restrictions, demonstrating the key importance of working through local civil society.
- COVID-19 mitigation and response plans were developed with partners in the proposal development process. This included providing guidance on having COVID sensitive events as well as ensuring partner budgets included funds for PPE.
- Regular meetings of the Spotlight team and the Technical Unit with the RC, to discuss progress and the adaptations needed. The team also engaged with the CSNRG on this.
- Delivery mechanisms for some activities were adjusted, to enable delivery when planned mechanisms presented administrative challenges or a suitable partner or approval was not possible.

- Funds were shifted between activities and Pillars when it became clear that progress was not possible for certain activities (particularly from Pillar 5 Data, with additional funds being allocated to Pillar 1 on legislation where there were more opportunities).
- Time during restrictions was used for design and feedback for materials, and enabled partners to become more aware of use of appropriate language, images, and the importance of inclusivity in campaign materials and events.
- The Technical Unit engaged intensively in interpreting information from RUNOs, partners and consultants regarding findings and results and providing information into Spotlight processes
- The Programme Manager and Finance Specialist provided updates to the RC on plans for carry-over period, focusing on human resources available to support carry-over period.
- Re-recruitment of a national consultant for GRB.
- Coordination with others in EVAWG sector and SEII to check about trends in cases and encourage SEII to produce information responsively.

### **Lessons Learned and New Opportunities**

As mentioned, a joint office has provided numerous opportunities for interactions and a sense of team spirit. It is noted that there were no resources for this office identified in Phase 1 budget (meaning additional processes to request support from RUNOs to acquire equipment), and it is recommended that this is included in future Phases of Spotlight.

In this last year, the team in Timor-Leste learned to be more responsive and flexible in project implementation. The uncertainty and unpredictable changes have required the programme to find creative solutions to attain specific outcomes via different modalities, instead of postponing activities indefinitely. During COVID-19 movement limitations, Spotlight and partners implemented new ways of working (particularly online platforms for meetings) which were new to many partners, but adaptation was quick, and this will be important for the future. Government partners though continue to face challenges in accessing devices and enabling connectivity outside of the formal office environment, this will remain an area for continued focus.

Management of information about project activities and plans across agencies and partners presented some challenges. The Programme Manager and M & E Specialist took the lead on this, in collaboration with RCO, but ongoing follow up was needed to obtain information needed from RUNOs. This is an area for further investment in Phase 2, particularly as information about visibility and representational opportunities are important to the EUD and for the UN to demonstrate support to the programme, as most project activities are more than two hours away from the capital.





Bringing partners together is extremely valuable in providing a sense of a comprehensive programme. Due to movement and gathering restrictions this was not possible until Q4. These events also require a significant investment of time (an event organizer was hired to facilitate), and again here capacity within the team could be augmented, as Programme Officers are focused on delivery through activities and the Technical Unit has significant responsibilities in terms of management of AWP, compliance and provision of information to key decision makers (particularly RC, EUD and SEII).

More could be done on public campaigning particularly in terms of integrating messages and consolidation of communications which have been released. Much of this is done through social media, which is immediate, but needs ongoing consolidation. While there was identification in the Programme Document of contributions of RUNOs in this area, pressures on delivery and obtaining suitable staffing meant that this area did not have the resources which were anticipated.

During acceleration of implementation, it became clear that staffing as planned in the Programme Design was not sufficient particularly to provide support and monitoring to partners, in the relatively new and complicated area of EVAWG and with the amount of funding spent through CSOs. Several agencies augmented capacity (national positions) through savings and programme focused consultancies. The RCO provided additional capacity in M & E through a 30% contribution. These learnings will be integrated into Phase 2.

#### ***a) New Opportunities***

**Engagement with health care sector** – this sector has a key role to play, particularly as many victims do not initially present with concern of violence, while health care workers interact with key groups through basic health care (such as maternal and child health). Spotlight has a unique opportunity to capitalize on this through training, engagement with senior staff, and establishment of new service access points. It will be essential that these are integrated into referral networks at municipal level.

**Engagement with Parliament and policy makers** – as mentioned, there are opportunities which were not anticipated in the programme design (advice to key committees regarding several pieces of legislation and budget monitoring at Parliament level). Ongoing and timely communication with the RC and EUD will be important to manage this, as well as planning on how to support national structures to communicate and implement new legislation.

**Use of Ecological Model to integrate programming** – identification of programming connections within the model provided insights and support in key meetings in Q4. This seemed to resonate to demonstrate the programmes’ impacts and connections in a contextualized way, beyond the global results framework. This should be continued as a grounding framework for programming.

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

Storytelling is a traditional practice in Timor-Leste. It is a way for folk tales and cultural practices to be passed down from generation to generation. Another popular pastime is also watching soap operas. The Spotlight Initiative sought to bring these two together and use an extremely popular series (among youth) of edutainment (entertainment education) videos to help raise awareness on positive gender norms and respectful relationships, drive community engagement, and spur discussions that would help bring about community-led or nationally acceptable ways of preventing violence against women, girls and children.

It was envisaged that two episodes dealing with gender-equitable relationships, positive parenting, and violence prevention in the family would be developed, and trained ‘changemakers’ including youth and CSO representatives from communities themselves would help ensure the films are broadcast in organized community gatherings, and discussions organized in these remote communities will further spur discussions and positive actions to prevent gender-based violence. COVID-19 related restrictions made it more difficult to organize community screenings, driving a decision to broadcast relevant existing episodes and the new episodes on television to raise awareness and drive positive behaviour change.

To assess if the edutainment films broadcast on television were helping change perceptions, a Chatbot was developed to help audiences have an interactive experience, and in almost real time, contribute to participatory monitoring, provide an insight into the effectiveness in the films’ helping change perceptions, and provide information that would help improve similar interventions. It is an innovative method of information gathering in this setting. It is ongoing. The chatbot is built on the heavily used Whatsapp platform which is already familiar to people in Timor-Leste and does not require additional training. The innovative approach contributes to Pillar 3 of the SI in Timor-Leste, which focuses on prevention of violence. Both the two new episodes and the chatbot were officially launched in mid-December 2021 and are currently being rolled out, including during community engagements set for 2022. The goal of the chatbot is to have people participate in real-time feedback actions and contribute ideas on how to implement effective programming with a wide audience, that would, ultimately, lead to prevention of gender-based violence in all situations.

The target beneficiaries are all those who watch the Domin Nakloke series, either through TV, social media or community film screenings. The target beneficiaries are given sets of questions that were designed to gauge the audience's understanding of the SBCC key messages that the short films try to convey, and if the intended key messages can (in some ways) persuade the audience to change their attitudes and behaviors that hopefully will lead to a more gender equal society and help in the prevention of VAWG at homes and in communities. The target audiences are also encouraged to provide their ideas, suggestions or inputs on how the TV series programme can be improved in terms of contents and delivery methods. It also gathers information on age, sex and location. The Chatbot was developed on an existing platform that people use in everyday settings. The innovative nature of the Chatbot is that it is being used to track perceptions/ changes in perceptions in almost real-time as a tool for participatory monitoring and evaluation. The findings would help identify triggers that can be replicated, or fixed, to drive positive behaviour change.

#### Challenges:

- Developing sets of questions on issues of GBV that are locally contextualized and would not cause further harm. While certain questions can provide us with critical insights on the knowledge, attitudes and beliefs of the target audience, they may also trigger dark memories in people that were victimized in the past. A do no harm approach was utilized for the selection of the questions and similarly to the pre and post paper surveys, content warning is utilized in the beginning of the chatbot engagement.
- Digital divide among smartphone users. While more and more youth and adolescents have access to technologies like smartphones and other portable devices, they tend to be centralized in urban settings. In-person community engagement sessions will enable gathering of information and ideas from populations that may not always have access to digital media and sources.
- Getting more in-depth insights into the Knowledge, Attitudes and Behavior of the target audience. Identifying information points that need to be acquired can be long and cumbersome to certain people, particularly youths and adolescents. To alleviate this, multiple answer questions were the preferred method, compared to open-ended sets of questions. Nevertheless, according to the preliminary data that had been collected, there are findings indicating that the system is not as straightforward to the intended audience as we may have predicted. The questions and indications to users will be, therefore, revised.

In the long run, the Chatbot application can help work on GBV prevention to be more in tune with its intended audiences and contribute to more efficient and long-lasting initiatives that will help reduce GBV in communities. The technology is simple, available, customizable, and can be adapted to in-person, online and other settings like this one. One opportunity could be the use of this type of tool to help communities report instances of violence, have follow up actions/information, and get feedback.

## **Communications and Visibility**

### **Overview:**

In Timor-Leste, 2021 was Spotlight Initiative (SI) Country Programmes' second year. The Initiative was launched in January 2020 with a vision to 1) Raise awareness on violence against women and girls 2) Illustrate and promote the impact and results of the interventions supported by the Spotlight Initiative in Timor-Leste 3) Provide support for social and behaviour change communications 4) Ensure visibility of the Spotlight Initiative, its donors and partners at national and local levels, as well as at regional and global levels.

Two months after its inauguration, the first COVID-19 infection was diagnosed, and a State of Emergency (SoE) was declared. The SoE continued for almost two years. Domestic and international COVID-19 restrictions significantly affected implementation. The April 2021 floods further exacerbated the situation. The Spotlight Initiative reallocated USD 312,000 to flood relief, including the protection and support of women and children in evacuation centers and safe spaces. The Government and partners fully recognized the challenges and ensuing impact, on the one hand, but equally acknowledged programme achievements.

"While we have faced immense challenges due to limited movement, sanitary health fencing, lockdowns, and the recent floods, we have made significant progress at the same time", noted Her Excellency Secretary of State for Equality and Inclusion, Ms. Maria José da Fonseca Monteiro de Jesus. "Together with the United Nations, the European Union, and partners, I believe we will further improve our implementation in the coming period", she added.

Despite these hard times, communications and visibility activities jointly led, in the spirit of UN Reform, by the Communications Task Force, RUNOs, and partners have been significant elements of the Spotlight Initiative implementation in Timor-Leste since its inception. Promotional and outreach activities have leveraged a wide variety of tools, channels, and platforms, including IEC materials, social media, TV, radio, newspapers, and social influencers. Over 800,000 people were



reached through social media, events, meetings, TV, radio, and community mobilization. All RUNOS and partners extensively used the Spotlight branding on all visibility materials produced, including on posters, banners, videos and social media posts.

In 2021, the Spotlight Initiative strengthened virtual and in-person communication and visibility to ensure comprehensive and accessible visibility of the Spotlight messages in line with the Communications and Visibility Plan. During the reporting period, 17 events were organized, 06 campaigns designed and executed, 11 videos produced, 7 press releases issued, and 8 human interest stories were written and published on various platforms.

### **Messages:**

'Know your rights' – Via the socialization campaigns on the Law Against Domestic Violence, the Spotlight Initiative emphasized the importance of being aware of the rights that govern and protect you. These messages effectively advocate for the right to live free from violence and that everyone has the right to access services/justice. It also strengthened people's understanding of domestic violence. The monitoring of the campaigns indicated that 85% of participants regarded the campaign as valuable and relevant.

'EVAW is a whole-of-society effort'- In line with the Spotlight Initiative to address the underlying causes of violence against women and girls by using a multi-sectoral and intersectional approach across the pillars, the communication has aimed to highlight the commitment to EVAW in all areas, and at all levels, of society. Through visibility and communication efforts, the Spotlight Initiative has engaged everyone from community members to Members of Parliament in the Spotlight related activities and amplified their commitments to the cause.

'Do not be afraid to speak out (Labele Tauk Atu Koalia'Sai)' –The Spotlight Initiative through its partners, including KSTL, encourages victims of violence to speak about their experiences.

'Do not use culture as a reason to do violence against women (Labele Foti Kultura Hanesan Razaun Hodi Hamosu Violénsia)' - People misinterpret the cultural value for women, which should be a sign of respect but not the value of materials or money. The message was printed on various merchandise including water bottles and T-shirts.

### **Events:**

The Spotlight Initiative events, media coverage, and promotion have raised substantial awareness of the VAWG issues and raised the Initiative's profile. The following events were organized during 2020-21:



Signing ceremony with JSMP and ALFELA – In April 2021 agreements were signed with two prominent CSOs in Timor-Leste, JSMP and ALFELA, to prevent and respond to GBV. The grants enable ALFELA and JSMP to improve access to justice for survivors of GBV, the campaign against domestic violence in remote areas, and enhance cooperation with referral actors.

Seminar on the findings of the Gender Justice Baseline on GBV and the law – The Spotlight Initiative convened a seminar in May 2021 with the Spotlight Initiative Civil Society Reference Group to discuss the legal sphere's challenges and opportunities to end violence against women and girls in Timor-Leste.

COVID PPE handover ceremony with the Court of Appeal – The Initiative provided PPE to the Court of Appeal to make their services more accessible and safer to enable quality essential services for GBV survivors during the challenging COVID-19 pandemic. In total, the Court of Appeal received 25,000 face masks, 300 face shields, 250 bottles of hand sanitizers, 3,000 pairs of gloves, and 16 thermometers.

Workshop on Gender Equality and Social Inclusion in Ermera Municipality – One of the Spotlight Gender Specialists, in cooperation with the Director of Ermera Municipality Authority's Planning Agency, the Ministry of State Administration (MSA), the Secretary of State for Equality and Inclusion (SEII), the Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation Unit (UPMA), and PARTISIPA, organised a 3-day workshop on gender equality and social inclusion responsive budgeting for the 2022 Ermera Municipality Annual Action Plan.

COVID PPE handover to the Vulnerable Persons Unit of National Police (PNTL) – The Programme provided PEE, ICT equipment, and mobile phone credits to the VPU in response to the April flood and COVID-19 pandemic. The items helped facilitate the work of the VPU to continue to assist survivors of GBV and DV during the pandemic and recover from the flood that damaged key ICT infrastructure.

Participatory Budget Plan Review with the Municipal Authority of Bobonaro – One of the Spotlight Gender Specialist supported the Municipal Authority of Bobonaro to conduct, for the first time, a Participatory Budget Plan Review for 2022. The event was organised in collaboration with the Ministry of State Administration (MSA).

Public hearings on the draft Law for the Protection of Children and Youth in Danger – National Parliament, through the Spotlight support, began hosting public hearings on the draft Law for the Protection of Children and Youth in Danger. The law will be a key legal instrument to protect all Timorese children from violence, exploitation and abuse, and ensure their wellbeing.



Signing ceremony with the National Press Council of Timor-Leste – The Initiative signed an agreement with the Press Council of Timor-Leste to develop National Guidelines for Journalists and Reporters on Gender-Based Violence-Sensitive and Survivor-Centered Reporting.

Oranging the Cristo Rei – a joint event to kick-off the 16 Days of Activism with the lighting of one of Dili's key landmarks, the Cristo Rei statue. The event was attended by more than 200 people and included remarks from the President of Dili Municipality, a representative from the Secretary of State for Equality and Inclusion, the EU Ambassador, the UN Resident Coordinator, and the Spotlight Initiative representatives.

Gender Working Group training in Bobonaro – One of the Spotlight Gender Specialist facilitated a 2-day training to 40 Bobonaro Municipality Gender Working Group members with CSO partners JMSP and Alfela. The training focused on strengthening the GWG's knowledge of the formal justice system and capacity to prevent and respond to violence against women.

Youth Conversation for the International Human Rights Day – The Spotlight Initiative and Youth Conversation Initiative organised a social experiment in December 2021 to reflect on our different experiences and access to opportunities in life.

Do No Harm Workshop – In December 2021, the Initiative organized a 2-day workshop on the 'Do No Harm' approach in the justice system work in Timor-Leste. At the workshop, participants discussed the importance of a trauma-sensitive approach when working with GBV survivors.

'Voice Against Violence' – National Scouts organized the training under the Spotlight Initiative banner. Many young boys and girls who reside in rural areas still lack crucial information on GBV prevention.

Data Literacy Training – During the data literacy training conducted in Ermera, Bobonaro, Viqueque and Dili municipalities, the Initiative highlighted the role of data literacy to end gender-based violence in Timor-Leste. The training was held as part of activities to mark the 16 Days of Activism to end violence against women and girls.

Launch of the Domin Nakloke drama episodes – The Spotlight Initiative and its implementing partner, launched two new episodes (episode 5 and 6) of popular TV and Social Media series, #DominNakloke (Unlocked Love) in December 2021, which was jointly produced with NGO Ba Futuru/For the Future. The two new episodes aim to prevent VAWG at home by promoting positive parenting and respectful relationships among intimate partners.

Gender Entrepreneurship Training – A Training of Trainers (ToT) was organized in January 2021 by the Initiative to strengthen women's entrepreneurship in the country. High-level government

participation was seen at the event. His Excellency Joaquim Amaral, Minister of Economic Affairs, opened the event.

Signing of Agreement with Civil Service Commission – The Spotlight Initiative and Civil Service Commission signed implementation agreement at CSC Office in Dili in December 2021. The agreement will reinforce the dissemination of information on sexual harassment at workplaces.

### **Campaigns:**

In 2021, The Spotlight Initiative in Timor-Leste ran the following campaigns on the increased risk of violence against women and girls during COVID and floods:

Socialization campaigns on the Law Against Domestic Violence – Starting in July 2021 and ending in November 2021, the Spotlight Initiative, in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice and IOM, conducted a community mobilization campaign in 29 remote villages/sucos across the three target municipalities, totaling 922 participants (36% women). The campaigns highlighted the content of the Law Against Domestic Violence and the roles of community-level actors in preventing and responding to GBV.

Prevention awareness-raising campaigns by CSO partners – Through JSMP and ALFELA, the Initiative supported numerous awareness-raising campaigns to prevent VAWG. Access to information, and harmful stereotypes, remain a barrier to addressing VAWG in Timor-Leste.

Data literacy campaign – Data is often neglected as a critical component of ending GBV. The Spotlight Initiative engaged key stakeholders and actors to raise awareness of the need to ensure the right data on GBV is captured. The campaign's main areas were Ermera, Bobonaro, Viqueque and Dili municipalities during the 16 Days of Activism.

End Violence & Promote Healthy Relationship - Catholic Relief Services and SEII under the Spotlight Initiative engaged diverse key actors to end VAWG. Part of the 16 Days Campaign activity in Viqueque municipality, the church parish led the church's intervention in EVAWG by promoting healthy relationships between the community.

Community Mobilization on GBV, Theatre Performance and Long March - ARCOIRIS, Community Based Rehabilitation Network and Hametin Democracia Igualdade, under the Spotlight Initiative in collaboration with Ermera Municipal Administration office engaged over hundreds of local communities in one full day activities in Ermera, with a meeting, theatre performance and the long march to raise the awareness on the right of women and girls with disability and LGBTI community to live free from violence.

'Build a safe and healthy world free from violence and harassment' – The Spotlight Initiative and KSTL organised a long march in November 2021 from Bemori to Largo Lecidere to mark the 16 Days campaign on EVAWG. LGBTI marching band group led the long march.

### **Human Interest Stories:**

#### *Spotlight Initiative helps reduce violence at schools and homes in Timor-Leste*

The Spotlight Initiative worked with educational institutions, civil society organisations Alola Foundation and Mane ho Vizaun Foun (Men with a New Vision) and the Ministry of Education to run the Connect with Respect programme on preventing violence against women and girls. The Programme worked with 15 schools in three municipalities (Viqueque, Bobonaro and Ermera) of Timor-Leste, where teachers, students and parents were engaged to build and promote a healthy relationship in school, at home and in the community.

#### *Timor-Leste's marginalised LGBTI community lead front-line response to Cyclone Seroja*

Under the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative Programme, Arcoiris and CODIVA as partners provide more accessible assistance to survivors of gender-based violence. The work aims to ensure such services reinforce the rights of women and girls, embracing their sexual orientation and gender identity. This further reinforces the efforts of CODIVA and Arcoiris with their partners to reduce discrimination against members of the LGBTQI+ community and to create accessible support available to all, ensuring to leave no one behind.

*Expert's Take: Advocating for women and girls' right to education starts within our homes and communities, stretching to decision-makers.*

As persons with disabilities' right to education are more at risk of exclusion, we need to act decisively to ensure women and girls with disabilities have access to education and opportunity.

#### *Reaching women and girls displaced by floods in Timor-Leste*

The story highlights the Spotlight Initiative's gender-responsive relief efforts supporting interventions that reach vulnerable women and girls during the emergency. This includes distributing information materials and dignity kits, which provide hygiene items like sanitary napkins and toiletries to women in emergencies.

#### *Shining a Spotlight on women's rights in Timor-Leste*



This story received comprehensive coverage on UN OCHA's social media platforms, showcasing how the Spotlight Initiative is addressing the needs of women and girls in emergencies in Timor-Leste.

*Data literacy training is critical in ending gender-based violence*

This story highlighted the need to ensure that correct information related to GBV is captured to ensure the right policies and interventions necessary to end gender-based violence.

*Life-skills based education has a positive impact on flood-affected adolescents and youth*

To ensure young adolescents of Timor-Leste received support during the traumatic events of losing homes and belongings, and displacement owing to the floods in April 2021, the Spotlight Initiative collaborated with Alumni of the Youth Parliament of Timor-Leste to organize life-skill based education in the evacuation centres.

*Incorporating gender equality and violence prevention in the education curriculum*

The Spotlight Initiative supports the Government to transform student-learnings and, in turn, their attitudes towards social norms and harmful behaviours. At a school in Liquica Municipality, about a 40-minute drive from the capital Dili, 29 teachers gathered to discuss the Basic Education National Curriculum for Cycle 3 classes (Grades 7-9).

**Testimonials:**

"I am proud of the work done by the Government, the UN Agencies and the Civil Society Organisation during this first year of implementation of the Spotlight Initiative. Despite the difficult Covid19 times, many women, girls, boys, men and minority groups of society have been reached with information, training and services. GBV has not been eliminated yet, but the path has been set, and the European Union continues to be strongly committed to supporting gender equality and women's empowerment. I know it would be impossible to achieve this without the engagement and commitment of the Timor-Leste Government and Civil Society Organisations." H.E. Andrew Jacobs, EU Ambassador in Timor-Leste.

"When I first reported my case to the Police, I was scared and was not comfortable to talk to the Police because this is my first experience to be interviewed by the Police. I had the courage to talk after I met with the representative from Spotlight Initiative partner JSMP, who explained the role of Police and encouraged me to explain what happened to me. I am grateful for the assistance provided by Spotlight Initiative through JSMP." – Survivors of violence from Viqueque municipality who received support from JSMP



"To end GBV, all the efforts should begin from the families. Family is the first agent of change to end violence against women and girls in the community. Violence is never healthy for our society."  
– President of Dili Municipality during the 16 Days of Activism

"We are in the 21st century! We need to transform our mindset and treat women and girls with respect and equality." - Lino Moniz, Chief of Suco Irabin De Cima

"We grew up under a culture of fear, but now we know, we must report all violence against women and girls to the police." – Domingas Soares, Chief of Aldeia Haupo in Ermera

"I will not remain silent if I face people who sexually harass me or others." - Ursula Maria Filomena Viegas, Youth Parliament Member

"Before I attended the training, I helped on the domestic work when my sisters were not around, but after I attended the training, I tried to change my mind, so that even when my sisters are around, I still help them, as perhaps they are tired (...). Through my action in our family, my father's mindset is starting to change as well." - Aderito Faria da Silva Pinto, Youth Parliament Member

"Our suco/village has received excellent information and support from Spotlight Initiative through KSTL team who organised a social dialogue. I want to recommend that we also have equal rights as men. Men can enjoy life with support from women, and likewise, women can enjoy life with help from men. Both complement each other." - Marta da Cruz Soares, Suco Poetete, Aldeia Beluli, Ermera

"Women contribution in the family is huge, and all men should respect them. They do most of the work at home, work outside in public and private sectors, and are very vulnerable to violence and harassment at home and the workplace. If women experience violence and harassment at home or work, it will affect their productivity. I acknowledge and appreciate Spotlight Initiative efforts in raising public awareness to end violence and harassment in Timor-Leste." - Her Excellency Maria José da Fonseca Monteiro de Jesus, Secretary of State for Equality and Inclusion.

### Photos:

'Do-no harm' seminar – Participants who attended the 2-day seminar on adopting a 'do-no harm' in the justice sector. Photo credit: UNDP Timor-Leste





Spotlight Initiative Social Dialogue with community workers in Suco Railaco Leten. ILO and its partner organisation KSTL organised an advocacy event in Ermera Municipality on GBV and domestic violence in connection with promoting ILO Convention 190 on Eliminating Violence and Harassment. Local volunteer advocacy group reaffirm their commitment to say ‘Stop Violence’ in suco Railaco Leten. Photo Credit - Almerio Vila-Nova, KSTL President.



Socialisation campaign on the LADV – A participant in the socialisation campaign on the Law Against Domestic Violence in Ermera read the information pack provided. Photo credit: UNDP Timor-Leste

A partnership between Spotlight and the Press Council – UNDP Deputy Resident Representative Lazima Onta-Bhatta and President of the National Press Council, Virgílio da Silva Guterres, sign a Letter of Agreement to produce guidelines for survivor-centred reporting on gender-based violence. Photo credit: UNDP Timor-Leste







Gender Mainstreaming - EU-UN Spotlight Initiative, SEII conducted Gender Mainstreaming (GM) and Gender-Responsive Budgeting (GRB) training to Municipality line ministries in Viqueque. This initiative aims to raise awareness on the GM and use GRB tools to reflect the current state annual plan and review the 2022 state program planning and budgeting. Photo Credit: UN Women Timor-Leste

Promoting healthy relationships - UN Women's partner Catholic Relief Services (CRS) TL under EU-UN Spotlight Initiative engaging key actors from faith-based organisations to prevent violence against women and girls at home and at the community level by promoting healthy relationships. Photo Credit: UN Women Timor-Leste



Spotlight change-makers - Taking the step to end violence against the LGBTQI+ community, the children and youth from remote areas in Builale, in Viqueque municipality, are now the change-makers in their community after a dialogue on the road to acceptance of the LGBTQI+ community. EU-UN Spotlight Initiative's empowerment in Timor-Leste is reaching out to rural communities to leave no one behind. Photo Credit: UN Women Timor-Leste

**Videos<sup>38</sup>:**

- [\*\*An interview with Elvira Tavares, a PNTL VPU Officer in Bobonaro Municipality\*\*](#)

Alarming levels of violence against women remain overlooked in every country globally. It tends to be accepted as normal behaviour. Gender-based cultural discrimination against women allows the

<sup>38</sup> Click on the subheadings (in bold) to watch the videos

violence to perpetuate with impunity. Mana Elvira Tavares speaks about the role of the VPU and how they support survivors of violence.

- [Oranging the Cristo Rei](#)

To mark the start of the 16 days of Activism, the Spotlight Initiative lit up the Dili landmark, Cristo Rai, in orange to showcase the municipalities commitment to ending violence against women. On the closing day of the 16-day campaign, the Spotlight Initiative released the video of the event to reiterate the importance of the campaign and advocate for the rights of all women and girls to live a life free from violence.

- [Fighting for Human Rights requires our united efforts](#)

To mark the International Human Rights Day (December 10), UNDP, under the Spotlight Initiative and the Youth Engagement Initiative, conducted a social experience to reflect on access to opportunities and lived experiences in Timor-Leste. If we stand together, no one will be left behind.

- [Combatting GBV](#)

Since the beginning of 2021, partners AJAR and ACbit and FONGTIL under the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative have facilitated Consortium Learning Sessions to 22 NGOs in Timor-Leste committed to learning and improving the work to end violence against women and girls. Despite lockdowns and many challenges, they have created opportunities to learn from each other in the region.

- [Improving the work to end violence against women and girls - Uma Pas Baucau and Mane ho Vizaun Foun \(Men with New Vision\)](#)

Uma Pas Baucau (Baucau Shelter) participation in Consortium Learning provided by Spotlight Initiative through AJAR in collaboration with FONGTIL and ACBIT helped improve the work to end violence against women and girls.

- [Like Skills Based Education \(LSBE\)](#)

Spotlight Initiative programme partnered with Alumni of Youth Parliament of Timor-Leste held life-skill based education (LSBE) sessions in 10 evacuation centres for youth and adolescents who were affected by flood in April 2021. The objective is to help them develop skills such as self-awareness and how to cope with emotions and reflecting on gender roles.

- [Domin Nakloke series – Episode 5 - Darkness and Light / Nakukun – Naroman](#)

Violence against women and girls is deeply rooted in gender-based discrimination, social norms and gender stereotypes. Prevention should start early in life, by educating and working with young boys and girls promoting respectful relationships and gender equality.

- [Domin Nakloke series: Episode 6 - Family network/Rede Familia](#)

As parents, your role in our effort to eliminate violence against women and girls are very significant. You can start from your own home by disciplining your children in more positive way and not using violence. Because violence is never the solution, it is the problem. Episode 6 (Family Network) explores the ways in which parents can discipline their children in positive ways and how to provide care to children who had lost their biological parents due to natural hazards event.

- [How adolescents can help to prevent violence](#)

Adolescents have the potential to contribute to building stronger communities and advancing human rights. Yet too often, their valuable opinions are not always heard. Under the Spotlight Initiative in Timor-Leste, we are working to overcome this trend and give adolescents the voice and audiences they deserve and help drive action and advocacy to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls. Here is what some of Timor-Leste's adolescents had to say about how to prevent violence in your own life.

- [How to prevent violence at home](#)

Home should be a place of safety and security. A place free from any form of violence, where families can feel loved and protected. As part of the Spotlight Initiative in Timor-Leste, we spoke to some of those on the frontlines of addressing violence across the country, to hear how we all can work together to ensure every home is free from violence. Here is what they had to say.

## **Next Steps**

**Consolidating of gains at municipal level and tracking change:** placement of staff and volunteers in municipalities of focus has resulted in gains. These need to be supported to continue in 2022, particularly in the budgeting and planning process for 2023 (will start mid-year) and consultation on Phase 2 for Spotlight. Through campaigns and trainings, it is hoped that more people will come forward to seek help, and this will need to be tracked closely.

**Sustainability:** with many of the partners also engaged with other EVAWG programming, this will need to involve discussions with other programmes to confirm opportunities to build on programming

started during Spotlight Phase 1 (particularly prevention). Tools and learnings from Pillar 6 work can be a resource to civil society more generally, particularly in terms of enabling newer and smaller organizations to position themselves for funding opportunities and strengthening existing organizations, as many existing partners experienced issues with reporting through UN systems. New facilities (“safe spaces”) will need to receive technical support in terms of implementation of international standards and national policies and integration into existing referral networks.

**Development of human resources in the EVAWG sector:** The need for this was identified in the MTA, assessments, and experience of the Spotlight team. With the increase in funding and opportunities in this sector, this is a critical issue, and should be a priority for a potential Phase 2, with planning for this taking place in the carry-over period. Discussions have already started with other EVAWG programmes in Timor-Leste. In 2021, Spotlight found that all actors (civil society, government, institutions) were receptive to training. Assessments conducted in 2021 are a key foundation for this.

**Further review and integration of research and assessments produced in 2021** – the team will need to consider these in terms of the ongoing Spotlight programming and share with relevant actors, particularly in terms of the development of the new NAP GBV, ongoing training and policy development

**Consolidation of prevention messaging:** Due to delivery pressure and limited staff capacity, this was more difficult than envisaged in the programme design. Now that most activities are underway, it is hoped that there can be more focused collaboration in 2022, building on inter-agency collaboration and public feedback in 2021. For example, seven short - animated videos are planned for 2022, which can be an opportunity for consolidation of effective messaging.

**Contributions to new NAP GBV:** Experiences, assessments and research generated in Spotlight are relevant evidence for the new NAP, particularly as the process has experienced challenges in identifying human resources for evaluation. This would be of mutual benefit – providing the new NAP with relevant information and ensuring that Spotlight aligns its findings and plans with the key national framework for EVAWG.

**CSNRG:** Several discussions have been held with the CSNRG, and there is agreement that compensation is not required (other than phone credit), and that this would be detrimental to other programming. CSNRG members at municipal level clearly need compensation for local travel when they are monitoring activities. More attention will be paid to sharing findings of their monitoring and

enabling other members to observe programming (considering their availability, travel restrictions and conflict of interest with several members also working with Spotlight partner organizations). It is much appreciated that all members agreed to continue engagement during the carry-over period, indicating their interest and support for Spotlight.

**Adjustments based on election cycle:** The Presidential Election will take place in early 2022, with the potential for a second round. This will require adjustments particularly in terms of travel and events at local level.

**Ongoing analysis and planning for crises:** With the increase in COVID-19 due to Omicron, and the increasing risk of natural disasters, the programme will need to continue to monitor and adapt. The risk of natural disasters was identified as a finding in the MTA.

**Follow up on MTA findings and plan for potential Phase 2:** The MTA for Timor-Leste was finalized in early 2022, and indications are that Timor-Leste will be able to apply for a Phase 2. Findings will be integrated into the carry-over period and Phase 2 planning.

**Adjustments for human resources:** In the carry-over period there will be no M & E Specialist, and the Programme Manager/Technical Specialist role will be covered by a Detail Assignment through UN Women as the lead technical agency. The RCO's extra contribution of 30% of a staff position focused on M & E will also not continue into 2022. Adjustments will need to be made to meet requirements for planning, reporting and technical assistance.



## ANNEXES

### Annex A: Results Framework

1	<b>Annex A 2021</b>					
2						
3	Outcome 1 Summary table					
4	<b>Outcome Indicator</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Milestone 2021</b>	<b>Results for Reporting Period (2021)</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Reporting Notes</b>
5						
6		<b>Legal age of marriage</b>				
7		0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	
8		<b>Parental Authority in Marriage</b>				
9		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
10		<b>Parental Authority in Divorce</b>				
11		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
12		<b>Inheritance rights of Widows</b>				
13		0.50	0.50	0.50	0.00	
14		<b>Inheritance rights of Daughters</b>				
15		0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	
16	Indicator 1.1 Laws and policies on VAWG/HP in place that adequately respond to the rights of all women and girls, including exercise/access to SRHR, and are in line with international HR standards and treaty bodies' recommendations.	<b>Laws on Domestic Violence</b>				In 2021, While the Timor-Leste framework on GBV and discrimination has improved throughout the last decade, the Spotlight Initiative through a Gender Justice study identified legislation that was not adequately responding to the rights of survivors of GBV and children. To respond to these limitations, the Spotlight Initiative has developed concrete revisions in the Penal Code. The current draft of the Penal Code – awaiting submission includes: the creation of a new crime focused on sexual violence committed within a marriage (marital rape). Sexual exploitation of children would cover acts against anyone younger than 17 years old.
17		0.25	0.25	0.25	0.00	
18		<b>Laws on Rape</b>				
19		0.50	0.50	0.50	0.00	
20		<b>Laws on Sexual Harassment</b>				
21		0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	
22						

### Annex B: Risk Matrix

1	<b>ANNUAL REPORT - ANNEX B RISK MANAGEMENT REPORT</b>					
2						
3	Country : Timor-Leste					
4	Reporting Period: 01 January 2021 - 31 December 2021					
5	This version is based on Risk Matrix submitted in 2020 Report and provides update based on programming in 2021. Some adjustments to risk levels are proposed. Assumptions at the bottom have also been adjusted.					
6	Instructions: Kindly refer to the Risk Management Matrix in your approved Spotlight Country/Regional Programme Document to report in the below matrix on how your programme has managed all identified risks during the reporting period. Should new risks have arisen, please include them clearly in the Risk Management Matrix below, denoting [NEW RISK] and use this matrix moving forward. Please also update the section on 'Assumptions' as necessary.					
7	<b>Risk Assessment</b> (All text in the Risk Management Report: Arial 10 point, normal)		<b>Risk Monitoring:</b> How (and how often) did your programme monitor the risk(s) during the reporting period?		<b>Addressing the Risk:</b> Please include the mitigating and/or adaption measures taken during the reporting period.	<b>Responsible Person/Unit</b>
8	<b>Risk</b> Please include new risks, if any, denoting these with [New Risk]	<b>Likelihood:</b> Almost Certain - 5 Likely - 4 Possible - 3 Unlikely - 2 Rare - 1	<b>Impact:</b> Extreme - 5 Major - 4 Moderate - 3 Minor - 2 Insignificant - 1	<b>Periodicity</b>	<b>Source for monitoring</b>	



## Annex C: CSO Engagement Report

<b>ANNUAL REPORT - ANNEX C CSO ENGAGEMENT REPORT</b>											
Country Programme: TIMOR-LESTE											
Reporting Period: THIS IS A <b>CUMULATIVE REPORT</b> SINCE THE START OF THE SPOTLIGHT PROGRAMME UNTIL 31 DECEMBER 2021											
Total budget for Civil Society Reference Group's (CSRG) workplan since programme start		USD 29,675		<b>Submission deadline: 31 Jan 2022 (ahead of the Programme Report)</b>							
INSTRUCTIONS: Please include any award signed <u>since the start of the programme</u> (or done with the pre-funding). Record the full value of the award (all tranches included), <b>even if it extends beyond the reporting period.</b>											
Reminder that 30-50% of Spotlight Programme funds are to be delivered via CSOs. Of that funding to CSOs, 50-70% should be delivered via national, local and grassroots organisations.											
<b>New 2021 definitions BELOW the table.</b> To add a row under an Output, simply copy and paste an existing empty row.											
Name of Recipient (UN Organisation (RUNO) funding the CSO)	Outcome	Output	Name of Civil Society Organisation (CSO)	Type of CSO (important definition below table) (Please only use drop-down menu ONLY)	Primary Vulnerable/ Marginalised Population Supported by Award (important definition below table) (Please only use drop-down menu ONLY)	Modality of Engagement (important definition below table) (Please only use drop-down menu ONLY)	Total Award Amount (USD) (important definition below table)	Is the awarded CSO sub-granting or sub-contracting to other CSOs (or neither)? (important definition below table) (Please only use drop-down menu for this column)	What total percentage of this award is planned for sub-grantee CSOs?	What is the estimated planned number of sub-grantee CSOs?	What is the percentage of the Award that is going to core institutional support to CSOs? (important definition below table) (Please note that this is different from overhead costs)

## Annex D: Innovative, Promising or Good Practices Reporting Template

### Section A: Innovative, Promising and Good Practices

#### Guidance and Template on Innovative, Promising and Good Practices

As a **Demonstration Fund**, the Spotlight Initiative aims to demonstrate how a significant, concerted and comprehensive investment in ending violence against women and girls (EVAWG) and 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 innovative, promising and good practices, in the field of EVAWG and in the context of implementing a "new way of working", have the **potential for adaptability, sustainability, replicability and scale-up.**<sup>1</sup> This is both within the UN system and with various stakeholders to maximize the transformative potential of the Initiative. It is critical that these practices are documented and shared widely for uptake and continuous improvement to contribute to the evidence base and eliminate violence against women and girls.

This brief guidance and template ensures a common understanding of "**Innovative, Promising and Good Practices**" in the Spotlight Initiative. It provides a set of criteria to determine whether a practice is innovative, promising, or good, as well as a template for documentation. Please see the definitions just below / on the next page for further clarification.<sup>2</sup>

#### 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.

## Annex E: Annual Work Plan

ANNUAL WORKPLAN							
Agency Contribution (USD)	Y1-3	Approved Total Phase I (USD)			Narrative description of budget lines	Delivery Modality (select from drop down menu)	Notes for REVISED Budget and AWP
Agency Contribution (USD)	TOTAL Phase I AWP Plan	Revised Total Phase I (USD)	Total Spotlight Phase I (USD)	Agencies Contributions Phase I (USD)			
	51,370	51,370	51,370		Legal expert to support the government in revising the criminal law and penal procedures taking into consideration the gender mapping and include consideration to GBV and LEV	Payment to an Individual Consultant	
	62,500	62,500	62,500		LOA with Parliament to deploy a legal advisor to undertake advocacy efforts vis-à-vis members of Parliament to push forward the legislative revisions suggested as part of the national labour law review	Transfer to Government/Regional Body	
	11,130	11,130	11,130		Socialization of the study, including translation, printing and events	Other	
	49,000	49,000	49,000		LOA with Parliament to deploy legal advisors (2 - international and national) to undertake advocacy efforts vis-à-vis members of Parliament to push forward the legislative revisions suggested as part of the Spotlight Initiative	Transfer to Government/Regional Body	<b>New budget lines - reprogramming Pillar 5 to 1</b>
	20,000	20,000	20,000		LOA with Parliament to deploy legal advisors (2 - international and national) to undertake advocacy efforts vis-à-vis members of Parliament to push forward the legislative revisions suggested as part of the Spotlight Initiative	Transfer to Government/Regional Body	<b>New budget lines - reprogramming Pillar 5 to 1</b>
	56,500	56,500	43,500	13,000	Law, with a child rights perspective, and the development of amendments in other relevant legislation	Payment to an Individual Consultant	New line: UNICEF's support to the Parliament for the legislative process of the Child Protection Law was added in March 2021, with pre-facto non-objection from the RC.
	48,855	48,855	41,355	7,500	with a child rights perspective, and the development of amendments in other relevant legislation	Payment to an Individual Consultant	New line: UNICEF's support to the Parliament for the legislative process of the Child Protection Law was added in March 2021, with pre-facto non-objection from the RC.
	17,859	17,859	17,859		Contractual services to support the legislative process of the Child Protection Law, such as translation of documents and printing services	Other	New line: UNICEF's support to the Parliament for the legislative process of the Child Protection Law was added in March 2021, with pre-facto non-objection from the RC.
	31,646	31,646	31,646		Transfer to the National Parliament to support the legislative process of the Child Protection Law, including for the organization of consultations in municipalities.	Transfer to Government/Regional Body	New line: UNICEF's support to the Parliament for the legislative process of the Child Protection Law was added in March 2021, with pre-facto non-objection from the RC.
	2,740	2,740	2,740		process of the Child Protection Law, including for participating in consultations	Body	Protection Law was added in March 2021, with pre-facto non-objection from the RC.
	7,371	7,371	7,371		Other Direct costs related to the development of the Child Protection Law	Other	Protection Law was added in March 2021, with pre-facto non-objection from the RC.
	5,529	5,529	5,529		Travels to municipalities for consultations on the Child Protection Law	Other	Protection Law was added in March 2021, with pre-facto non-objection from the RC.
0	364,500	364,500	344,000	20,500			
	19,593	14,600	14,600		Expert: To review National Labour Law	Payment to an Individual Consultant	<b>Payment to Consultant cost \$8,625. Balance will be utilized for Implementation agreement with Government</b>
	50,108	54,847	54,847		Implementation Agreement with Secretariat of State for Vocational Training and Employment	Transfer to Government/Regional Body	<b>Grants under implementation agreement with Government-SEFOPE.</b>
	300	553	553		Production of Materials for the workshop, printing, banner, etc.	Other	
	1,300	0	0		Production of Printing Materials for the workshop, printing, banner, etc.	Other	
	3,700	5,000	5,000		Workshop for consultation on finding of the national labour law review	Other	
0	75,001	75,000	75,000	0			
<b>ative amendments to align Timorese legislation with international standards. This communications campaign will have three components: 1) field visits of MPs to meet with survivors</b>							
	10,000	10,000	10,000		1) Dignify a public debate on GBV and create the space for civil society to present proposals to Members of Parliament on EVAWG	Payment/Transfer to a CSO	<b>Change from Payment/Transfer to a CSO to direct implementation (commodities, materials, etc.)</b>
	28,000	28,000	28,000		LOA with Parliament to organize field trips for Members of Parliament to consult with communities and to organize 4 public consultations	Transfer to Government/Regional Body	<b>This also includes 2 national consultants</b>

