



Spotlight Initiative

ANNUAL NARRATIVE PROGRAMME REPORT

PROGRAMME TITLE: SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE VANUATU

PROGRAMME START DATE: 01 JANUARY 2020

REPORTING PERIOD: 01 JANUARY 2020 – 31 DECEMBER 2020



Programme Title & Programme Number	Priority regions/areas/localities for the programme
Spotlight Initiative Vanuatu MPTF Office Project Reference Number: ¹ 00119128	Vanuatu
Recipient Organization(s)	Key Partners
UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF, IOM	Associated UN Agencies/UN Programme Partners² UN WOMEN (Strategic Programme Partner) Government and commissions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Strategic Policy, Planning and Aid Coordination • Prime Minister’s Office • Ministry of Justice and Community Services • Ministry of Health • Ministry of Education and Training • National Disaster Management Office • Vanuatu Skills Partnership Programme • Ministry of Youth and Sport • Vanuatu National Statistics Office • National Human Rights Institute • Department of Labour • Judiciary – Office of Public Prosecutions • Police • Department of Women’s Affairs NGOs, CSOs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vanuatu Women’s Centre • Vanuatu National Council of Women • Vanuatu Family Health Association • Vanuatu Society for People with Disabilities • Wan Smol Bag • Vanuatu Council of Churches • National Youth Council • IPPF • Oxfam • World Vision • CARE International • Vpride • Vanuatu Red Cross Society • Save the Children
Programme Cost (US\$)	Programme Start and End Dates

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

² See Country Programme Development guidance for a definition of Associated UN Agencies/UN Programme Partners.



Total Phase I approved budget as per the Spotlight CPD/RPD: USD 3,962,330

**Phase I Spotlight funding:³ 2,475,000 USD
Agency Contribution: USD 310,042**

Spotlight Funding and Agency Contribution by Agency:

Name of RUNO	Spotlight Phase I (USD)	UN Agency Contributions (USD)
UNFPA	1,120,944	88,456
UNDP	624,725	62,586
UNICEF	440,840	141,000
IOM	288,491	18,000
TOTAL	2475,000	310,042

Phase 1: 1 January 2020 – 31 December 2021
Phase 2: 1 January – 31 December 2022

Start Date:
1 January 2020
End Date:
31 December 2022

Report Submitted By:

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³ 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

CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CP	Country Programme
CS-NRG	Civil Society – National Reference Group
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Government of Australia
DSPPAC	Department of Strategic Policy, Planning and Aid Coordination
DV	Domestic Violence
DWA	Department of Women’s Affairs (part of MJCS)
EU	European Union
EVAWG	Eliminating Violence Against Women and Girls
FBO	Faith-based organization
FLE	Family Life Education
FPA	Family Protection Act
GBV	Gender Based Violence
HR	Human Rights
IEC	Information Education and Communication
INGO	International Non-Government Organisation
IP	Implementing Partner
IPV	Intimate Partner Violence
KABP	Knowledge, Attitudes, Beliefs, Practices
KM	Knowledge Management
LGBTQI	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning and Intersex
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MFAT	New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
MICS	Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey
MJCS	Ministry of Justice and Community Services, Government of Vanuatu. Note DWA and SRBJS fall under the MJCS
MOET	Ministry of Education and Training, Government of Vanuatu
MOH	Ministry of Health, Government of Vanuatu
MoYS	Ministry of Youth and Sport, Government of Vanuatu
NGOs	Non-Government Organisation
NHRI	National Human Rights Institution
NSDP	Vanuatu National Sustainable Development Plan
NYC	National Youth Council
Pacific Women	Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development
Pacific Fund	Pacific Fund to End Violence Against Women
PCC	Pacific Council of Churches
PICT	Pacific Islands Countries and Territories
PIFS	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
PJSPV	Policing and Justice Support Program Vanuatu





PMO	Prime Minister's Office
RC	Resident Coordinator [of the UN agencies in Vanuatu]
RCO	Resident Coordinator's Office
REACH	Relationship Education about Choices and Healing
RRF	Regional Results Framework
RRRT	Regional Rights Resource Team
RUNO	Recipient UN Organization
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
SI	Spotlight Initiative
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
SPC	The Pacific Community
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children Fund
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
VAC	Violence Against Children
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
VCC	Vanuatu Christian Council
VFHA	Vanuatu Family Health Association
VNCW	Vanuatu National Council of Women
VNSO	Vanuatu National Statistics Office
VPride	VPride Foundation
VSPD	Vanuatu Society for People with Disability
VWC	Vanuatu Women's Centre, the main provider of support services to victims/survivors of violence in Vanuatu
WHO	World Health Organisation
WSB	Wan Smol Bag



Executive Summary

Key results featured in this report mostly include the set-up of the Spotlight Initiative country programme in Vanuatu, in line with programmatic and operational guidelines from the EU and UN, establishing key partnerships, and strengthening collaborative efforts in line with the principles of UN Reform and “leave no one behind” principle. During the reporting period, however, it is important to highlight that the timely implementation of the Programme was significantly affected by the global pandemic COVID-19 and the landfall of Category 5 Tropical Cyclone Harold, which contributed to delays in programme set-up and implementation, requiring collective action in revisiting the country programme document and planned action, in liaison with the programme’s key stakeholders: Government, Civil Society and the European Union (EU) Delegation for the Pacific. In addition, uncertainties around the operation of the Ministry of Justice and Community Services further add to the challenges, and will require close monitoring and ongoing discussion with Government and Civil Society partners in order to ensure risk mitigation measures are in place and take action on relevant changes to the programme implementation.

Despite the challenging and uncertain context of operation in 2020, through close inter-agency coordination and timely technical coherence discussions, COVID-19 considerations were integrated into the 2020 Annual Work Plan and a COVID-19 response plan was developed, in consultation with national stakeholders and the EU Delegation. These actions facilitated the definition of key steps in the establishment of programme partnerships, developing work plans and defining agreements with counterparts to advance implementation. As a result of these joint efforts, during the first year period, the necessary adjustments to the implementation strategy were made by identifying gaps and opportunities to address immediate and long-term impacts of COVID-19 as it pertains to the programme and operations, adjusting time frame of planned activities and addressing programmatic and budgetary changes as applicable.

Spotlight Initiative has continued efforts to set up the necessary governance arrangements to ensure a strong foundation for ownership and sustainability in Vanuatu. In 2020 a Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee was established, co-chaired by the Director General of the Office of the Prime Minister and the UN Resident Coordinator. The membership includes participating national organizations such as Ministry of Education and Training, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Justice and Community Services, Department of Women’s Affairs, Ministry of Health, Civil Society reference group representatives, European Union and Recipient UN Organizations. UN Women is strategic partner to ensure complementarity and collaboration with the EU-funded Pacific Partnership Programme to end





Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). In addition to this, after an open call and a selection process in close engagement of the interim civil society reference group members, a Civil Society National Reference Group (CS-NRG) for the Vanuatu Country Programme was established in 2020. The CSNRG membership consists of prominent advocates for human rights, gender equality and justice in Vanuatu, also including representation from diverse communities and constituencies. The CSNRG represents a strong pool of localized knowledge to ensure successful implementation of the Spotlight Initiative. Continued close collaboration with the CSNRG is of strategic importance to advance implementation of Spotlight Initiative, recognizing civil society expertise and leadership in these efforts to end VAWG. Spotlight will continue to leverage on the advice and perspectives of civil society on current ending Violence Against Women and Girls issues where advocacy, leadership and support to civil society advocacy efforts is necessary. The Initiative will also strive to foster a relationship of mutual communications, sharing and learning.

Engagement with Government and Civil Society representatives, as well as the European Union Delegation, has been ongoing during the reporting period, facilitating the establishment of diverse programme partnerships and, development of participatory work plans, defining agreements, and advancing implementation. Some examples of joint work that the Spotlight Initiative conducted with these partners in 2020 included:

The partnership with the **Ministry of Health (MOH)** is strategic to strengthen and standardize the health service sector response to Violence Against Women and Girls, building on pre-existing partnerships and local ownership. Together with the **Ministry of Education and Training (MOET)**, Spotlight aims to expand Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE), also known as Family Life Education (FLE) in Vanuatu, expanding prevention efforts in school and out of school settings, and addressing the different ways the gender norms can influence inequality, and how these inequalities can affect the overall health and well-being of children and young people. In close collaboration with **Ministry of Climate Change Adaptation (MCCA) and National Disaster Management Office (NDMO)**, the Initiative will focus support on strengthening the institutional capacity of the NDMO to integrate GBV risk mitigation, prevention and response interventions for emergency responses. Throughout the implementation Spotlight will engage closely with the **Ministry of Internal Affairs (MoIA)** as a strategic partner, given its important role in oversight and engagement with key Government Departments, the police, local authorities, and civil society organization. The partnership with the **Department of Labour (DoL)**, is strategic to advance prevention efforts, with special attention on seasonal workers involved in Pacific Labour Mobility schemes. The partnership with **Ministry of Justice and Community Services (MoJCS)** aims to strengthen online and offline platforms for prevention of violence, among adolescents and youth; it also contributes to the review and development of



legislation and policies on GBV response and prevention, including the development of a “Victims’ Charter”; and is strategic to advance efforts on strengthening quality referral services for survivors, through the work with Magistrates and the Victim Support Office of Public Prosecutor’s Office. Spotlight has also partnered with the **Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS)**, to strengthen community platforms for prevention of violence, among community leadership, women, men, youth and children. The **Pacific Community (SPC)** has well established network and working relationship with the Vanuatu National Statistics Office, the Department of Women’s Affairs and the Vanuatu Women’s Crisis Centre and is a long standing partner of the UN in advancing action in violence against women prevalence data collection, analysis and use. Together with the **International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)**, is strategic to ensure strengthened prevention efforts in Vanuatu, promoting gender-equitable norms, attitudes, and behaviors, including on Comprehensive Sexuality Education through out-of-school CSE/FLE training, and to strengthen community level health response to GBV. Through the national member association of IPPF, **Vanuatu Family Health Association (VFHA)**, it is expected that village health workers will benefit from increased capacity to support survivors of violence, strengthening service provision, with special attention on remote and rural areas of Vanuatu. The partnership with the **University of Melbourne (UoM)** will be supporting the Pacific Community (SPC) with various components of technical expertise on data, and particularly in relation to multi sectoral administrative data collection and analysis on different forms of VAWG, which will be used to improve planning and budgeting for laws, policies and programmes. Lastly, through the small grant’s mechanism, Spotlight Initiative will expand partnership with a diversity of local **civil society partners, including grassroot organizations** that are leading intersectional work at community level, to advance efforts for prevention and response to Violence Against Women and Girls.

In 2020, the Initiative galvanized increased political will in the country to address Violence Against Women and Girls. Key events included the high-level launch of the Vanuatu Country Programme on the 26th of October 2020 in Port Vila, with opening remarks by the Prime Minister of Vanuatu, Hon. Bob Loughman. During the reporting, the Initiative has set up the mechanisms for increased focus on supporting small, grassroots organizations that lead important work at local and national level; advanced efforts to integrate Gender Based Violence (GBV) prevention and response considerations in important sectors as part of institutional capacity strengthen and standalone prevention efforts; and contributed to important social norm shifts at community level. Key highlights of the progress made towards the implementation of all pillars under the Spotlight Initiative Regional Programme are the following:

Pillar One (Laws and policies):



During the reporting period, based on ongoing discussions with Government partners and considering contextual shifts, activities under this Pillar were postponed for the start of 2021. Overall, actions under this outcome focus on support to Ministry of Justice and Community Services (MJCS) to coordinate with relevant ministries, agencies and civil society for the review and development of legislation and policies on GBV response and Prevention.

Pillar two (Institutions): The Spotlight Initiative has advanced efforts to integrate prevention and response measures to address Gender Based Violence in important sectors and coordination structures. Concrete examples include the close work with the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) to integrate VAWG considerations in emergency planning and response efforts.

Under Pillar three (Prevention): In partnership with the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MOYS), the Initiative supported the development of a framework and national strategy for the scale up of community dialogues on ending violence, promoting gender-equitable, child friendly and violence free norms, attitudes, and behaviors. In close collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Training (MOET) and civil society partners (IPPF/VFHA), Spotlight led advocacy and preparatory action to strengthen in-school Family Life Education (FLE) delivery in Vanuatu, to generate an opportunity for young people to re-evaluate their behaviors and attitudes to shift gender inequitable social norms. The Initiative has also supported key actions to increase the evidence base of knowledge, attitudes and practices related to family violence, supporting both a training of enumerators and a Knowledge Attitudes and Practices (KAP) survey across five islands. Lastly, in close collaboration with Department of Labour (DoL), important work is advancing through Spotlight Initiative to strengthen seasonal workers programmes, including trainings, with a stronger emphasis on gender equality and EVAWG.

Pillar four (Services): To strengthen health system response to Gender Based Violence, Spotlight has advanced efforts to support the Ministry of Health (MOH) to lead the development of GBV guidelines and protocols for safe and effective response to survivors of violence.

Pillar five (Data): The Initiative progressed strategic planning in close collaboration with the Pacific Community (SPC) and University of Melbourne, leading to the development of work plans that better respond to the changing context linked to COVID-19 and to support the localization of the kNOwVAWdata initiative in the Pacific.

Pillar six (Civil Society): Spotlight Initiative established a small grants mechanism for emerging and national, local and grass roots civil society actors that prevent or respond to violence and that identify with the women's movement (accompaniment, case management, outreach and education), or work across different sectors.

Spotlight Initiative is promoting a new way of working together which is collaborative and coherent to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In line with UN Reform and under the overall leadership of the Resident Coordinator, the coordination measures set up



during the first year of implementation have facilitated ongoing interagency coordination, cohesive programme management, and technical coherence, all of which will allow the programme to operate more flexibly and efficiently in order to achieve transformative results.

Contextual Shifts and Implementation Status

Significant shifts or new developments in the broader social, political, or economic context: During the reporting period in 2020, in the midst of the COVID-19 emergency, a category five Tropical Cyclone made landfall in Vanuatu on the 6th of April 2020, displacing over 18,000 people and affecting more than half of the country's population. Due to its path being across the center of Vanuatu, Tropical Cyclone Harold directly impacted on a large number of populated islands. In Vanuatu, the Government, including respective Ministries, and key partners had to swiftly shift focus to respond to the effects of the Tropical Cyclone. While the focus shifted to recovery phase, with elements of preparedness, the direct impact of the Tropical Cyclone and the implications of the global pandemic COVID-19, imposed programmatic and operational challenges, as well as the shift in focus of key stakeholders and partners, generating setbacks for a timely programme set up and initial delays in the start of implementation. Despite initial delays in implementation, Spotlight partners have been able to re-engage partners to advance delivery of the programme, with special attention on community-based components in areas severely impacted by the Tropical Cyclone, and accelerating implementation. A concrete example is the engagement of local youth volunteers, through youth networks of the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS), who were mobilized for emergency response and have later on been oriented on the community based child protection programme components supported by Spotlight Initiative in the Northern Island of Espiritu Santa, which was severely impacted by Tropical Cyclone Harold.

In Vanuatu, women carry the prime responsibility to ensure that the family has food, they are also the primary care givers for children, the elderly and persons with disability who, if displaced, are at increased risk of health and protection issues. Maternal and sexual reproductive health (SRH) needs continue in an emergency but can be overlooked or deprioritized. Women are also responsible for caring for children especially in response to the COVID-19, in view of school closures and the extra burden it entails to women's already considerable workloads. Vanuatu already has a high rate of intimate partner/family violence, and women have experienced increased risks to gender-based violence due to the stress caused by the Tropical Cyclone and COVID-19 short term and long-term implications. Women and people with a disability in Vanuatu are generally excluded from household or community decision making which compromises the



quality of a response to the effects of the Tropical Cyclone as decisions may not be mindful of the different needs of the different groups in society especially women, girls, people with a disability.

On the political context, the decision by Council of Ministers during its meeting on 15th October 2020 to endorse the removal of the Ministry of Justice and Community Services (MJCS) in order to create a new Ministry of Fisheries, Ocean and Maritime has put much of the Spotlight Initiative programming in Vanuatu in an insecure status. According to the Vanuatu Constitution, the Government can only have thirteen ministries. Thus, to establish the new Ministry, one of the existing ministries must be removed and its portfolios will be reallocated to another ministry. To date, the Government of Vanuatu has not advised where the justice, community services and other portfolios from the MJCS will be housed. The ongoing discussions concerning the Ministry of Justice and Community Services has had a significant impact on the programme implementation, since it is one of the Spotlight Initiative lead and strategic partners, and although the work has progressed, there is insecurity over how this will be progressed. Given the situation, the Spotlight Initiative RUNOs particularly engaged with the MJCS are trying to advance implementation, and discussions within the context of the Vanuatu Spotlight Initiative Steering Committee which is co-chaired by the Prime Minister's Office with membership of diverse Ministries, UN agencies, and civil society.

Positive developments are also noted, however, such as the re-establishment of Labour Mobility Schemes between Australian and New Zealand Governments and Vanuatu. This diplomatic and economic partnership is highly regarded at all levels and has received great visibility, as it supports advocacy and education objectives in the realm of prevention efforts under Spotlight. Other strategic opportunities linked to contextual shifts in Vanuatu have resulted from the Government decision to eliminate third-party seasonal worker agents and actions to nationalize the process. Although unexpected, the change presents unique opportunities to strengthen commitments and action in line with the integration of GBV prevention and response measures and standards, strengthening stakeholder relationships and accountability mechanisms.

During the reporting period, it has also been encouraging to see three major shifts and indications of broader transformations across the initiative in the areas of increased reaffirmation of political will in the region to address violence against women and girls. One example is the commemoration of the one-year anniversary of the ICPD25 Nairobi Summit, the United Nations and Her Royal High Princess Agenlika Tukoáho, Patron for ICPD25 in the Pacific, co-hosted a virtual high level panel discussion on 12 November 2020, with leaders from the Pacific reaffirming commitments made at the Nairobi Summit, and sharing the progress of those





commitments in their respective countries. High level representatives included ministers from the Federated States of Micronesia, Tonga, Samoa, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu, who were joined by representatives from the Pasifika ICPD25 Youth network. This virtual event raised the visibility and the centrality of the ICPD25 commitments of nations to the health and wellbeing of their citizens across the Pacific, creating a momentum upon which key activities implemented under the Spotlight Initiative can rely.

Effects of COVID-19 on the context of work: The global pandemic of COVID-19 presents a range of unprecedented challenges and contextual shifts, impacting livelihoods and the overall socio-economic status of the population of Vanuatu, increasing risk factors for gender-based violence. Since the border closure in March 2020 and COVID-19 related travel restrictions in place, the number of domestic violence cases in Vanuatu has surged and almost tripled compared to the average reports for previous years. Due to the large unemployment numbers, women have not only had to cope with job loss but the abuse that followed from losing their job straight after. The number of reported child protection cases in Vanuatu has also dramatically increased during the year 2020 as compared to previous years. The pandemic of COVID-19 effectively narrowed the focus of work of all Government and Civil Society partners to prevention and containment efforts. Measuring violence is a sensitive endeavor under any circumstance, especially so in the context of the COVID-19 global pandemic. While a clearer view of the toll of the COVID-19 pandemic is only beginning to take shape and more analysis is needed to understand the cases reported, these projections offer an alarming view of the vast consequences for the rights and health of women and girls, and the urgent need to prioritize their welfare and ensure their rights. In this context of work, the timely development of work plans and implementation of activities under Spotlight Initiative became increasingly difficult for partners to prioritize, specially so for the Ministry of Health which has been completely subsumed by COVID-19 efforts. Another concrete example is the suspension of the Labour Mobility Scheme, which lasted for a significant duration of the reporting period and was only re-established in September 2020 by the Government of Australia and Vanuatu, affecting the timely implementation of Spotlight Initiative activities.

Despite these challenges and setbacks, COVID-19 considerations were integrated into the activities by RUNOs under Spotlight Initiative. The Initiative has been able to re-assess programming to ensure that national activities integrate considerations related to the impact of COVID-19 in the context of Vanuatu. A COVID-19 response plan was developed and discussed with the EU Delegation, and COVID-19 considerations were integrated into the 2020 Annual Work Plan developed in consultation with national stakeholders and civil society partners. COVID-19 lessons learned and ongoing impacts, especially the social and economic impacts





unique to the Vanuatu country context, will be centered in almost all aspects of programming in 2021.

In addition to this, a range of key positive outcomes included the development of a range of best practices and guidelines for COVID19 response and containment efforts at a national and regional level, which resulted from ongoing collaborations across UN agencies and Civil Society actors. While these efforts are not specific deliverables under the Spotlight Initiative, the work and demand for the work created political space in countries to advocate, scale up or priorities Spotlight Initiative activities. For example, in Vanuatu, UN agencies supported a review of the National Gender Equality Policy which is aimed at continuing national efforts to achieve gender equality in Vanuatu. Further, in view of the socio-economic short term and long term impact of COVID-19, there are emerging opportunities linked to the recommencement of Pacific labor mobility schemes which represent an important economic stimulant for ni-Vanuatu households, making them a valuable avenue for GBV prevention among seasonal workers.

Spotlight Initiative Response and COVID-19 considerations: The changing context in Vanuatu with regards to COVID-19 and Tropical Cyclone Harold, and the focus of partners in addressing immediate crisis management, required swift action to develop a COVID-19 response plan and ensure COVID-19 considerations are taken into account the implementation of planned activities. In the context of the Vanuatu Spotlight Initiative Country Programme, through close coordination with Government and Civil Society partners, this has implied revisiting the approach, modality of delivery or focus of activities previously planned in line with the initial programme document and theory of change. Through these adjustments and considerations, which were also closely discussed with the European Union Delegation, Spotlight Initiative is now better positioned to respond to COVID-19 short term and long-term implications in relation to violence against women and girls, and to accelerate implementation. In addition, while further assessments of the impact of COVID-19 and Violence Against Women and Girls in the context of Vanuatu are lacking, Spotlight Initiative continues to drive deep dive technical discussions under Pillar five on data, and contributing to ongoing discussions on the socio-economic impact assessments related to COVID-19.

The Prime Minister of Vanuatu officially launched the Spotlight Initiative in Vanuatu, reaffirming political will and commitment to prevent and eliminate all forms of gender based violence and discrimination against women, children and vulnerable groups as a part of Vanuatu's national efforts in line with the Sustainable Development Goal. In terms of government engagement in the adaption process, Spotlight Initiative has sustained strong working relationship with key Government stakeholders for the implementation of the Spotlight Initiative, ensuring



complementarity and technical coherence with their respective priority areas and emergency response efforts. Other examples include the close engagement of Spotlight Initiative partners in the Vanuatu Labour Mobility Workers Support Working Group, which is chaired by the Department of Labour and convenes a diverse array of partners, facilitating support for Gender Based Violence and Gender-responsiveness of the Pacific labour mobility scheme. In addition, the partnership and ongoing collaboration with the Ministry of Health presents a unique opportunity to advance the development of guidelines and protocols to safely and effectively respond to survivors of violence while leveraging the expertise and outreach of the Vanuatu Family Health Association (VFHA) in delivering and utilising the guidelines through community level services.

The 2020 Annual Work Plans and related COVID-19 considerations or adjustments were closely discussed and planned with both Government and Civil Society partners, and then further reflected on during the first multi-stakeholder Steering Committee meeting. The first meetings with the Spotlight Civil Society National Reference Group was also crucial to ensure strengthened cohesion and increased support to civil society efforts across all outcome efforts, through open conversation and discussion on the planned activities by Pillar. The Civil Society National Reference Group includes prominent advocates for human rights, gender equality and justice in Vanuatu, representing diverse perspectives and a strong pool of localized knowledge to ensure successful implementation of Spotlight Initiative. Efforts to strengthen this strategic engagement between the United Nations and civil society will continue during course of the implementation of the programme, to ultimately strengthen support to civil society. In terms of some of the established partnerships with civil society through Spotlight Initiative, the partnership with the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), and its member association the Vanuatu Family Health Association (VFHA), will provide a foundation for scale up of community engagement activities, with focus on sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence response services.

Programmes implementation status: Despite these challenges and setbacks, under the overall strategic oversight of the Resident Coordinator, close collaboration with strategic partners and among UN agencies engaged as Recipient United Nations Organizations (RUNOs), the Vanuatu Country Programme for Spotlight Initiative remains on track with workplans established and implementation underway during the reporting period.

Programme Governance and Coordination

a) National Steering Committee





The Multi-Stakeholder Programme Steering Committee is a governance arrangement for the Spotlight Initiative Country Programme in Vanuatu, providing overall strategic high-level management and coordination decisions related to the implementation of the programme. The meetings also present an opportunity to share information on policy and legal decisions pertinent to efforts to end Violence Against Women and Girls in Vanuatu. The Steering Committee is Co-Chaired by the United Nations Resident Coordinator and the Director General of the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Vanuatu, to ensure alignment with Vanuatu's national priorities described in the National Sustainable Development Plan. The Committee includes core members engaged in the implementation of the Spotlight Initiative Vanuatu Country Programme, and strategic partners. The Steering Committee members include the UN Resident Coordinator, the Vanuatu Government partners such as the Ministry of Education and Training, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Justice and Community Services, Department of Women's Affairs, Ministry of Health, Civil Society reference group representatives, European Union and Recipient UN Organizations UNFPA, UNDP, IOM, and UNICEF. UN Women is strategic partner to ensure complementarity and collaboration with the EU-funded Pacific Partnership Programme to end Violence Against Women and Girls. A minimum of 20% representation of civil society with a strong track record of working on EVAWG will be nominated from the National Civil Society Reference Group as full voting members in the steering committee. The decision-making process is based on consensus. Other stakeholders and strategic partners may be invited to participate in planning, deliberation, and monitoring roles of the Committee. The secretariat to the Steering Committee is the RCO Spotlight Coordination team, consisting of a Spotlight Initiative Coordinator, M&E Officer and Communications Officer. The secretariat responsibilities are undertaken working closely with the Technical Coherence Lead (UNFPA) and Recipient United Nations Organizations. The Steering Committee met only once during the reporting period, due to challenges linked to contextual shifts and initial delays in programme set up. At its first meeting, the Steering Committee members were able to collectively reflect on the key highlights, challenges and next steps related to ongoing implementation, from both a technical coherence and coordination perspective. On behalf of all RUNOs, the Spotlight technical coherence lead provided an overarching presentation for each Pillar of Spotlight Initiative, facilitating a clear overview of the work plan activities, highlighting key achievements and next steps. The Spotlight Coordinator provided broader updates on the overall status of governance arrangements, overview of the monitoring and evaluation mechanism in place, communications and fund management updates. The Steering Committee members were able to jointly discuss and identify strategic opportunities to governing the Spotlight Initiative. On moving forward, emphasis was made on the need for continued technical discussions with regard to the Spotlight Initiative areas of work, looking into how the implementation is consistently framed and integrated into the local context of Vanuatu and with



regard to existing efforts of other initiatives in country on the issue of Violence Against Women and Girls.

b) Civil Society National Reference Group (CSNRG)

The Vanuatu Interim Civil Society National Reference Group (CSNRG) was formed during the consultation period for the design of the Country Programme Document, providing significant input to the final version approved. Due to the emerging challenges linked to COVID-19 and Tropical Cyclone Harold, and delays in the programme set up with necessary capacity in place for coordination, there were initial challenges to sustain active engagement and communication with the Interim Civil Society National Reference Group. During the reporting period, actions were taken to address initial communication gaps with the Interim Civil Society National Reference Group, leading to close collaboration to advance next steps for the setup of a formal Civil Society National Reference Group for the Vanuatu Country Programme and preparations for the launch of Spotlight Initiative in Vanuatu. A selection committee was formed in July, consisting of representatives from interim Civil Society National Reference Group and RUNO focal points, and meetings which took place thereafter led to decisions on the mechanisms for advertisement of the CSNRG open call for nominations, including criteria and composition of priority for the context of Vanuatu. The selection committee was able to convene once nominations and expressions of interest were received, jointly deliberating, and assessing the final selection for the formal Civil Society National Reference Group.

The formal Civil Society National Reference Group, with a total composition of thirteen members, consists of diverse advocates and representatives from grassroots, national, and international CSOs, activists, women's rights organisations, representatives of disability and LGBTIQ organisations, and organisations who work with men's behaviour change and faith-based organizations. During the reporting period, the CSNRG was able to meet twice for initial discussions to agree upon mandate of the reference group, decide upon interim representation from the CSNRG to the Steering Committee of the Vanuatu Country Programme, and provide advisory on the planned activities under each pillar of the programme. During the initial meetings, recommendations were provided by the CSNRG for Spotlight Initiative to identify more convenient approaches for meaningful engagement of civil society, with emphasis on locally led processes for joint discussions and sharing among members, and facilitating a space that enables trust building and solidarity among members. During the occasion of the first Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee, interim representatives were nominated by the CSNRG. The nomination of representatives from the CSNRG to the Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee will be further deliberated upon by the CSNRG members at the start of 2021.



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

A unified and well-coordinated one UN interface with external partners: In its design, the Spotlight Initiative directly contributes to the Vanuatu Government's National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP) for 2016 to 2030, with focus on the achievement of SDG 5.2 and 5.3 on ending all violence against women and girls. The SDG principle of 'leaving no one behind' guides the Vanuatu Spotlight initiative. This is done by focusing on the specific needs of the most vulnerable women affected by intimate partner or domestic violence, engaging multi-stakeholders, and applying a differentiated approach with strategies that are adapted to the specific Country needs and priorities.

The Gender and Protection Cluster, led by Department of Women's affairs and co-led by CARE and Save the Children, meets regularly, and has a sub-cluster on GBV in emergencies that is particularly relevant to joint activities under the Spotlight Initiative. The cluster has met regularly (approximately fortnightly) throughout the cyclone emergency. While meetings have been focused on the emergency response, Spotlight RUNOs have been active participants and hope that the relationships forged will play the foundations for coordination with the cluster going forward, which will be strengthened through more regular engagement of the technical coherence specialist in Vanuatu.

During the reporting period, the Spotlight initiative also ensured close coordination and engagement with the newly formed Displacement and Evacuation Centre Management Cluster led by the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) and co-led by IOM. The cluster was established with the aim to improve displacement management and coordination in Vanuatu. Formerly a working group, it was upgraded to cluster status following Tropical Cyclone Harold in recognition of the need to strengthen coordination of information and services related to evacuations and displaced people in Vanuatu. The key partners of the cluster also include the Ministry of Education, Department of Local Authorities, Ministry of Justice and Community Services, ADRA, Vanuatu Red Cross, CARE, OXFAM, and the Vanuatu Christian Council (VCC). The Displacement Cluster provides an important forum for coordination which is relevant for support to the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) in efforts to strengthen the integration of measures to end Violence Against Women and Girls in emergency planning and responses. In addition to this, Spotlight is also represented in the recently formed Vanuatu Labour Mobility Workers Support Working Group, chaired by Department of Labour with World Vision as the Secretariat. This Working Group convenes stakeholders from Government, donor, civil society and the private sector related to labour mobility schemes in Vanuatu. The Working





Group presents a strategic platform to validate tools, training and associated materials developed through the scheme and linked to Spotlight Initiative.

Operationalizing a "new way of working": The UN Resident Coordinator (RC) is responsible for the overall coordination, strategic direction and oversight of the Spotlight Initiative for the Vanuatu Country Programme, including its planning, implementation, communication, monitoring and review, as well as facilitation of collaboration amongst all stakeholders. The Vanuatu Country Programme and related Annual Work Plans were designed in line with the spotlight principles, facilitating for joint learning and mutual capacity strengthening in line with Monitoring and Evaluation, Knowledge Management and Communications.

On International Women's Day, the Government of Vanuatu signed the Vanuatu Spotlight Country Programme Document. Prior to the signing, a series of high level meetings were held between the Vanuatu Spotlight team, led by the Resident Coordinator, with the Prime Minister's Office (via Department of Strategic Planning, Policy and Aid Coordination (DSPPAC) and the Ministry of Justice and Community Services (MoJCS). In line with efforts to advance programme set up and governance arrangements, the Resident Coordinator and the Prime Minister of Vanuatu met in February 2020 and jointly discussed initial considerations for the launch of the Spotlight Initiative in Vanuatu. The Resident Coordinator has since convened initial meetings with the EU Delegation, and the Heads of UN agencies, to review and discuss the progress of Spotlight Initiative programme set up and implementation in Vanuatu, in line with overall oversight responsibilities and with the aim of strengthening collaborative approaches. These meetings will be continued more consistently throughout the implementation of the programme, planned in close collaboration with the Technical Coherence Lead, as an effort to identify opportunities to improve implementation of the spotlight initiative and ensure timely sharing of information to address challenges.

The multi-stakeholder country-level programme steering committee is another important component of the new way of working on ending Violence Against Women and Girls, established with the purpose of strengthening overall strategic management and coordination of the spotlight programme in Vanuatu, also contributing to strengthening stakeholder relations at country level. Overall, the engagement with civil society across all pillars of work and in existing governance arrangements such as through the Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee and the establishment of a Civil Society National Reference Group contributes significantly to the operationalization of a new way of working. The partnership with civil society and continued efforts for a meaningful engagement has the potential to set the foundation towards bolder, effective, and creative engagement with civil society and movement building, recognizing the impact of civil society efforts and ensuring the UN is better positioned to support larger movement building.



Finally, in the spirit of partnership with the European Union, the Resident Coordinator sustains an open line to the Ambassador of the European Union for the Pacific, to ensure to allow for coordination in relationships with national counterparts and engagement with development partners.

Inter-agency collaboration: The UN Resident Coordinator holds overall responsibility for coordination, strategic direction and oversight of the Spotlight Initiative, and the Heads of Recipient United Nations Organisations (RUNOs) are accountable for the programmatic and financial management of the Country Programme. To facilitate inter agency coordination, monthly coordination and technical coherence meetings take place with RUNOs, chaired the Spotlight Coordinator and Technical Coherence Specialist, facilitating a space for fund management updates, discussion on general coordination and programme management planning, deep dive technical coherence discussions, and sharing sessions amongst RUNOs. When relevant, representatives of the EU Delegation and civil society could also be involved. Through close coordination, RUNOs have been able to develop a shared understanding of how the Spotlight Initiative can join existing country-level coordination mechanisms, and how it relates to ongoing programmes aimed at ending violence against women and girls. Coordination has also helped Spotlight Initiative programme delivery, contributing to a joint process to re-assess programming and ensure that activities in country integrate the impact of COVID-19 on the region and remain on track. A joint partner mapping was also developed to strengthen coordination and enhance technical coherence opportunities.

In addition, to ensure coordination and collaboration between the Spotlight Initiative and Pacific Partnership, and avoid any duplication, coordination meetings with strategic partners like UNWomen have been held during the reporting period. These meetings helped to recognize the areas for close collaboration as well as knowledge sharing. It also helped in planning for implementation of some of the activities. In moving forward, in close coordination with the technical coherence lead, opportunities will be taken to jointly advance knowledge management and joint communications building on results or lessons learned, innovations, good or promising practices derived from the programme. This may entail organizing learning events or sharing sessions jointly with RUNOs or other partners working on ending Violence Against Women and Girls in Vanuatu.

All UN agencies bring strong technical expertise and hold long standing partnerships and working relationship with key Government Ministries and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Vanuatu and across the Pacific. The UN agencies are also involved in other existing



programmes, in addition to Spotlight, often delivered with the same stakeholders in Vanuatu. The Spotlight Initiative in Vanuatu will therefore continue to work collaboratively with all existing programmes, promoting learning about best approaches regarding prevention and response to IPV/DV in the Vanuatu context.

Value added from UN Reform: The Vanuatu Spotlight Initiative moves away from business as usual by exploring improved ways of working with new and diverse partners. This benefits programme delivery by increasing the range of partners active in the EVAWG sector in Vanuatu, as evidenced in the Mutli-Stakeholder Steering Committee in country, contributing to a more cohesive and comprehensive multi-sectorial approach. This is clearly articulated within the Vanuatu Country Programme document, and has already been evidenced during the consultation process for the design of the programme document, during which multiple government agencies and CSOs working directly, or touching on, EVAWG were convened, including new and smaller organisations working directly on EVAWG and violence against those of diverse gender identified and organisations dealing directly in prevention and response to EVAWG. Other opportunities in line with new ways of working include efforts in the collection, analysis and use of data related to VAWG (activities under pillar 5), facilitating sharing across organisations working in the sector in a safe and accessible manner. Strong and enduring partnerships will be key for the success of the programme in Vanuatu, to maximize results given the limited resources and financial capacities for communications, knowledge management and monitoring and evaluation.

Programme Partnerships

a) Government

As emphasized in the opening remarks of the Prime Minister of Vanuatu, during the launch of Spotlight Initiative in Vanuatu, the Government of Vanuatu is committed to preventing and eliminating all forms of violence and discrimination against women, children, and vulnerable groups under the National Sustainable Development Plan. In addition, the Director General of the Office of the Prime Minister is co-chair of the Multi-stakeholder Steering Committee of the Spotlight Initiative Vanuatu Country Programme. The engagement with government at the highest level supports greater political commitment to ending violence against women and girls across sectors. The Multi-stakeholder Steering Committee, based on the composition of memberships, presents a unique opportunity for a multi-sector, coordinated and holistic approach addressing violence against women and girls. It facilitates multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder coordination and approaches that increase linkages, partnerships and dialogue between government and civil society. Spotlight Initiative has established key partnerships to





advance work at the Ministerial level to ensure work plans are part of a broader, complementary rights-based framework that encourages ownership of EVAWG across all levels of Government and promotes accountability to partnerships, principles and rights holders.

Key Government partners of the Spotlight Initiative include: **Ministry of Health (MOH):** The partnership with MOH is strategic to strengthen and standardize the health service sector response to Violence Against Women and Girls, building on pre-existing partnerships and local ownership. Spotlight Initiative is supporting the MoH in the development of guidelines and protocols for safe and effective response to survivors of gender based violence, while also leveraging the expertise and outreach of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)/Vanuatu Family Health Association (VFHA) in delivering and utilizing the guidelines through community level services in order to leave no one behind. This partnership contributes particularly to results under Pillar four on services. **Ministry of Education and Training (MOET):** To expand Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE), also known as Family Life Education (FLE) in Vanuatu, MOET was selected as an implementing partner, capitalizing on its expertise and leading role in-school- training. The MOET is the main partner in addition to CSOs and NGOs already delivering community based FLE as well as SPC through their ongoing support to the education sector. The CSE/FLE training will address the different ways the gender norms can influence inequality, and how these inequalities can affect the overall health and well-being of children and young people, in line with international standards, for in and out of school settings. **Ministry of Climate Change Adaptation (MCCA) and National Disaster Management Office (NDMO):** The National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) is responsible for coordination of emergency and disaster response in Vanuatu. Spotlight Initiative will focus support on strengthening the capacity of the NDMO to integrate GBV interventions in emergency responses, in line with Pillar two efforts on Institutional strengthening. The support will focus on the development of Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies (GBViE) guidelines, protocols and standard operating procedures, with the possibility of developing and delivering GBViE training to NDMO, the Displacement and Evacuation Centre Management Cluster and relevant stakeholders in the Gender and Protection Cluster. In emergency settings, GBV increases significantly, making the aftermath of an emergency the most vulnerable period for women, girls, people with disabilities, displaced people and other marginalized groups to GBV. By establishing clear protocols, guidelines and standard operating procedures for GBViE stakeholders essential to any Government response, Spotlight Initiative can ensure that any and every humanitarian response in Vanuatu reflects the transversal and intersecting vulnerabilities that apply to specific people in the country, so their needs can be anticipated and their protection mechanisms reinforced and resilient. **Ministry of Internal Affairs (MoIA):** Spotlight Initiative engages with the MoIA as a strategic partner given its important role in oversight and





engagement with key Government Departments, the police, local authorities, and civil society organization. **Department of Labour (DoL):** The Department of Labour, within the Ministry of Internal Affairs, is the key government agency responsible for managing labour migration and is a critical entry point for contact with migrants and their families, and is responsible for managing Seasonal Worker Programmes. Spotlight is supporting the Department of Labour in assessing the policy options for enhancing gender equality in the seasonal worker programmes, including the development of trainings for seasonal workers involved in Pacific Labour Mobility schemes. **The Ministry of Justice and Community Services (MoJCS):** The MoJCS is one of the main actors in Vanuatu engaging with communities and youth for behavior change among community leadership, women, men and engaging with adolescents. The MJCS also leads a multi-sectoral group, which comprises of Government and non-government partners, and includes stakeholders representing education, media and telecommunications, health, protection, women, and youth. Work with the MoJCS, including close collaboration with the Public Prosecutors Office, Judiciary of the Republic of Vanuatu, and the Department of Women’s Affairs contributes to various Pillars under Spotlight Initiative. As such, MJCS plays a key strategic role in shaping work under Spotlight Initiative at the national level, and leading partners in comprehensive action. The partnership with MJCS aims to strengthen online and offline platforms for prevention of violence, among adolescents and youth, in line with Pillar three; contributes to the review and development of legislation and policies on GBV response and prevention, in addition to the development of a “ Victims’ Charter”, under Pillar one; and is strategic to advance efforts on strengthening quality referral services for survivors through the training of magistrates and the Victim Support Office of Public Prosecutor’s Office. **Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS):** The partnership with MoYS aims to strengthen community platforms for prevention of violence, among community leadership, women, men, youth and children. The MoYS has demonstrated strong capacity to lead this area of work to engage communities in positive behavior change. The MoYS leads a national network of community facilitators that the United Nations has supported to train in social and behavioral change for the prevention of violence against children. The MYS also maintains Provincial Youth Officers that support the implementation and the monitoring of the community-based mechanisms nationwide. Through this strategic partnership, Spotlight Initiative is targeting a diverse range of communities across five islands of Vanuatu, and engaging men, women, youth, girls and boys in the prevention activities, while ensuring that violence against both boys and girls is opposed. **The Pacific Community (SPC):** The Pacific Community (SPC) is an intergovernmental agency critical to ensuring the sustainability of interventions with Government under the Spotlight Initiative. The SPC also have clear and strong partnerships with Government across the region and can ensure engagement with the highest level of Government to support programme implementation. SPC have been strongly engaged in violence against women prevalence data collection and analysis



in partnership with the United Nations for over a decade. This has created a strong level of trust in national statistics offices in both SPC and the United Nations to deliver against the work under Pillar 5 on data. The SPC, has well established network and working relationship with the Vanuatu National Statistics Office, the Department of Women’s Affairs and the Vanuatu Women’s Crisis Centre.

b) Civil Society

Spotlight Initiative Vanuatu Country Programme is designed with the understanding that Civil Society engagement must be a key and central component in its implementation. All the Vanuatu events in 2020 have been planned ensuring participation and engagement of Civil Society actors, including those representing marginalized groups such as people with disabilities.

During the reporting period, COVID-19 led to substantive delays in advancing the Spotlight Vanuatu Country Programme set up and implementation. Despite these challenges, in line with efforts to advance on the promise of “Leaving No One Behind” and to advance partnerships with civil society, Spotlight Initiative released the first open call for small grants tailored for civil society actors who represent groups often unreached by EVAWG funding. Special attention was placed on civil society actors with operational presence and capacities to engage with communities at national, sub-national and local levels throughout Vanuatu and provide justice, health, and economic support services to survivors of intimate partner violence. Following an open call process in 2020, the first open call grantees will be awarded at the start of 2021. A second open call for small grants will also be released at the start of 2021, with the interest of increasing the number of civil society partners engaged through Spotlight Initiative, especially those engaged at grassroots level. Partnership selection for the Spotlight Initiative has been supported by open calls and broader competitive processes for RUNOs, in line with country programme documents. During the reporting period, in addition to the small grants mechanism, a partnership agreement was signed with the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), engaged as an implementing partner on Comprehensive Sexuality Education (known as Family Life Education across the Pacific), with particular focus on roll out and adaptation of international best practices and standards for national out of school CSE curriculums in Vanuatu.

Type of civil society organizations partnered with: The **International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)** is a network of member associations which are based in different countries across the Pacific region, and in Vanuatu. This not only means that IPPF, as a CSO, has a high level of outreach into Pacific countries and in Vanuatu, but also that the local member associations have access to technical and operational support provided by the IPPF. The partnership with IPPF also ensures a high level of quality, and contextualization of the global



guidance tools. IPPF will be working to ensure strengthened provision of quality out of school comprehensive sexuality education, generating opportunities for young people to re-evaluate their behaviors and attitudes to shift gender inequitable social norms, fostering respectful and violence free relationships. IPPF provides a wide range of support to local member associations with a high level of ongoing and sustainable technical support in the implementation of the Spotlight Initiative programme activities. This partnership is important to promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes, and behaviors, including on Comprehensive Sexuality Education through out-of-school CSE/FLE training and to strengthen community level health response to GBV. Through the national member association of IPPF, **Vanuatu Family Health Association (VFHA)**, it is expected that village health workers will benefit from increased capacity to support survivors of violence, with special attention on remote and rural areas of Vanuatu. The partnership with IPPF, and its national member association VFHA, is strategic to advance outcomes in line with Pillar Three on prevention and Pillar four for the provision of services in the context of Vanuatu. Through the small grant's mechanism, advertised during the reporting period, Spotlight Initiative will partner with a diversity of partners, including grassroots organizations that are leading intersectional work at community level, to advance efforts for prevention and response to Violence Against Women and Girls. Through the small grants mechanism, at the start of 2021, Spotlight Initiative will have partnered with diverse civil society partners working at the national and sub national level, including particularly community and grass root level, contributing important work to end Violence Against Women and Girls.

Engagement with local or grassroots organizations: The partnership with IPPF, and the national member association VFHA, will ensure support is provided to mobilize and network with other grassroots organizations in Vanuatu, facilitating for a high level of community outreach and access to health services provided by the Ministry of Health. VFHA is a local organization with wide coverage and access to the communities, strategic to advance efforts and deliver on “the promise of leaving no one behind”, reaching the most marginalized people including people with disability. In line with Pillar six outcomes, through the small grants mechanism for civil society, Spotlight Initiative will support efforts to strengthen the responsiveness of women’s rights groups and relevant civil society organizations to prevent and response to violence against women and girls, and fund small grants to emerging, local and grass roots organizations working on the same space.

c) EU

As a key partner the EU Delegation has been involved in the design of the programme through dialogue with the RC and by providing feedback on programme document drafts. During the reporting period, discussions have been held with the EU Delegation for the Pacific, which is



based in Suva and also covers Vanuatu. A roundtable was held with all UN Agencies on the 26th of June 2019, followed by a briefing for DFAT and MFAT on the 28th of June 2019. The UN and development partners, including donors, participated in various aspects of the consultation process.

The Spotlight Initiative Vanuatu Country Programme launch event and the first steering committee meeting was planned jointly with the EU Delegation for the Pacific. The EU Delegation for the Pacific is also a member of the Vanuatu Country Programme Steering Committee, in addition to being involved in decision making panels for the selection of civil society partners supported by Spotlight Initiative through the small grants' mechanism. In addition to this, the 2020 Annual Work Plan and COVID19 response plan developed by the Spotlight Initiative partners and discussed with the EU Delegation for the Pacific. Throughout the implementation, the Spotlight Initiative coordination team and the technical coherence specialist engage with the EU Delegation, jointly sharing information, discussing challenges and opportunities to strengthen the implementation of the programme. The Resident Coordinator and the Ambassador of the European Union for the Pacific also hold a direct line of communication.

d) Cooperation with other UN agencies (if applicable)

Although not directly engaged as a RUNO in the Vanuatu Country Programme, UN Women is a strategic partner that facilitates joint learning opportunities with the Pacific Partnership to End Violence Against Women and Girls in Vanuatu. Cooperation contributes to full alignment with Spotlight Initiative interventions in the region and close collaboration with PIFS and SPC for ongoing efforts on gender equality and to address Domestic Violence (DV) and Intimate Partner Violence (IPV). All UN agencies bring strong existing partnerships with Government Ministries and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Vanuatu and across the Pacific and are involved in existing programmes, sometimes working with the same stakeholders. Spotlight Initiative leverages on the vast expertise of each UN agency involved in the action or engaged as strategic partner, facilitating collaboration in the provision of technical support, strengthening technical coherence and alignments, and expanding components, such as the inclusion of child survivor considerations in the development of guidelines, standard operating procedures or job aids. Spotlight Initiative in Vanuatu will continue to work collaboratively with all existing programmes, as outlined in the Vanuatu Country Programme document, promoting learning about best approaches regarding prevention and response to IPV/DV in the Vanuatu context.

e) Other Partners (if applicable)

The **University of Melbourne (UoM)** will be supporting the Pacific Community (SPC) with various components of technical expertise within Pillar five on data, and particularly in relation





to multi sectoral administrative data collection. The UoM is a long-term partner of the United Nations, already working in the setup of administrative data systems in several countries in the Pacific. Under Spotlight Initiative, UoM and SPC will support collection and analysis of quality, disaggregated and globally comparable data on different forms of VAWG, including Intimate Partner Violence and Domestic Violence, and which will be used to improve planning and budgeting for laws, policies and programmes. To advance technical coherence across existing programmes, a technical reference group was established at the regional level to support consistency of process, and quality of, GBV multi-sectoral administrative data. This will enable joint roll-out of data in countries where the Spotlight Initiative is being implemented and enable complementarity with other existing programmes in the region. Spotlight Initiative implementing partners, SPC and UoM are members of this technical reference group. This partnership is central to Pillar 5 in ensuring a high level of quality in capacity building and systems building.

Results

Capturing Broader Transformations Across Outcomes

During the reporting period, despite challenges and setbacks linked to contextual shifts, progress was made to advance broader transformations across the Outcomes of Spotlight Initiative in Vanuatu. The Initiative galvanized increased political will in the country to address Violence Against Women and Girls, set up the mechanisms for increased focus on supporting small, grassroots organizations that lead important work at local and national level; advanced efforts to integrate Gender Based Violence prevention and response considerations in important sectors; and contributed to important social norm shifts while also setting the foundations for sustainable action in the realm of prevention. The Spotlight Initiative has advanced efforts to integrate prevention and response measures to address Gender Based Violence in important sectors and coordination structures, working closely together with the Department of Labour on prevention, and collaborating with the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) to integrate VAWG considerations in emergency planning and response efforts. A remarkable milestone was achieved in the overall development of a national strategy for the scale up of community dialogues on ending violence, promoting gender-equitable, child friendly and violence free norms, attitudes, and behaviors.

Spotlight supported the strategic positioning of ending Violence Against Women and Girls within the broader political landscape. During the launch event of the Vanuatu Spotlight Initiative, Honorable Bob Loughman Weibur, the Prime Minister of Vanuatu, reaffirmed the commitment of Government to preventing and eliminating all forms of violence and discrimination against





women, children, and vulnerable groups as part of the country's national sustainable development efforts. The launch event presented a unique opportunity to elevate the strategic positioning of violence against women within the broader political landscape, mobilizing diverse stakeholders and partners, including Government, development partners and civil society.

The Initiative is elevating the importance of strategic and multi-sectoral interventions to eliminate Violence Against Women and Girls, engaging with diverse stakeholders to advance endorsement of approaches and rights based principles that enshrine prevention efforts across the political, economic and diplomatic landscape relating to labour mobility. With the aim of institutionalizing the centrality of protections for women, girls and other marginalized groups most at risk to Gender Based Violence (GBV) during emergencies, Spotlight Initiative is also supporting the development of strategic policy documents to integrate GBV prevention and response measures for humanitarian response in Vanuatu.

Recognizing the interlinkages between various forms of violence, including shared root causes and gender norms, the Initiative has initiated efforts to engage youth and adolescents, including boys and men, in the dialogues about ending VAWG. In doing so, the Initiative seeks to encourage early adoption of discussions that foster respectful relationships and acknowledge that the perpetration of violence often begins during adolescence. Through whole-of-community engagement, local solutions are being developed to local challenges identified by individual communities.

Spotlight Initiative has engaged prominent advocates for human rights, gender equality and justice in Vanuatu. An interim Civil Society Reference Group was involved in the programme design and in the initial programme set up of the programme, in addition to forming part of the selection committee leading up to the establishment of a Civil Society National Reference Group (CSNRG). The CSNRG represents a strong pool of experts, contributing localized knowledge to ensure proper guidance of the successful implementation of the Spotlight Initiative, in addition to strategic direction to inform priority areas for support and action through the Initiative. Spotlight Initiative is generating a process of changes that can set the foundation for a more creative and effective relationship with civil society partners and facilitating transformative change around strategic partnerships. This is supported by ongoing efforts to strengthen approaches for meaningful engagement with civil society and movement building and can be further strengthened by promoting a more thoughtful relationship that facilitates the mutual exchange of ideas, knowledge, and learnings. Spotlight Initiative collaborates closely with the CSNRG through existing governance arrangements and has additionally established a small grants mechanism to accompany and support civil society efforts, facilitating flexible funding. Overall,





these efforts aim to better respond to the needs of all women and girls, supporting civil society organizations in their efforts to influence, sustain, and advance progress on Gender Equality and Violence Against Women and Girls policies. These modalities mean that the Spotlight Initiative has relied upon and built on preexisting systems and structures in supporting local organizations.

Spotlight Initiative is promoting a new way of working together which is collaborative and coherent to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In line with UN Reform, the coordination measures set up during the first year of implementation have facilitated ongoing interagency coordination, cohesive programme management, and technical coherence, all of which will allow the programme to operate more flexibly and efficiently in order to achieve transformative results. The governance arrangements in place, with a Multi-stakeholder Steering Committee and the ongoing efforts to advance strategic engagement with civil society through the CSNRG, are also important steps to advance a new way of working that effectively generates broader transformation for women and girls to live a life free from violence in the context of Vanuatu.

Capturing Change at Outcome Level

Outcome 1: Legal and Policy Framework

Part of guaranteeing the rights of women and girls is to have in place a legislative and policy environment, which is also translated into action plans, on Violence Against Women and Girls, including domestic violence and intimate partner violence, and other forms of discrimination. Effectively implemented and monitored legislative and policy frameworks address impunity and provide for coordinated action.

Overall, actions under this outcome focus on support to Ministry of Justice and Community Services (MJCS) to coordinate with relevant ministries, agencies and civil society for the review and development of legislation and policies on GBV response and Prevention. Through the review, it is expected that the consultations will include an examination of how the laws will be implemented, and identify opportunities to turn policy into real, meaningful action. The partnership with the Vanuatu Parliament will help legislators shape laws to ensure they reflect gender-sensitive priorities and recognize the needs of domestic violence survivors. Actions also entail the development of a Charter to document victims' rights and the responsibilities of services, to both prevent and response to violence against women and children. During the reporting period, based on ongoing discussions with Government partners considering



contextual shifts, activities under this Pillar were postponed for the start of 2021 and are being re-assessed in close coordination with Government and civil society partners.

Outcome 2: Institutions

In order for institutions to develop, coordinate and implement programmes that integrate the elimination of violence against women and girls, including domestic violence and intimate partner violence, and other Sustainable Development Goals targets into development planning processes, institutions at all levels, relevant decision-makers and stakeholders in all sectors of government need to be informed and mobilized. Institutional change requires appropriate capacity and adequate funding, as well as political engagement and leadership to sustainably address violence against women and girls, including domestic violence and intimate partner violence. Overall, actions under this outcome will therefore ensure ongoing close work with Parliamentarians, with focus on gender responsive budgeting and improving the capacity of the National Disaster Management Office to respond to violence against women in emergencies.

In 2020, Spotlight advanced initial coordination with the NDMO and other relevant stakeholders, regarding the integration of GBViE interventions in national disaster management guidance, as well as supporting the development of Standard Operating Procedures, training modules and associated materials. Although the process has only been initiated in 2020 and the support will remain ongoing in 2021, the partnership with NDMO will be strategic to institutionalize protection for women, girls and other marginalized groups most vulnerable to GBV in Emergencies (GBViE). By creating policy documents that standardize and formalize GBViE in humanitarian responses in Vanuatu, Spotlight Initiative will support the strategic positioning of EVAWG within the broader political landscape. The NDMO is a key implementing partner for this Pillar, and they have been dedicated to the Tropical Cyclone Harold Humanitarian response and COVID-19 prevention work in Vanuatu. With the acute phase of Tropical Cyclone Harold over and continued efforts of Government to contain the spread of COVID-19 in country, NDMO is better positioned to progress Spotlight Initiative activities, which it previously did not. In addition to this, as part of institutional capacity strengthening efforts under this pillar, Spotlight aims to advance efforts to support the Parliamentary capacity to apply a gender perspective to the budget analysis and effectively mainstream gender through its legislative and oversight role. These actions, however, have been postponed to the start of 2021, mainly due to contextual shifts and political dynamics in country.

Outcome 3: Prevention and Norm Change





Part of preventing violence against women and girls is promoting favorable social norms, attitudes, and behaviors at the level of communities, faith-based institutions and at the individual level. Multi-pronged prevention initiatives that mutually reinforce each other can effectively shift individual and socio-cultural norms including those affecting women’s sexuality and reproduction. Overall, actions under this outcome are therefore centered around violence prevention efforts with primary focus on adolescents and youth, and community level dialogues.

During the reporting period, despite significant challenges and setbacks linked to contextual shifts in country, Spotlight advocated to strengthen in-school Family Life Education (FLE) delivery in Vanuatu as per International Guidance in partnership with MOET and CSOs. The Initiative supported the Ministry of Education in the ongoing process of revising the curriculum for year 11. The Initiative has advanced planning and preparatory actions to conduct teachers training for this curriculum and necessary development of resources, in coordination with SPC. These efforts are crucial, as more than half of the Pacific region’s population are young people under the age of 25 and they have inadequate access to sexual and reproductive health and rights information and services.

The initiative has supported the development of a framework for the engagement of pilot communities to promote gender-equitable, child-friendly and violence free norms, attitudes, and behaviors. This framework provides a national strategy for the structure and scale up of community dialogues on ending violence. Despite a diversion of time and resources due the Tropical Cyclone Harold response efforts, Spotlight Initiated supported the orientation and training of supervisors for community facilitators. As a result of these efforts, in 2021, the community facilitators will be able to lead dialogues on ending family violence in the selected communities and utilize their training and knowledge to facilitate a social movement among community leaders and youth in Vanuatu. The supervisors will play an important role to monitor and guide the implementation and adjustments to the programming.

In addition, the Initiative was also able to support both a training of enumerators and a Knowledge Attitudes and Practices (KAP) survey across five islands. These efforts have resulted in an evidence base of the knowledge, attitudes and practices related to family violence. Analysis of the survey data is ongoing. Spotlight Initiative also supported a national multi-sectoral strategic workshop for the review and revision of the national plan for child online protection. The workshop engaged partners from Government, non-government, private sector and development partners to convene to set the direction for the national child online protection strategy and framework, which is set to be finalized and published in 2021 to guide the interventions of all stakeholders for the next five years.



The re-establishment of the Pacific Labour Mobility, suspended during the reporting period and re-established by the Government of Australia and Vanuatu in September 2020, has enabled Spotlight Initiative to advance actions to strengthen trainings for seasonal workers with a stronger emphasis on gender equality and EVAWG. During the reporting period, the Initiative completed a stakeholder mapping, initiated a desk review of GBV cases perpetrated by and against seasonal workers, and progressed implementation for the roll out of GBV trainings for seasonal workers. Spotlight Initiative has initiated close collaboration with the Department of Labour, a strategic partnership to assess the policy options for enhancing gender equality in the seasonal worker programmes. Through this work, local stakeholders included will be better equipped with EVAWG pre-departure materials for use in the regular pre-departure session conducted for seasonal workers by recruitment agencies and labour officials. The development of training for seasonal workers encourages a holistic elevation of understanding by seasonal workers and their families, who constitute a significant proportion of Vanuatu's population and a key demographic at risk of being left behind by GBV prevention programmes because of their international mobility. There is limited understanding and data on the prevalence of GBV perpetrated by and inflicted against seasonal workers, making them both highly influential in terms of changing attitudes but also highly vulnerable in terms of unidentified risk. By including referral pathways and practical skills reinforced by GBV prevention principles, this training will facilitate comprehensive efforts to address GBV, reinforced by "do no harm" principles.

Outcome 4: Quality Services

For women and girls who experience violence, including domestic violence and intimate partner violence, to increase their use of essential services and recover from violence, underlying barriers to women and girls 'access to services have to be addressed. This includes barriers in relation to gender and socio-cultural norms affecting women's sexuality and reproduction. Essential services, including those for long term recovery from violence, need to be available, accessible, acceptable and of quality. Actions under Pillar four therefore focus on relevant service delivery protocols to improve the quality of the service delivery response to VAWG in Vanuatu with a focus on law and justice, health and first responders. Contributions to change will be further monitored, documented, and reported during implementation of programme activities under this outcome.

During the reporting period, in order to strengthen health system response to Gender Based Violence, Spotlight Initiative has advanced efforts to support the Ministry of Health (MOH) to lead the development of GBV guidelines and protocols for safe and effective response to survivors



of violence. Spotlight Initiative has engaged an international and national expert to initiate a process of co-developing technical and context specific materials, building on consultations in country. These actions will ensure all Health services (including SRH) actively identify and respond to VAWG, and all services focused on VAWG include provision or link to comprehensive SRHR services, including services in remote and rural areas. This includes the development and roll out of the GBV Guidelines, job aids to all health service providers. A key component of the GBV Guideline development for health care providers is the inclusion of caring for child survivors. These materials will support women and girls who experience VAWG, and facilitates use of available, accessible, acceptable, survivor-centered, and quality essential services including for long term recovery from violence. Case supervision and mentoring systems will be established to support ongoing technical advice for community health worker (including Village Health Workers) provided by GBV focal point supervisors in the Port Vila tertiary health center. This will focus on the implementation of Action plans to support women and girls with disabilities, particularly in emergency settings, in consultation with disabled people’s organizations. In addition, Spotlight is leveraging on the expertise and outreach of the IPPF, and its member association VFHA, in delivering and utilizing the guidelines through community level services. Increased capacity of Village Health Workers to support survivors of violence.

Efforts to strengthen the victim support office of the Public Prosecutors Office are postponed to 2021, due to contextual shifts in the context of Vanuatu. This initiative will be undertaken in close consultation with the leaderships of key line ministries and judicial institutions to ensure the right officials are selected for capacity development activities to best benefit the government’s ability to provide needed support to victims.

Outcome 5: Data

In order to better respond to the specific context and realities of women and girls, including those most marginalized, then laws, policies and programmes need to be based on evidence, relying on quality, disaggregated and globally comparable data on different forms of violence against women and girls, including intimate partner violence and domestic violence. Actions under this Pillar contribute to strengthening data collection, analysis and utilizing capacities across key stakeholders. Activities will support Vanuatu’s multisectoral administrative data systems, contributing to improved collection and sharing of disaggregated incidence data by all agencies. Contributions to change will be further monitored, documented and reported during implementation of programme activities under this outcome.



During the reporting period, Spotlight has advanced strategic planning in close collaboration with the Pacific Community (SPC) and University of Melbourne, leading to the development of work plans that better respond to the changing context linked to COVID-19 and to support the localization of the kNOwVAWdata initiative in the Pacific. Spotlight initiative coordinated with relevant ministries and organizations to also ensure the prioritization of candidates from Vanuatu for kNOwVAWdata training which will support capacity building to ensure safe and ethical standards are met. Through the Initiative, preliminary work has advanced to develop the Statistical frameworks for domestic and intimate partner violence in Vanuatu. Preparatory work to facilitate a workshop on multi sectoral GBV administrative data in Vanuatu has been completed and workshop will be held in 2021. In addition, the University of Melbourne is undertaking the development of a timeline for the implementation of the multi sectoral GBV administrative data system ahead of the workshop. This will form the basis of Knowledge management for the multi sectoral administrative data systems in the Pacific and will significantly contribute to the implementation of multi sectoral GBV Administration data systems, ensuring sustainability.

Outcome 6: Women's Movement

To better respond to the needs of all women and girls, including those facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, domestic violence and intimate partner violence, then women 'rights organizations, autonomous social movements and civil society organizations need to be able to influence, sustain, and advance progress on GEWE and VAWG policies and programmes. Actions under this pillar therefore aim to strengthen the responsiveness of women's rights groups and relevant civil society organizations to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls, making available small grants to emerging, local and grass roots organisations working on the same space. Contributions to change will be further monitored, documented and reported during implementation of programme activities under this outcome.

During the reporting period, Spotlight Initiative advanced actions to establish a small grants mechanism for emerging and national, local and grass roots civil society actors that prevent or respond to violence and that identify with the women's movement (accompaniment, case management, outreach and education). The small grants mechanism also aims to support actions across diverse sectors, including but not limited to sport, art, WASH. Although the small grants have not been awarded during the reporting period, the process of developing the details of the open call was carried in close consultation with the established Civil Society Reference



Group for the Vanuatu Country Programme. The open call closes at the start of 2021, and grants will be awarded at the start of 2021 to diverse civil society partners.

Rights Holders (“Beneficiaries”)

Indicative numbers	Direct for 2020	Indirect for 2020	Comments/Justifications
Women (18 yrs. and above)	731	108761	Under Pillar 3 there was implementation of a Child Protection Knowledge Attitudes and Perceptions Survey that was conducted in November of 2020. This survey reached 649 females in the four provinces. Under Pillar 3 as well; there were also 59 women and 23 girls reached through the Family Planning and Sexual Reproductive health of one of the Spotlight Initiative’s Partners. The indirect rights holders are the total number of females of the 4 provinces
Girls (5-17)			
Men (18 yrs. and above)	504	112,609	Under Pillar 3 there was implementation of a Child Protection Knowledge Attitudes and Perceptions Survey that was conducted in November of 2020. This survey reached 374 males in the four provinces. Under Pillar 3 as well; there were also 103 men and 27 boys reached through the Family Planning and Sexual Reproductive health of one of the Spotlight Initiative’s Partners. The indirect rights holders are the total population of males of the 4 provinces
Boys (5-17 yrs.)			
TOTAL	1,235	221,370	

Challenges and Mitigating Measures



The contextual shifts, which includes both Tropical Cyclone Harold and COVID-19 during 2020, severely disrupted institutional strengthening, government partnership and community GBV prevention planning under the Spotlight Initiative, causing significant delays for implementation across all pillars. The capacity of Government and Civil Society partners was significantly impacted, and this carries forward ongoing challenges to be addressed. Spotlight Initiative, in close collaboration and ongoing discussions with partners, is exploring arrangements to ensure communities of practice are in place, and dedicated technical expertise or resources are available to address these challenges. The contextual shifts of 2020, including the need to incorporate COVID-19 considerations and changes to implementation modality, has further impacted implementation and overall programme coordination.

Vanuatu is classified as the most vulnerable country in the world to natural disasters and the effects of climate change, as reflected in the World Risk Index in 2020, making this context ill-suited to rigid implementation timelines given the high vulnerability to humanitarian emergencies. As such, Spotlight's suitability to adopt a Humanitarian-Development-Nexus approach is important. Planning and timelines for programme implementation must also reflect the higher risk of the wet seasons, as well as other contextual considerations related to risk, vulnerability, and disaster.

One of the other challenges have been centered around the uncertainty generated by the decision of the Council of Ministers in October 2020 to endorse the removal of the Ministry of Justice and Community Services in order to create a new Ministry of Fisheries, Ocean and Maritime which has put much of the Spotlight Initiative programming in Vanuatu in a challenging position. Spotlight Initiative has been working closely with the Government to follow developments and to advocate for certain portfolios to continue to operate without any disruption. One of the ways of mitigating this has been supporting elements of the work to be jointly implemented by the ministries together to minimize any potential future disruption of work.

Lessons Learned and New Opportunities

a) Lessons Learned

In high scale humanitarian situations, like Tropical Cyclone Harold and COVID-19, stakeholders at country level do not have the necessary resources to address both humanitarian response and development programming simultaneously. In such circumstances, lifesaving humanitarian response efforts take precedent. As Vanuatu enters the recovery phase of Tropical Cyclone Harold, emergency preparedness is a high priority for stakeholders.



Notably, the experience of Tropical Cyclone Harold in April 2020 confirmed that there are significant gaps in relation to Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on GBV in emergencies that would be addressed through this intervention. When Tropical Cyclone Harold made landfall in Vanuatu there was considerable confusion about the best ways to ensure evacuation centers included clear messaging and information about GBV prevention and response services, in line with established referral services, in addition to integrating measures for GBV risk mitigation in the day to day management. The Tropical Cyclone Harold response efforts has generated a tangible, lived experience that stakeholders can refer back to when developing the SoPs and simulating emergency experiences. Through Spotlight Initiative areas of work, particularly through the ongoing close collaboration with NDMO on strengthening institutional capacity and the support to Ministry of Health for health services system strengthening, there is great potential to ensure that ending Violence Against Women and Girls is addressed in all contexts, even in emergencies. In addition, the Spotlight Initiative has leveraged from the experience by identifying new partnerships for implementation, including diverse civil society partners from community groups, organizations, and networks.

The establishment of coordination mechanisms among RUNOs (Technical and Coordination meetings) and the strategic engagement with partners engaged in different programmes on ending Violence Against Women and Girls, has strengthened coherence and joint planning. This was particularly important in the context of assessing COVID-19 response and adjustments applicable to the programme, considering Government and Civil Society priorities and gaps.

b) New Opportunities

The Spotlight Initiative provided an opportunity to advocate for a partnership between the Ministry of Health and Vanuatu Family Health Association (affiliated with IPPF). The Ministry of Health in Vanuatu leads the Reproductive Maternal Neonatal Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) Committee, which is supported by a RMNCAH policy and work plan and is inclusive of GBV. While the Vanuatu Family Health Association is a member of the RMNCAH Committee, the focus, to date, has not been around partnerships to support increased health system responses to GBV. The Spotlight Initiative has facilitated the opportunity for the partnership between the Ministry of Health to lead the development of guidelines and protocols to safely and effectively respond to survivors of violence while leveraging the expertise and outreach of the VFHA in delivering and utilizing the guidelines through community level services.

The establishment of the GBV admin data technical working group at regional level, which includes participation of communities of practices in Vanuatu, is also generating emerging opportunities to strengthen systems between and for national stakeholders, while also





stimulating sharing and learning among countries in the Pacific. Also, as a direct result of COVID-19, administrative data collection and capacity building efforts supported by Spotlight will be inclusive of COVID-19 and other humanitarian disasters to determine the impact of disaster, including COVID-19 on the incidence of violence against women. Training and capacity strengthening efforts to support policy makers in understanding data on violence against women also presents important opportunities to advance evidence based policies and safe, effective and accurate reporting which prioritizes women and girl's well-being.

COVID-19 response and adjustments in programming, and policy development led by Government and CSOs', has provided a key opportunity to advocate for the inclusion and scale up of response, mitigation and prevention measures to address GBV. The political capital garnered through the Spotlight Initiative launch events and the visibility created through governance mechanisms, including through the CSNRG, created a space in which Government and CSO partners can strategically engage in to discuss integration of policies and interventions to prevent and respond to gender based violence.

The nationalization of the Seasonal Worker agent role also presents opportunities to advance application of standards and support local Government led processes for the implementation of seasonal workers programmes, including trainings. The newly established Vanuatu Labour Mobility Workers Support Working Group, chaired by the Department of Labour, is integral to validating the design, implementation plan and partnerships of Spotlight activities to ensure technical coherence with other programmes led by other stakeholders. The strong diplomatic relationships associated with this programme, as well as its high visibility, is promising and strategic to the objectives of the Spotlight Initiative, providing an enabling environment through which to sensitize stakeholders to concepts relating to the elimination of violence against women and girls. The Vanuatu Department of Women's Affairs (DWA) has articulated, in the revised National Gender Equality Policy, a need for a specific study on the social impacts of labour mobility on women's wellbeing (including GBV) and Spotlight Initiative will coordinate with DWA, and stakeholders in the Labour Mobility Workers Support Working Group to undertake a study that examines this focus area. The recently formed Displacement Cluster provides an avenue to implement activities regarding capacity development of NDMO for GBViE and ensure standardized gender-responsive disaster management in Vanuatu.

Innovative, Promising or Good Practices

Australia and Vanuatu's re-establishment of the Pacific labour mobility scheme in September 2020 was conducive to timely implementation of Spotlight Programs GBV training for seasonal



workers; so the Spotlight Initiative is working closely with the Department of Labour in Vanuatu to institutionalize gender-responsive protocols and practices through: The development of training for seasonal workers involved in Pacific Labour Mobility schemes focuses on positive decision-making, stress management and de-escalation tactics. The training will be undertaken in 2021 and this practice is focused on Pillar two: Institutions, in that Spotlight Initiative will be working with key institutions like The Department of Labour which is the key focal point for all activities related to labour migration of ni-Vanuatu. The key stakeholders will be the ni-Vanuatu seasonal workers and their families and indirectly their communities as a whole

Seasonal workers who will directly receive this training will be encouraged to bring spouses or other critical family members to the training so the entire family can be empowered through the skills and practices articulated within the training. This will contribute to the sustainability of the education and support both partners to navigate the seasonal worker placement with commonly shared awareness, understanding and values.

Though in the early stages of discussion, partnerships with World Vision is being looked at in Vanuatu in relation to developing integrated training packages to be delivered to outgoing and returning labour migrants which will enable seasonal workers to practice positive decision-making in response to stressors they might encounter leading up to, and during, their labour mobility placements. The Pacific Mobility Scheme is allowing for hundreds of households in Vanuatu to receive extra income through remittance sent by in by these seasonal workers as well as investments that is being made by these same workers back into the country. Financial pressures can be an indicator of and precursor to GBV, and so the lack of, and disrupted income may contribute to increased tensions in households and the communities.

This innovative practice reflects the importance of ensuring essential prevention work for GBV is reinforced by practical and concrete skills that can reduce the ease with which a potential perpetrator feels an inclination towards violence, and then acts on this impulse. The provision of such skills to de-escalate, anticipate consequences and reflect on the personal and cascading harms in both language and examples appropriate for the Vanuatu context ensures that potential perpetrators can reflect on the 'butterfly effect' (drawing on a Ni-Vanuatu concept) of making the decision to perpetrate GBV. At the same time, this training will be reinforced by clearly defined referral pathways that can be used for women involved in labour mobility schemes or men who are subjected to GBV to access support and guidance on how to proceed if subjected to GBV. This is critical to ensuring that nobody is left behind in the collective progress towards gender-transformative attitudes and values, and provides improved communication, coping and calm for



migrant workers from Vanuatu, who might otherwise be excluded from in-country EAWG advocacy, awareness and training.

Communications and Visibility

a) Overview

On the 26th of October 2020 the Spotlight Initiative Vanuatu Country Programme was launched in Port Vila, Vanuatu. The Prime Minister of Vanuatu, Hon. Bob Loughman launched the Initiative and connecting via video link was Ambassador of the European Union for the Pacific, Sujiro Seam and the United Nations Resident Coordinator, Sanaka Samarasinha.

The launch was attended by over fifty partners and guests from civil society and the diplomatic corps. The launch was also attended virtually by about thirty people, connecting from New York to Australia.

Media coverage of the event is shown below:

Date	Media	Link/ Article
Oct 23, 2020	Daily Post Vanuatu	https://dailypost.vu/news/un-spotlight-initiative-to-be-launched-next-week/article_dca4ebf8-13e4-11eb-a345-6bec51833379.html
	Sista Vanuatu	https://www.sista.com.vu/un-spotlight-initiative-to-be-launched-next-week/
Oct 26, 2020	Scoop NZ	http://community.scoop.co.nz/2020/10/spotlight-initiative-to-launch-in-vanuatu/
Oct 27, 2020	PACNEWS bulletin #1	Spotlight Initiative launches in Vanuatu (see attached)
	Daily Post Vanuatu	https://dailypost.vu/news/spotlight-initiative-launches-in-vanuatu/article_ecfc93ec-17d7-11eb-940f-e3dc6739e346.html
	Capital FM 107	https://vanuatufm107.com/plante-mama-mo-pikinini-i-safa-long-taem-blong-disasta/
	Spotlight global website	https://spotlightinitiative.org/press/spotlight-initiative-launches-vanuatu
	Sista Vanuatu	https://www.sista.com.vu/spotlight-initiative-launches-in-vanuatu/



Another milestone event was the regional launch of the 2020 International Technical and Programmatic Guidance on Out-of-School Comprehensive Sexuality Education (Guidelines) on the 3rd of December 2020. The virtual launch organized by International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) had an estimated 700 participants at physical locations across eleven countries (Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, PNG, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Tuvalu, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, and Vanuatu) and was livestreamed on television and social media platforms of UNFPA and IPPF.

Media and Social media coverage

- Vanuatu Daily Post - https://dailypost.vu/news/technical-guidance-on-out-of-school-education-booklet-launched/article_f3bc8520-38de-11eb-845d-1b64f07c2686.html
- <https://www.facebook.com/427599067359937/videos/406765197193629>
- <https://twitter.com/UNFPAPacific/status/1333950932506185728>
- <https://www.facebook.com/427599067359937/photos/a.427601310693046/3399852240134590/>
- Fiji Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) Alliance ran a post on their facebook account: <https://www.facebook.com/fysrhra/posts/today-celebrated-the-pacific-launch-of-the-international-technical-and-programma/704800237127529/>

b) Messages

The messaging below adopted some of the global messaging to ensure clarity about the programme and was used for all communications products including social media posts as well as high level statements by government and our partners.

The Spotlight Initiative in Vanuatu will focus its work on Domestic Violence and Intimate Partner Violence through six key pillars (i) laws and policies (ii) institutions (iii) prevention (iv) services (v) data and (vi) Civil Society/women's organisations

The Spotlight Initiative brings together several UN agencies and all partners working to end violence against women and girls in Vanuatu.

The Spotlight Initiative complements work already underway by our partners to end violence against women and girls.

Vanuatu continues to have one of the highest prevalence rates of violence against women and girls globally with 60% of ni-Vanuatu women aged 15-49 years having experienced physical and/or sexual violence



c) Media and visibility events

Launch event of the Vanuatu Spotlight programme: The Spotlight Initiative Vanuatu Country Programme was launched in Port Vila, Vanuatu on the 26th of October 2020 by the Prime Minister of Vanuatu, Hon. Bob Loughman. During his speech he pledged to prevent and eliminate all forms of gender-based violence and discrimination against women, children and vulnerable groups as a part of Vanuatu's national Sustainable Development efforts and stated it is time to also eliminate violence between men. The launch event reaffirmed the commitment of government, civil society, women's group and faith-based organizations on ending violence against women and girl and emphasized political will, partnership and public commitment as key component for ending violence against women and girls. It was attended by about 50 partners and guests from civil society and the diplomatic corps. The launch was also attended virtually by about 30 people, connecting from New York to Australia. It received considerable media attention in country from all national media outlets.

Regional launch of the 2020 International Technical and Programmatic Guidance on Out-of-School Comprehensive Sexuality Education (Guidelines): Launched on the 3rd of December 2020, the virtual launch organized by International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) had an estimated 700 participants at physical locations across eleven countries (Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, PNG, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Tuvalu, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, and Vanuatu) and was livestreamed on television and social media platforms of UNFPA and IPPF. Considering the rising opposition and countermovement against CSE, this event will manifest once again the support that the EU and UN are providing to governments in providing evidence base CSE to working with the most left behind populations to eliminate violence against women and girls. The CSE curriculum is being drafted and revised to suit the Vanuatu country context and is planned for roll out in 2021.

d) Campaigns

Working with the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) a regional launch of the 2020 International Technical and Programmatic Guidance on Out-of-School Comprehensive Sexuality Education (Guidelines) took place on December 3,2020. An estimated seven hundred participants at physical locations across eleven countries (Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, PNG, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Tuvalu, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, and Vanuatu) witnessed the virtual event which was livestreamed on TV and social media platforms. Launching the Guidelines was the Prime Minister of Samoa, Hon. Tuilaepa Dr Sailele Malielegaoi, and in attendance from Tuvalu was the Prime Minister of Tuvalu, Hon. Kausea Natano as well as the Hon. Speaker of the Tonga legislative Assembly, Lord Fakafanua and Eminence Cardinal, Soane Patita Mafi from Tonga. With the participation of key political and



vital decision makers from across the Pacific, the event was successful in reviving country commitments on comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) and promoting efforts on elimination of violence against women and girls. More specifically, this activity was successful in increasing awareness on the need for CSE for young people and informing national strategies to implement CSE for marginalized and largely out-of-school youth.

e) Human interest stories:

Out of school CSE commitment from high level government and faith based organisations in the Pacific (Samoa and Vanuatu). [Stories | United Nations in Pacific](#)

f) Testimonials:

“While there are some promising practices underway, we welcome the Spotlight Initiative as a chance to build in better protections and referral processes for women in emergency planning and response. So far we have not had significant gender sensitization in our emergency response. Spotlight will support the integration of stronger focus on gender-based violence in our response to communities affected by disasters. It will also give us the chance to collect better data on women displaced by disasters experiencing gender-based violence.”

Senior DRR and CCCM Specialist from NDMO, Alice Iarem Sanga

“If there is no equality in our society then we have not gotten anywhere. We must show equality to each other. Men and women, boys and girls are equal, violence against women and girls is a violation of human rights. There is no excuse for any form of violence, whether it is domestic violence, rape, sexual abuse or assault.”

Deputy Coordinator of Vanuatu Women Center, Tatavola Matas

“We need to involve everyone and do things differently, we need to involve chiefs, women, girls in remote areas, the UN, civil society etc. We need to change behaviours and mindsets. Educating people on gender based violence because a lot don't realise it's not culture, it's not normal.”

Founder and Secretariat of Vanuatu Human Rights Coalition, Anne Pakoa

“Violence against women and girls is not normal and is unacceptable. The government of Vanuatu is committed to preventing and eliminating all forms of violence and discrimination against women, children and vulnerable groups under the National Sustainable Development Plan. We look forward to working closely with all stakeholders to end violence against women and girls.”

Prime Minister of Vanuatu, Hon. Bob Loughman Weibur.



g) Photos:

Photos included in the [PHOTO SUBMISSION PLATFORM](#).

h) Videos:

Videos included in the [VIDEO SUBMISSION PLATFORM](#)

Next Steps

On policies and legislation, Spotlight will sustain its close work and collaboration with the Ministry of Justice and Community Services, assessing carefully contextual shifts and political dynamics whilst advancing implementation.

To advance institutional strengthening, Spotlight will continue to coordinate with the GBV cluster, Department of Women's Affairs and the NDMO to develop GBV SOPs for emergency and disaster settings and relevant training manuals on use of SOPs. As part of the process, Spotlight will support efforts to validate SOPs and training manuals developed for emergency and disaster setting.

On prevention, there are important next steps to advance technical coherence and implementation. Spotlight will continue to advance the roll out FLE/CSE in-school training and the roll out FLE/CSE out-of-school training.

For services, efforts will continue to finalize the GBV Health guidelines, SOPs and Job Aids. To advance necessary work on services, the work with Village Health Workers to support survivors of violence will be important, facilitated through development of guidelines and roll out of community mobilization.

On data, advancing the development of a centralized and coordinated administrative data system for GBV will continue in 2021. In addition, Spotlight will continue efforts to enable cross sector disaggregated data collection through development of tools and supporting capacity strengthening efforts of field staff on the ethical collection of prevalence data for proper monitoring and supervision during the field work.

In 2021, Spotlight Initiative will significantly expand its partnership with diverse civil society actors through the small grant's mechanism. Opportunities for sharing and learning, amplifying, and



learning from the work led by civil society in Vanuatu, will accompany the work through the small grants.

Overall governance arrangements, including the Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee and the established Civil Society National Reference Group will drive the implementation of Spotlight Initiative at country level. Spotlight Initiative will capitalize on close work with the Civil Society Reference Group to further define and articulate best practice in line with a new way of working in the context of Vanuatu, leveraging on the expertise of civil society, and ensuring a mutually reinforcing and equal relationship to advance work on ending Violence Against Women and Girls. As next steps, to strengthen the approaches for meaningful engagement with civil society, including the Civil Society National Reference Group (CSNRG), Spotlight Initiative will explore diverse channels for mutual communication, which are respectful of the investment of time by civil society actors and effective to enhance active listening when it concerns priorities of civil society and strategic advisory from civil society partners. Throughout the implementation of the Initiative, opportunities to facilitate mutual learning, dialogue and knowledge management will continue to be explored jointly with the CSNRG.

ANNEXES

Annex A: Results Framework

Reporting against the Results Framework is captured through SMART (the Spotlight Monitoring and Reporting Tool – previously named “Jotform”).

Annex B: Risk Matrix

Annex C: CSO Engagement Report

Annex D: Promising or Good Practices Reporting Template

Annex E: Annual Work Plan

