



**Spotlight
Initiative**

*To eliminate violence
against women and girls*

WOMEN'S PEACE AND HUMANITARIAN FUND (WPHF) GRANT-GIVING TO CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE

Annual Narrative Programme Report

01 April 2020 – 31 December 2020

PROGRAMME START DATE:

01 April 2019 for WPHF-Spotlight Initiative Africa Partnership

(The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Uganda)

24 July 2020 for WPHF-Spotlight Initiative in Haiti, PNG and Afghanistan

REPORTING PERIOD: 01 JANUARY 2020 – 31 DECEMBER 2020

Initiated by the European Union and the United Nations:



Programme Title & Programme Number

Programme Title: Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) grant-giving to civil society organizations under the Spotlight Initiative
MPTF Office Project Reference Number:¹

Africa: 00117147
 Afghanistan: 000123503
 PNG: 000123505
 Haiti: 000123504

Recipient Organization(s)

Civil society organizations

Programme Cost (US\$)

Africa (DRC, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Uganda): 7,075,472 USD
 Papua New Guinea (PNG): 2,000,000 USD
 Haiti: 2,000,000 USD
 Afghanistan: 2,000,000 USD

Priority Regions/Areas/Localities for the Programme

The WPHF-Spotlight Initiative partnership covers 8 countries: The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Uganda, Papua New Guinea, Haiti and Afghanistan

Key Partners

Civil society organizations in particular local/grassroots women’s rights or women-led organizations

Programme Start and End Dates

Start Date:
 01 April 2019 for WPHF-Spotlight Initiative Africa Partnership (The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Uganda)
 24 July 2020 for WPHF-Spotlight Initiative in Haiti, PNG and Afghanistan
End Date:
 31 December 2022

Report Submitted By: 20 April 2021

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

List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

CFPs	Calls for Proposals
CO	Country Office
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DRC	The Democratic Republic of the Congo
EU	European Union
EVAWG	Eliminating Violence Against Women and Girls
FCI	Foundation for Community Initiatives
FSW	Female Sex Workers
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
LRA	Lord's Resistance Army
ME	Management Entity
NSC	National Steering Committee
P4SDP	Platform for Sustainable Development and Peace
PNG	Papua New Guinea
PWD	People with Disabilities
SAP	Slum Aid Project
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
SI	Spotlight Initiative
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
ToT	Training of Trainers
VAWG	Violence against Women and Girls
WEN	Women's Empowerment Network
WPHF	Women's Peace and Humanitarian Funds
UN	United Nations

Executive Summary

The partnership between the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) and the Spotlight Initiative (SI) aims to channel funding to civil society organizations working on eliminating violence against women and girls (VAWG) in conflict-affected and humanitarian settings. The partnership focuses on Outcome 6 of the Spotlight Initiative's Regional Results Framework (strengthening CSOs and building women's movements) and on WPHF Outcome 5 (Protection).

The partnership targets specifically local, grassroots and community-based women's organizations, with grants ranging in size from USD 2,500 to USD 200,000. During the reporting period, 40 new grants were approved in Africa² and 10 new grants were approved in PNG, bringing the total number under the Spotlight Initiative and WPHF partnership to 58 grants, 94.8% of which are implemented by local/national women-led and/or women's rights organizations, including those representing marginalized women and girls. Overall, 31% of grantee projects work with marginalized populations of women who are forcibly displaced, 31% with women and people living with disabilities, and 8% with child, single mothers and widows.

In 2020, the European Union joined the WPHF global Funding Board as a member and continued to play a role as a member in national level decision-making bodies (Steering Committees) to select the WPHF-Spotlight Initiative grantees.

Africa

The WPHF-SI partnership covers five countries in Africa: The DRC, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, and Uganda, with a total allocation of USD 7,075,472. During the reporting period, National Steering Committees (NSC) in the DRC, Malawi, Nigeria and Uganda selected 40 proposals and 31 Partnership Cooperation Agreements were formalized. With the eight grants approved in Liberia in 2019, the total number of grantees in Africa reached a total of 48 with 24 projects which started in 2020 (Liberia, Uganda and DRC 1st round) and 24 selected and to start implementation early 2021 (Nigeria, DRC 2nd round and Malawi). 33 out of the overall 48 selected in Africa are new to the UN, showing the ability of WPHF to reach local and grassroots organizations that had not been previously supported by the UN. Partners were engaged in orientation workshops as well as capacity building initiatives – often held online due to COVID-19 – to guide them in initiating implementation and to enable the sharing of experiences among partners.

In 2020, WPHF-SI partners reached overall 30,934 direct and 1,067,184 indirect beneficiaries. 70% of the direct beneficiaries were women and girls, of which 19,663 were women above the age of 18 and 2,041 were girls below the age of 18. Among the direct beneficiaries, different age and population groups were reached, including survivors of violence against women and girls

² 8 grants in Liberia were already approved in 2019.

(VAWG), human rights defenders, indigenous populations, refugees, people with disabilities, people living with HIV, child mothers, female sex workers etc.

During the reporting period, local Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and women's networks as well as health and psychosocial workers have increased their knowledge on women's rights, VAWG prevention, VAWG referral systems, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) communication, peacebuilding as well as conflict management and resolution. This led to the establishment of new VAWG structures, composed of trained women and men, skilled in mediation and awareness raising on VAWG and who advise victims of VAWG on the referral pathway, as well as improvement and increased uptake of existing VAWG reporting structures in communities. In addition, following several trainings, local authorities, customary leaders/chiefs, military and media representatives have increased knowledge on measures to end VAWG. As a result they have mobilized for women's empowerment and ending VAW, including through joint radio talk shows and community events in target communities across the DRC, Liberia and Uganda.

WPHF-SI partners have set up and/or strengthened VAWG reporting structures and generated community support, which led to increased qualitative reporting of VAWG cases and caretaking of survivors. In the DRC, 60 psychosocial workers set up a functional alert system and referral chain aiming at improving the reporting of VAWG cases. In Liberia, as a result of trainings and awareness raising activities using existing women-led structures, 15 women peace desks have received reports of various forms of violence against women and children and provided follow up support on reported cases of VAWG. The peace desks enable community members to report anonymously; Peace Desk Officers are connected with VAWG referral facilities as well as the Association of Female Lawyers, which encourages community members, especially women and girls, to seek help when needed in reporting cases of violence against them. Furthermore, innovative tools and approaches, such as the SAVApp that allows easy reporting of cases of VAWG by schoolgirls in Liberia, and a popular song targeting men to speak out against VAWG in Uganda, contributed to more effective and streamlined reporting of cases.

Initial project results also show the importance of economic independence as an effective deterrent of VAWG. During the reporting period, through trainings in the production of reusable bag and shoes and sales trainings, women's income has increased. This has contributed to women's strengthened resilience towards VAWG as reported, for example, in Uganda by a group of women with disabilities and a group of female war victims.

Village Save Loan Associations of rural women and girls in the remote areas of Karamoja and Teso set up by the grantees have strengthened rural women and girls' economic independence and self-confidence in demanding their rights. In the DRC, 100 representatives from CSOs were trained jointly on human rights allowing them to exchange experiences and connect with each other, strengthening women's movement building. In Liberia, Women Peace Hut meetings led to the formation of the POWER coalition, which brings together women's groups, VAWG committees

and local Community Based Organizations in two counties, advocating and creating awareness of women's rights.

Further, a support system has been built by strengthening the relationships between vulnerable women and girls, and survivors of violence. In Uganda, Female Sex Workers (FSW) have enhanced their own coordination and mental support in psychosocial support groups and gained skills in women's rights and SRHR as well as advocacy and communication to support them in establishing safe communication channels with the police and local authorities which will be initiated by the grantee in 2021. In the DRC, indigenous women lobbied together to strengthen their rights to land and a new framework to advocate for land rights was agreed upon with customary chiefs in Maï Ndombe.

Afghanistan, Haiti and PNG

In 2020, the WPHF-SI partnership was expanded to three additional countries: Afghanistan, Haiti and Papua New Guinea (PNG) with a total allocation of 6,000,000 USD. This new partnership, launched during the COVID-19 pandemic, was designed to best respond to the needs of local women's organizations and the dire impacts of COVID-19 on their operations by offering the option to apply for either or both institutional funding (stream 1: from 2,500 USD to 30,000 USD) and programmatic funding opportunities (stream 2: from 30,000 USD to 200,000 USD).

During the reporting period, three Calls for Proposals (CfPs) were launched between July and September 2020 for eight weeks in Afghanistan, Haiti and PNG respectively. This resulted in a total of 280 proposals received, and reviewed against the criteria, with 219 longlisted and 62 shortlisted proposals across all three countries. To support the application process, eight information sessions for prospective applicants were organized and attended by a total of 133 CSO representatives across the target countries. A pilot tutorial video³ was also developed by the WPHF Secretariat and streamed online for prospective applicants in PNG for additional support in the application process, especially for those applicants with no prior UN funding experience. This led to an increased number of new partners.

Ten proposals in PNG were selected by the Spotlight National Steering Committee on 21 September 2020 and passed the capacity assessment process. These projects will be implemented by 7 organizations and 1 co-implementing partner and include both Stream 1 (institutional) and Stream 2 (programmatic) funding.⁴ All selected organizations in PNG are new to the UN, demonstrating the ability of WPHF to reach local and grassroots organizations that have been marginalized with limited access to financing.

³ <https://papuanewguinea.un.org/en/50928-call-proposals-womens-peace-and-humanitarian-fund-spotlight-initiative-partnership>

⁴ Some organizations are receiving funding both under stream 1 (institutional funding) and stream 2 (programmatic funding).

2020 was also marked by the alarming spread of the COVID-19 global pandemic and its profound gendered impacts, particularly in the countries of focus under this partnership. The pandemic added an additional layer of complexity to the rapidly changing contexts at the national level, which has contributed to delay in securing representation and availability of members of National Steering Committees to proceed with the final selection of proposals in Haiti and Afghanistan. These challenges have also led to delay in the contracting process of Civil Society organizations (CSOs) as well as the start of implementation of project activities in Africa.

Several measures were adopted by WPHF, in close coordination with the Spotlight Initiative Secretariat to ensure the principle of Do No Harm remains central to the programme's approach and delivery. Flexibility to adapt to changing contexts was key to ensuring safe and smooth implementation. The WPHF Secretariat developed guidelines to offer the opportunity to CSOs to adapt their project activities and budget, due to the pandemic restrictions and inflation of prices, but also to prevent and respond to the increasing rise in VAWG. In addition, the 3 calls for proposals in Afghanistan, Haiti and PNG included an institutional funding stream to respond to the growing financial needs of local women's organizations and contribute to strengthening their organizational capacity, resilience and adapting their processes to better serve their communities.

In line with the key principle of leaving no one behind, all selected CSO projects adopted an intersectional lens to their activities and include marginalized women who face multiple and intersecting forms of violence as target beneficiaries in their delivery, addressing women's needs and promoting their rights.

Contextual Shifts and Implementation Status

Overall, the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the dire situation for women and girls in all WPHF-SI partner countries, each of which saw an alarming rise in violence against women and girls (VAWG). This added to crisis settings already marked by fragility and violence, where access to health services and justice are severely limited and women's exclusion from political and socioeconomic decision-making processes are even more entrenched. The COVID-19 pandemic has the potential to roll back concrete gains made on women's rights during the past decades, exacerbate gender inequalities, increase violence against women and girls, and further limit women's access to critical services and resources to respond to the crisis.

In April 2020, WPHF conducted a survey that found almost 30% of local women's organization respondents felt that the existence of their organization was at risk due to funding being redirected to larger international organizations or governments.⁵ By the end of the year, this number had increased to over 44% of respondents reporting that their organization is at high or very high risk of not being able to sustain itself as a result of lack of institutional funding available.⁶ In addition,

5 <https://wphfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/WPHF-COVID-19-Survey-Analysis-Final-9-April-2020.pdf>.

6 Survey findings soon available (in 2021).

the WPHF survey found that during the reporting period, 76% of local women's organization respondents experienced some level of resistance or retaliation against women's rights or women-led organizations.⁷ This shows the importance of supporting the work of local women's organizations in increasingly difficult contexts.

Women's rights groups and movements are a crucial front against regressive forces that are pushing back against gender equality and peace gains. Advancing gender equality requires adequate and accessible resources for grassroots women's organizations. As a WPHF-SI local women's organization partner in **Liberia** noted, "Providing technical and financial support will help us to empower women-led organizations and groups, ensuring that women's voices are fully incorporated into surveillance, detection, prevention and recovery mechanisms."⁸ WPHF, together with the Spotlight Initiative responded through increased flexibility and new institutional funding to these increased risks and needs to sustain local women's organizations' existence and impact.

In the **DRC**, political dynamics have been marked by continued tensions. The economic situation remains of serious concern and the security situation has further deteriorated, in particular in Eastern DRC. The humanitarian situation was marked by the resurgence of the Ebola pandemic in Equateur Province, inter-community violence in Ituri and the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Women's rights continue to be undermined: poor access to sexual and reproductive health services; egregious hygiene conditions that fail to adapt to women's specific needs, the constant increase of VAWG cases; lack of food, decent and secured housing; poor access to education; difficulty in controlling family resources; and low representation of women in decision-making bodies. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the challenges women face in the DRC. Women find themselves in a spiral of VAWG, particularly domestic violence - with an estimated increase of 28% of cases in 2020 - while the rise in girls' drop-out rates from schools and incidents of early marriage and pregnancy remain an utmost concern across the country.

In **Liberia**, the COVID-19 global pandemic and the partial lockdown that initiated in April 2020 presented a grave threat to the health and safety of women and girls. In September 2020, community members, youth, CSOs and women's rights groups demonstrated due to the rising numbers of rape and other forms of violence against women and girls in Liberia. As a response, the President instated a National Taskforce against Rape and Sexual Gender Based Violence in Liberia. In October 2020, rape was declared as a national emergency for the next two years (2020 - 2022). The Anti-SGBV Roadmap was designed by the Taskforce composed of key CSOs and Government stakeholders with strategic technical guidance from UN Women and other UN agencies under the SI to ensure synergies and complementarity with the current SI Programme in Liberia. In December 2020, senatorial elections were held, and a few demonstrations occurred, including one condemning violence against women in elections and politics.

In **Malawi**, new Presidential Elections took place in June 2020, leading to nationwide demonstrations delaying planned activities as the political climate remained volatile. During the reporting

7 Ibid.

8 Extract from WPHF survey, April 2020.

period, Malawi witnessed an increase in the frequency and magnitude of cyclical floods and drought, culminating in disasters leading to damage to infrastructure, loss of lives, property, and livelihoods. Malawi was one of last countries in Africa to be hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. number of COVID-19 cases was experienced at the end of May 2020 due to returning residents and deportees mainly from South Africa. With temporary closure of schools due to COVID-19, Malawi recorded an unprecedented 13,000 cases of child marriages and over 40,000 cases of teen pregnancies in 2020. Cases of VAWG were also noted to be on the rise.

In **Nigeria**, the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic continued to devastate the livelihoods of the population in general and conflict-affected communities in particular. The number of vulnerable women and girls facing violence remained on the rise. Violent attacks by Boko Haram insurgents (including sexual violence against women and girls) have also increased. Nigeria's North-East region, particularly Borno, Adamawa and Yobe (BAY) States have been besieged by over a decade-long insurgency that is perpetrated by Non-State Armed Groups leading to the forced displacement of millions of people, destruction of property and loss of lives and rising incidences of human rights violations, which disproportionately affect women and girls. The high influx of internally displaced persons (IDPs) into urban areas has intensified the existing security and humanitarian crisis which has exacerbated hunger, increased poverty, and widened inequality gaps. The challenge of having access to potable drinking water, food, healthcare, psychosocial support, and education, among others, is glaring and women and girls are experiencing various forms of abuse including VAWG and harmful cultural practices. Women and girls have to contend with increased forms of intersecting human rights violations and abuses with little or no support.

In the reporting period, the **Ugandan** government finalized its National Development Plan (NDP) III, its 5 Year Development Plan (2020/2021 – 2025/2026) and its third National Action Plan (2020-2025, NAP III). CSOs, including several WPHF - SI partners influenced the content of the NAP III. The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in Uganda worsened the already existing difficulties of involving women and girls in meaningful conflict prevention as well as protection from conflicts and VAWG. As a result, this weakened women's economic power, and in some situations led to the escalation of VAWG. Cases of VAWG have been on the rise within the COVID-19 lockdown period. VAWG shelters saw a 60.5% increase from January to June 2020, compared to July to December 2019. Less than 40% of women who experienced violence sought help of any sort or reported the crime; and less than 10% went to the police.⁹ Amidst the COVID-19 context, Uganda prepared to hold general elections in January 2021. Commissioning the election roadmap during the COVID-19 pandemic affected the peace and security environment, with opposition candidates engaged in running battles with security forces resulting in the use of force, tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse demonstrating crowds. The COVID-19 pandemic presented additional challenges to aspiring women candidates' effective participation in the upcoming elections. Uganda continues to host 1.4 million refugees (82% women and children)¹⁰ and recorded more

9 MoGLSD and Action Aid GBV Shelter Reports January to June 2020

10 Government of Uganda Office Of the Prime Minister. Uganda Refugees & Asylum Seekers as of 31-July-2020. Population Summary by Settlement/Sex

emerging humanitarian emergencies, including devastating floods and landslides (affecting 55 districts, 470,825 people, displacing 66,8605).¹¹ New swarms of Desert Locusts also threatened the food security of 1.32 million people.¹²

In **Afghanistan**, the COVID-19 situation presented additional challenges for women and girls. Early data indicates that women and girls faced distinct and increased risks due to COVID-19, from increased barriers to health and negative economic impacts to limited security and social protection, including increasing levels of violence. For instance, an Oxfam survey carried out

in April 2020 found that 97% of female respondents had witnessed an increase in VAWG since the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak.¹³ During the reporting period, several developments paved the way for intra-Afghan negotiations. Against this backdrop, the last months of 2020 saw a deteriorating security situation, with women's rights advocates and defenders of civil rights, journalists, activists, political and social leaders, and women's movement builders experiencing alarming levels of violence, including public harassment, threats of violence, and direct targeting and assassination for the work that they do, be it offline or online.¹⁴

In **Haiti**, despite the moderate spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, the socioeconomic and humanitarian situation deteriorated. VAWG cases increased from 5% to 40% and only 5.7% of women are aware of the service structures in their areas. The poverty rate for women in Haiti is expected to increase by 11.8% between 2019 and 2021 due to the pandemic and its fallout. In addition to these difficulties, access to information remained difficult for people with disabilities (PWD), especially deaf people, people with intellectual disabilities, people with psychosocial disabilities, blind and partially sighted people, children and elderly people with disabilities. The political environment remained severely unpredictable with the rise of protests and armed gang violence. This context has led to some delays in the partner selection process due to unavailability of actors to serve on the National Steering Committee.

In **PNG**, the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated State of Emergency in July 2020 posed significant challenges. The pandemic and lockdown contributed to increased levels of VAWG and hindered accessibility of vital VAWG services for survivors of violence. The State of VAWG in COVID-19 Emergency and the State of Emergency Report documented that calls to the Wantok Counselling Helpline increased by over 300% following the onset of the State of Emergency, pointing to an increase in rates of violence and greater reliance on remote-based services. In June and July 2020, two cases of VAWG received high publicity and generated civic and political momentum in the country. The WPHF-SI CfP came at a very critical juncture, where civic and political consciousness had been awakened through public outcry and a number of high visibility events, which took place during the reporting period. Until October 2020, travel restrictions

11 International Office of Migration of the United Nations, Uganda (June 2020), Uganda Info Sheet: Flood Response Coordination

12 Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, Uganda (31 July 2020), Desert Locust Situation Report.

13 Oxfam. 2020. A New Scourge to Afghan Women: COVID-19, Briefing Note, p. 5, available at: <https://asia.oxfam.org/latest/policy-paper/new-scourge-afghan-women-covid-19>.

14 UN Women. 2020. Gender Alert on COVID-19 Afghanistan: Gender Alert on COVID-19 in Afghanistan. Issue VII: Women's participation and leadership in COVID-19 response, 4 June 2020, available at: <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/06/gender-alert-on-covid-19-in-afghanistan-issue-vii>.

between provinces limited face to face meetings. Remote locations and connectivity issues slowed down the capacity assessments and contracting of selected organizations.

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COVID-19 Response

During the reporting period, all WPHF-SI grantees were given the opportunity to adapt their project proposals, including budgets and results frameworks to the COVID-19 pandemic. Challenges concerning implementation due to the pandemic consisted mainly of the restrictions of movement, sharp increase in costs for transport as well as the reduced number of participants allowed in meetings and gatherings. Therefore, active grantees had to hold more meetings, workshops and trainings with reduced numbers of participants and had to adapt their budgets due to the increased prices of transport. Further, funding had to be shifted to ensure that COVID-19 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) could be followed, such as through the provision of face masks and hand washing facilities at workshops and trainings. Approaches and methodologies were also adapted to ensure safe implementation and reach, for example through shifting from in-person awareness raising sessions to awareness raising through radio or online platforms.

During the implementation phase in Africa, the WPHF Secretariat shared specific COVID-19 adaptation guidance for partners with the SI Secretariat for clearance. These adaptations aim to ensure a Do No Harm approach in project delivery with flexibility in revising the format of activities, budget lines (due to inflation and additional costs) and timeline (while keeping the end date to December 2022). Adaptation was also extended to new CfPs with the use of the WPHF Stream 1 for institutional funding and Stream 2 for programmatic funding. This was agreed and supported by the SI Secretariat, as it contributes to sustaining women's movements and mobilization.

In response to the financial needs and findings of the WPHF survey on risks to sustaining women's organizations and movements, the WPHF Secretariat integrated an additional funding stream option in the Calls for Proposals in Afghanistan, Haiti and PNG to provide institutional funding (stream 1) and/or programmatic funding (stream 2). This will contribute to strengthening local women's organizations' capacity, coalition-building and advocacy to advance gender equality, promote women's rights and end violence against women and girls.

Programme Governance and Coordination

In 2020, the European Union joined the WPHF global Funding Board as a member and continued to play a role as a member in national level decision-making bodies (Steering Committees) to select the WPHF-Spotlight Initiative grantees.

At the global level, during the proposal review phase in Haiti, PNG and Afghanistan, the WPHF Secretariat worked closely with the SI Secretariat in recommending projects to be funded amongst the shortlisted proposals. The WPHF submitted the relevant documents to the SI Secretariat for their clearance. This allowed SI and WPHF Secretariats to put forward proposals that best fit the selection criteria, including those proposals that best responded to Spotlight Initiative's Theory of Change Outcome 6 and WPHF's Framework Outcome 5, as well as identifying a balanced selection of grantees composed of national organizations and smaller local and grassroots civil society organizations, particularly women's organizations and those representing marginalized groups.

During the reporting period, the WPHF Secretariat participates in regular exchanges with the SI Secretariat and the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (UN Trust Fund) to ensure collaboration, complementarity and non-duplication, based on the comparative advantages of both Funds.

To ensure inter-agency and programme coordination and to avoid duplication of funding, the WPHF uses existing national decision-making mechanisms (e.g. Spotlight Initiative National Steering Committees) and establishes new WPHF National Steering Committees, where needed. The members of the WPHF NSCs include UN agencies, the EU Delegation, Government representatives, when possible, and civil society representatives. The NSCs are co-chaired by the Government and the UN Resident Coordinator, with a few exceptions according to the context. During the selection of proposals, special attention is given to organizations that have not received previous UN funding, as well as those that work in remote areas and with people facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination (PWD, indigenous groups, LGBTIQ, female sex workers, single mothers or child mothers, etc.). Throughout the project implementation, the NSC is informed of implementation progress and members are invited to join monitoring missions to visit grantees. In addition, if major challenges or risk are encountered or change needed, the NSC is consulted on the decision and action to be taken.

Description of NSC mechanisms

- In Liberia, Malawi and Nigeria, WPHF is using the Spotlight Initiative's NSCs for final endorsement.
- In the DRC, WPHF is using its own NSC, which was already established prior to this partnership. In Uganda, it was decided to create and use the WPHF NSC. The EU Delegation was invited to participate in both WPHF's NSCs.

- In PNG, WPHF is using the Spotlight Initiative's NSC, which proceeded with the final selection of the grantees during the reporting period.
- In Haiti and Afghanistan, during the reporting period no NSCs were established, or meetings took place. However, discussions aimed to use the Spotlight Initiative NSC in Haiti, and in the case of Afghanistan, to establish a joint WPHF-SI NSC in 2021.

Civil Society Engagement

All existing Spotlight Initiative NSC and newly established WPHF NSCs, have at least 20% civil society representation. The civil society representatives are selected by and from the Civil Society National Reference Groups.

In Afghanistan, in support of the establishment of the NSC for Spotlight Initiative and the WPHF, UN Women Country Office released, on 14 December 2020, a call for nominations for CSO representatives to become members of the NSC. By the closing date, 24 December 2020, a total of 20 applications from women's rights organizations and women-led organizations had been received.

Programme Partnerships

The WPHF Secretariat supported UN Women Country offices, as the Management Entities for civil society organization in processing the transfer of funds for selected organizations. As per the WPHF Operations Manual, the designated UN Management Entity (ME) for CSOs (UN Women in countries where UN Women has a field presence) assumes programmatic and financial accountability for funds received and ensures timely disbursements of funds to partner CSOs and other designated institutions or entities in accordance with the decisions of the country level steering committee and its rules and regulations. This also contributes to building linkages between projects and CSOs –where there are other existing Spotlight Initiative. For example, in PNG, UN Women will organize in 2021 a space for WPHF-SI and other Spotlight grantees to meet, share and collaborate. In Uganda UN Women Pillar 6 is consulted for technical input of VAWG and a meeting for WPHF-SI and other Spotlight grantees will be organized. The UN Management Entity also ensures project monitoring, evaluation and audit of CSO projects and manages the reporting system of CSO projects on behalf of the country's National Steering Committee (NSC) and in line with its rules and regulations. The UN Management Entity for CSO organizations is also responsible for the management of Risk relating to cash advances to implementing partners.

Partnership with Governments

Through the NSCs (Spotlight Initiative or WPHF), government representation and ownership in the selection of projects and monitoring of implementation is secured. For example, in the DRC, the NSC meetings were attended at the highest levels with the Ministers of Solidarity and Humanitarian Action, Minister of Gender, Children and Family, and the Minister of Planning. This space contributes to raising awareness and recognizing the important role that local women's organizations play in ending VAWG and promoting women's movements, but also the long road ahead and need for further support from the government and national stakeholders.

Partnership with Civil Society

As a Fund working in crisis settings, supporting local, grassroots and community-based civil society organizations, the leaving no one behind principle is at the heart of WPHF's mandate and strategy. This is demonstrated by the fact that 73%¹⁵ of the local women's organizations selected and supported by WPHF-SI are being funded by the UN for the first time, including small grassroots organizations. In addition, project proposals are reviewed and selected with a particular focus on targeting and supporting women and girls facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, including women living in poverty, women and girl refugees, women and girls living with HIV, indigenous groups and women from ethnic minorities within the context of ethnic tensions, and women with disabilities.

In addition, civil society is not considered as only an implementing partner for WPHF, but also a decision maker in both its Global Funding Board and its NSCs (see previous section on NSCs). This contributes to reinforcing the perspectives of civil society in decision-making processes, for more accessible and demand-driven flexible funding.

Partnership with the Private Sector

WPHF has established partnership with Dell Technologies to develop the WPHF Global Community of Practice (WPHF-C), which is an active digital platform and knowledge hub that connects all WPHF partners, including those supported through the partnership with Spotlight Initiative. Through this platform, three WPHF-Spotlight Initiative grantees from Uganda and Liberia¹⁶ have shared their expertise in mobilizing to prevent and end VAWG with other WPHF grantees across the world (more information in the next section).

¹⁵ 40 out of 55 across all countries (Africa and PNG)

¹⁶ Extend a Life Initiative (Uganda), Platform for Dialogue and Peace (Liberia) and Community Sustainable Development Organization (Liberia).

Leveraging Spotlight Initiative contributions and platforms for additional funding

WPHF has leveraged Spotlight Initiative funding to mobilize additional resources for women's organizations. In the DRC, the WPHF-SI CfP received additional funding from the Government of Germany to fund three additional projects from the shortlisting. In Nigeria, the SI NSC is also serving as a decision-making platform for a CfP on forced displacement funded by Germany's BMZ. The WPHF-SI partnership in Africa has initiated WPHF's launch in Nigeria, Liberia and Malawi, which was consolidated with further investments in Nigeria and Liberia through the WPHF COVID19 Emergency Response Window.

Results

This report presents initial results and progress from implementation in DRC, Liberia and Uganda with 24 projects only commencing in the summer of 2020. During this period, the organizations successfully implemented project inception activities that included securing commitment and support from the district local governments where they operate, signing of Memorandums of Understanding, reaching out to traditional leaders, conducting baseline surveys and initial assessments, holding inception meetings with various project stakeholders and building capacity of project staff, implementation partners and women's CBOs to ensure effective project delivery.

Furthermore, during this reporting period grantees in DRC, Liberia and Uganda made progress in movement building for ending and addressing VAWG. As a result of trainings by grantees, local CBOs and other women's rights groups have increased knowledge and skills to advocate on women's rights, SRHR and VAWG and how to strategize to mobilize and call for increased commitments from local and traditional leaders to end VAWG. Marginalized women and girls, such as female sex workers, indigenous women or adolescent girls in rural communities have increased knowledge on their rights leading to joint lobbying for their rights. Successfully establishing and strengthened VAWG prevention and reporting structures leading to enhanced access for victims and survivors, in particular rural women and girls, to report cases of violence. The impact of these activities will be measured throughout 2021.

In 2020, WPHF-SI partners reached overall **30,934** direct and **1,067,184** indirect beneficiaries. 70.2% of the direct beneficiaries were women and girls, of which 19,663 were women above the age of 18 and 2,041 were girls below the age of 18.

Capturing Change at Outcome Level

Outcome 6: Women's Movements

The WPHF Secretariat worked closely with the SI Secretariat and UN Women as the Management Entity for civil society organizations at country level towards the launch and selection process to support local civil society organizations around Outcome Area 5 of WPHF and Outcome Area 6 of the Spotlight Initiative's Theory of Change¹⁸ and its associated Output indicators:

- Spotlight Initiative Outcome 6: Women's Movement - Women's rights groups, autonomous social movements and CSOs, including those representing youth and groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization, more effectively influence and advance progress on GEWE and SGBV.
- WPHF Outcome 5: Ensuring that women and girls' safety, physical and mental health and security are assured and that their human rights are respected, requires measures that prevent acts of violence, facilitate access to services for survivors of violence, and strengthen accountability mechanisms.

Africa

During the reporting period, project implementation in Africa has already led to some initial results during the inception phase and short period of implementation.

Indicator 6.1 Proportion of countries where women's rights organizations, autonomous social movements and relevant CSOs, increase their coordinated efforts to jointly advocate to end VAWG, including SGBV and HP.

A total of 48 WPHF-SI partners in the DRC, Liberia and Uganda have contributed to the strengthening of women's rights organizations, autonomous social movements and CSOs having increased their efforts to jointly advocate and achieving the following results:

Liberia:

- The grantee "Partnership for Sustainable Development" held 22 multi-stakeholders dialogues with women's rights organizations, civil society organizations, community leaders and dwellers, town chiefs, traditional leaders, and paramount chiefs to increase their coordination and strengthen advocacy efforts to end VAW. They developed and issued 16 joint statements outlining at least 64 policy recommendations on GEWE, EAWG, HTP, FGM, SRHR and reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health. The policy recommendations will be used for further advocacy with relevant authorities in 2021.
- A total of 58 persons, of which 97% were women, from Gbarpolu, Margibi and Grand Bassa County have improved skills to design, implement, monitor, and evaluate their own programmes on ending VAWG, GEWE including VAWG /HP through a series of capacity building trainings

conducted by the grantee “Partnership for Sustainable Development”. These women form part of women’s rights groups and CSOs representing groups who are facing intersecting forms of discrimination/ marginalization, such as girls from rural areas. They have also increased knowledge in advocacy, lobbying, campaigning techniques and methodologies, community-monitoring and reporting using score cards, awareness creation, budget, policy tracking and data management through the trainings. As a result of the training the women’s rights groups and CSOs begun evaluating their own programmes to enhance their effectiveness.

Uganda:

- The grantee “Women’s Organisations Network for Human Rights Advocacy” established 20 psychosocial groups for female sex workers (FSW) in Rwenzori and Central Districts of Uganda, enhancing peer support among FSW and capacitated them through trainings to coordinate, mobilize and lobby to end the violence they face. In 2021 annual human rights and security dialogues will be initiated by the grantee between the female sex workers, the police and local authorities to provide safe platforms for the FSW to use their newly gained skills to lobby for their rights.
- The grantee “Coalition for Action on 1325” in a workshop produced together with 9 CBOs from three districts a Training Handbook on Gender Equality, Women Empowerment (GEWE) and ending VAWG strengthening the capacity of women CBOs to advance GEWE and end VAWG in rural towns in Uganda. This handbook has been developed as a guide for CBOs implementing programmes on GEWE and prevention and response to VAWG. The handbook will be used by the CBOs to train further women’s groups in hard to reach areas aiming at developing local action plans as well as promoting and advocating for GEWE and ending VAWG.
- A total of diverse 25 women’s groups in Arua and Kampala slums, including 15 women’s groups in Kampala¹⁷ and 10 groups in Arua¹⁸ have participated in a capacity assessment led by the grantee “Slum Aid Project” and its implementation partner “Centre for Justice Studies and Innovations” to evaluate and design capacity building activities to increase the women’s groups capacities to advocate and mobilize on ending VAWG. The assessment explored seven dimensions including: i) appreciation of the value of participation in local government planning and budgeting issues; ii) leadership, courage, firmness, assertiveness; iii) receptiveness and responsiveness culture in women groups; iv) knowledge of local government planning and budgeting processes; v) ability to identify and work with VAWG and sexual reproductive health right (SRHR) issues; vi) ability to build coalitions and refer and work collaboratively; and vii) legal status all of which make for effective participation in local government planning and budgeting processes. The overall capacity rating based on the assessment showed a low capacity of women’s groups and a high interest in influencing local government planning and budgeting. The results of the assessment lead to the development of a concrete capacity building plan for 2021 to strengthen

¹⁷ Among them 5 groups of women with disabilities; 3 of refugee women, 4 of lesbian women and 3 of female sex workers

¹⁸ 3 groups of female sex workers, 2 of lesbians, 1 group for refugee women and 4 groups of women with disabilities

their participation in local government planning and budgeting processes as well as in lobbying for increased SRHR services with the local government.

- A song that promotes positive masculinity has been produced by three Ugandan artists (two male one female) in conjunction with 1 South African based artist Mthetho Tshemese from iNDLOBONGELA, who is known for using music to create social change. The grantee “Slum Aid Project” brought the South African artists on board and together they reached out to the Ugandan artists and lead the song development process. The song ‘Wise up’ challenges men to participate in domestic responsibilities, stop perpetrating violence on their female family members and participate in community welfare activities. The song will be used as a social mobilization tool in the coming period to raise awareness on VAWG.
- The grantee “Women’s International Peace Center’ connected 25 female community activists as well as 5 male activists from Ciforo Sub County and Agojjo Refugee settlement, Adjumani District during SASA! trainings enhancing their capacity to advocate for their rights. They demonstrated their enhanced capacity after the training through planning and engaging in community dialogues on root causes, impact, prevention and response to VAWG reaching a total of 230 (89 males and 141 females).

DRC:

- A total of 50 CSOs with 67 women and 48 men representatives, including human rights organizations, have jointly advocated to end VAWG in their communities and in the monitoring risks of violence and threats against women, drawing on new skills in conflict resolution, VAWG and peacebuilding acquired through Training of Trainers (ToTs) implemented by the grantee “Fondation Moyo”.
- Indigenous women, men and girls have increased their involvement in ending VAWG in their communities as a result of a ToT for 64 women and 10 men on conflict transformation and social cohesion and a three-day workshop for 81 women and 38 men analyzing the role of indigenous women in the resolution of conflicts conducted by the grantee “Union pour l’émancipation de la femme autochtone en RDC”. Through the increased involvement of women in the resolution of conflicts and ending VAWG the grantee aims at decreasing the likelihood of amiable resolutions of VAWG cases, which are mainly harmful to women.

Indicator 6.2: Proportion of countries where there is an increased use of social accountability mechanisms by civil society in order to monitor and engage in efforts to end VAWG, including SGBV and HP.

In the DRC, Liberia and Uganda, WPHF-SI partners initiated first steps to increase use of social accountability in their respective countries to monitor and engage in efforts to end VAWG. Overall, 34 grassroots organizations and/or groups have mobilized to monitor and support

prevention and awareness efforts to end VAWG. Initial results in Uganda have also shown that local organizations have facilitated greater economic independence and resilience for women with 56 groups generating savings of \$4,000 (14,667,700 UXG). Partners reported a clear link between income and increased confidence to take advantage of accountability systems as well as the ability to engage in efforts to end VAWG.

Liberia:

- Authorities acquired enhanced knowledge of their roles as it relates to preventing violence and have committed to taking ownership of the project at county level resulting from four county stakeholder meetings that included CSOs by the grantee “Gbowee Peace Foundation Africa”.
- New social accountability mechanisms were established by the same organization with 15 new Peace Desks which enable community members to report anonymously cases of violence. Peace Desk Officers are connected with VAWG referral facilities as well as the Association of Female Lawyers, which encourages community members, especially women and girls, to seek help when needed in reporting cases of violence against them. Two of these desks are fully functional and the remaining will be further strengthened in the next reporting period.
- 100 women from 9 grassroots women’s organizations; 6 Community clubs; 5 community radio stations and 7 correspondent reporters from 20 communities in two counties (Bomi and Rivercess) have increased knowledge on advocacy and awareness raising on ending VAWG and promoting SRHR as well as on the use of social accountability mechanisms to monitor VAWG related issues resulting from a series of consultative meetings including knowledge exchange and capacity building on advocacy organized by the grantee “CARE Foundation Liberia”.
- The 150 Peace Brigades that were trained by the grantee “Gbowee Peace Foundation Africa” (see Indicator 6.1) and now have the ability to follow up reported cases of VAWG, in particular cases of rape, at the community level ensuring that they are reported. The Brigades have increased women’s access to services to report incidences of violence at community level and improved coordination between actors for increased access to justice. For example, in Foya district, as a result of coordination and mobilization led by the women of Foya and the Peace Brigades they ensured that a perpetrator of rape was charged and sent to the Circuit Court in Voinjama.

Uganda:

- The grantee “Umbrella of Hope” identified through a research the most suitable income generation activities (bag and shoe making) for 3 grassroots women’s group (War Victims, South Sudanese Refugee Group and Lachan Pekon Persons with Disability Group) in Gulu city, Northern Uganda. Through skills trainings organized by the grantee the groups now master the skills of bag

and shoe making, generating increased income for these groups; one of them a local group of women with disabilities. Also, out of the 136 group members trained, 22 women and 3 men have started their own business and have increased individual incomes. The beneficiaries reported that this has increased their independence as for example they are able to buy food or medicine and don’t depend on abusive relationships. Further, they reported that having their own income has increased their confidence to report any violence they face which deters possible aggressors. This leads to enhanced resilience to VAWG showing the importance of economic independence as a VAWG prevention mechanism.

- Furthermore, the grantee “Teso Women’s Peace Activists” established four Girl’s Clubs (80 Girls) in Soroti and trained the girls and young women in women’s rights, SRHR and life skills trainings, capacitating them with knowledge to protect themselves from HIV/AIDS, early pregnancies, how to respond to violence and where to seek help. Through the guidance of the grantee these clubs have also initiated saving groups and have successfully saved a total of UGX 661,500 (USD \$182), which will support the adolescent girls in their income generation initiatives such as piggery or production and selling of soap. The grantee also engaged 80 male traditional leaders in Soroti, through SASA! trainings. The traditional leaders committed to support the girls’ clubs and raise awareness to end VAWG through advocacy activities and outreach to their constituencies creating an enabling environment for the girls to exercise their income generation activities and be free from VAWG.

DRC:

- The grantee “Union pour l’émancipation de la femme autochtone en RDC” trained 60 psychosocial worker and paralegals (45 women and 15 men) acquiring new knowledge on the administration of evidence in VAWG, in particular rape. As a result, the psychosocial workers have supported the identification of 395 cases of VAWG, and effectively contributed to the defence and promotion of women’s rights, peace and social cohesion through awareness sessions organized in their villages, within women’s groups and households as well as through radio broadcasts.
- 216 out of a target of 177 survivors benefitted from psychosocial and psychological care due to five listening rooms established by the grantee “Association pour la Défense des Droits de la Femme”. Further, through a peer learning opportunity by the grantee 25 project beneficiaries (seven psychosocial assistants, five legal assistants, 12 community leaders and one psychologist) exchanged their experiences as well as lessons learned enhancing their knowledge on care of VAWG survivors.
- The grantee “Fondation Femme Plus” trained 20 community radio broadcasters on women’s empowerment resulting in the production of 40 participatory programs. After airing on the radio, an increase in reporting of cases or requests for advice was recorded by the grantee. People reported that their awareness of the possibility to report cases had improved and were further motivated through the recordings.

- The grantee “Bureau d’Elaboration et de Mise en Œuvre des Projets de Développement Communautaire” enhanced the capacity of 30 VAWG focal points over a two-day training on reporting, monitoring and referral of cases of sexual and gender-based violence committed against women and girls. As a result, 75 cases of violence against women and young girls were supported by these VAWG focal points.

Indicator 6.3 Proportion of women’s rights organizations, autonomous social movements and CSOs, including those representing youth and groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization, report having greater influence and agency to work on ending VAWG, including SGBV and HP.

WPHF-SI partners in the DRC, Liberia and Uganda have engaged with approximately 118 women’s rights organizations, autonomous social movements and CSOs, and over 40 young mothers and indigenous women to enhance their influence and agency in ending VAWG. During the reporting period, the following results were achieved:

Liberia:

- The grantee “Helping Our People Excel” with the local Gender Officer established 18 VAWG Prevention Committees in 18 communities in Bong and Bomi counties. With the support of the local authorities the grantee identified the committee members out of the most trusted and active members. Through training the 90 committee members (50 males and 40 females) have enhanced knowledge on the VAWG referral processes in the relevant communities and conducted VAWG prevention initiatives in their communities. The VAWG prevention committees are also part of the power coalition established through the grantee (see below).
- Through Peace Hut Meetings that bring together various women groups and the local county gender office for Bong and Bomi counties, the grantee “Helping Our People Excel” enhanced coordination among various women’s groups, the established VAWG committees and community-based organizations (CBOs) in the Bong and Bomi counties to discuss issues affecting specifically women and children in the targeted communities. As a result of the Meetings the POWER coalition was established by the participants. In an effort to ensure a permanent space for the POWER coalition two Women’s Power Center¹⁹ are being established. Upon completion, the Women’s Power Center will be utilized as a permanent space for the VAWG Prevention Committees and the POWER Coalition to provide services and resources for women and girls to access health services as well as serve as support centers for the women groups/coalitions and VAWG Prevention Committees to continue their work on advocacy, women’s economic empowerment in Bong and Bomi Counties.

¹⁹ The construction is underway and is 95% complete.

- The traditional leaders, who were engaged during the reporting period under the project by the grantee “Helping Our People Excel” have conducted Palava Hut meetings²⁰, reaching 499 persons (137 males and 362 female) in 20 communities leading to increased knowledge on VAWG prevention leading to increased knowledge on VAWG prevention and commitment to protect the health and rights of women from the community members.
- The grantee “Gbowee Peace Foundation”, trained 150 women as peace brigades from 145 communities to prevent, monitor and report cases of VAWG, resolve conflicts and sensitize communities on VAWG. As a result of the training, they have formed 15 community action groups in 15 districts in the three (3) Counties (Lofa, Grand Gedeh, and Montserrado). The Peace Brigades organized weekly meetings to increased awareness in the communities on VAWG as well as discuss the prevalence of violence in their communities. This has enhanced their role as first responders in their districts, which has proven to be effective in deterring violent cases, especially domestic abuse. According to the Peace Desk’s Officers reports, there was a decline in domestic violence cases reported because of the establishment of Peace Desks at the community level, which serve as a deterrent for violence.

Uganda:

- Through the training on SRHR by grantee “Extend a Life Initiative”, 220 child mothers have enhanced knowledge on SRHR in Namayumba Subcounty, Wakiso district. From the 220 trained, 20 child mothers have been further trained and are actively volunteering as Peer Educators in Wakiso district and are transferring new knowledge and information about the importance of healthy SRHR practices to other child mothers in their district, ensuring knowledge sharing beyond the project.
- The grantee “Uganda Change Association” established four VAWG prevention and awareness raising structures composed of 40 trusted, trained and equipped volunteers (10 male and 30 female) who are now link victims of VAWG to services in four parishes (Katutwo, Lulia, Kangole and Karenga Parishes), provide counselling and follow up on the reporting of cases to the police. They also raise awareness on the negative effects of VAWG on the entire community through engaging in dialogues with community members. Through their work, increased advocacy and lobbying action in their respective districts to end VAWG has been recorded.

DRC:

- The grantee “Association des jeunes filles et femmes autochtones engagées dans la protection de l’environnement et la lutte contre la pauvreté féminine” organized a series of

²⁰ The ‘palava hut’ is an indigenous reconciliatory and non-adversarial process of justice and conflict transformation used to resolve dispute relating to such issues as divorce, land, theft, and occasionally murder and rape by many ethnic groupings in rural Liberia.

“multi-actor dialogues” between 20 indigenous women and customary chiefs resulting in the establishment of a framework to advocate with customary chiefs and CSOs to take action for land rights for indigenous and local women in Maï Ndombe, to encourage the participation of women in decision-making bodies and in the process of the ongoing land reform process. This framework aims at securing a gender balance in positions in the management bodies of the province and equal rights for men and women in decision making. The dialogues also facilitated increased knowledge of the importance of women’s empowerment, especially in relation to land management and property rights of women, or lack thereof, which increases the risk of VAWG. The framework allows the CSOs to maintain a continuous link with the elected officials in Maï Ndombe, which contributed to the development of a law securing the land rights of women. The law is currently in the process of being adopted.

- In Kasai-Oriental the grantee “Sauti ya Mama Mukongomani” conducted a capacity building activity for the heads of 100 NGOs and human rights activist groups, leading to joint awareness raising activities around the 16 days of activism as well as them committing to jointly work on data collection on VAWG and to sensitize survivors in their respective communities on the need to break the silence and report.

In addition to partners having achieved first results on movement building within their projects (see results), UN Women Country Offices in Africa aimed at bringing the partners together to ensure knowledge exchange and better coordination among them. Through COVID-19, however, in person national or sub-regional meetings was only possible on a few occasions throughout the implementation period such as in Nigeria (see below). As much as possible, country offices ensured exchange through virtual meeting platforms and ensured one-on-one followed up with the grantees, who had challenges in access to these meetings due to weak internet reception. During the reporting period, mobilization and coalition building between WPHF-SI partners were encouraged through joint induction workshops, trainings or exchange sessions. In Nigeria, for example, a three-day in person training (7-9 December 2020) of the seven WPHF-SI partners enhanced their implementation capacity of gender-responsive programmes and proper management/accountability for donor funds. Through role playing and practical individual/group work, the partners shared their experiences with each other, and team building was strengthened. Also, in Liberia, the movement building and coordination between the partners was strengthened through a joint inception training for the 8 WPHF-SI partners and 3 WPHF COVID-19 Emergency Response Window partners in July 2020. In the DRC and in Uganda, the UN Women Country Offices organized online inception meetings and trainings to build the partners capacity on reporting and on financial requirements and provided a space for peer-to-peer learning.

Afghanistan, Haiti and PNG

During the reporting period, in the summer of 2020, three CfPs were launched for 8 weeks in Afghanistan, Haiti and PNG, under Outcome 6 of the Spotlight Initiative’s Regional Results

Framework and WPHF’s Outcome 5. Mobilization and coalition building between CSOs were encouraged and supported through the CfP, Open day meetings and the selection of projects.

- Calls for proposals encouraged partnerships between CSOs, including between national, local and community-based organizations in order to strengthen coalition building at the country level.
- CfPs offered the possibility to apply for either or both institutional funding (stream 1: 2,500 USD to 30,000 USD) and/or Programmatic funding (stream 2: 30,000 USD to 200,000 USD). The institutional funding stream 1 aimed to build resilience and sustain local women’s organizations and to strengthen their institutional capacity, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Despite COVID-19 restrictions, platforms such as the open days meetings (see below) that were organized for prospective applicants to share information on the Call for Proposals served as opportunities for coalition building and networking amongst CSOs. In total, 8 information sessions for prospective applicants were organized and attended by a total of 133 CSOs representatives across all 3 countries.
- Women’s rights movements were strengthened through the selection process. The WPHF Secretariat recommended smaller organizations and consortium of organizations for selection, as a way to widen support to and funding for women’s organizations and women’s groups, including in remote areas. Once selected, these organizations will be connected with each other and with larger national organizations under the country allocation, which will allow network building and strengthened movement building.

The three CfPs resulted in a total of 280 proposals received for both funding streams with 219 longlisted and 62 shortlisted proposals. Recommendations amongst the shortlisted proposals were shared with the SI Secretariat for clearance before sending all documents to the UN Women Country Office for national-level selection through the NSC. During the reporting period, the final selection of projects was approved by the Spotlight Initiative NSC in PNG with a total of 10 projects selected for institutional and programmatic funding, implemented by 7 lead organizations and 1 co-implementing organizations (of which 3 grantees had both of their projects selected under each funding stream) which passed capacity assessment requirements (see Annex C). From the selected PNG projects, all grantees are local women led and/or women’s rights grassroots organizations, targeting mostly rural women and girls.

To leave no one behind, proposal writing, and application processes were made more accessible in all 3 countries, including in several languages. A total of 8 information sessions for prospective applicants were organized, with a total of 133 CSO representatives. A pilot tutorial video²¹ was also developed by the WPHF Secretariat for PNG, which CSOs could download and watch numerous times on how to fill in the required proposal forms. This was a successful tool that will be used in the future. It also contributed to qualitative proposals, more mobilization for applications as well

²¹ <https://papuanewguinea.un.org/en/50928-call-proposals-womens-peace-and-humanitarian-fund-spotlight-initiative-partnership>

as networking amongst CSOs present at the meeting. Coalitions between CSOs were encouraged for project proposals. The Call for Proposals successfully reached women-led and women's rights local organizations, including small organizations and organizations which focus on working with marginalized groups. All of the PNG selected organizations are new to the UN, showing the ability of WPHF to reach local and grassroots organizations that so far have been left out.²²

Global level

Local women's organizations' voices have been amplified at the international level and their expertise recognized and shared through various platforms. Two WPHF-SI Liberian grantees²³ were amongst the 70 women peacebuilders and humanitarian responders who participated in the Global Women's Forum for Peace and Humanitarian Action in Vienna on 19-20 February 2020. Organized by the WPHF Secretariat, together with Global Network of Women Peacebuilders and the Austrian Development Agency, the forum culminated with the Vienna Declaration²⁴, which detailed the demands and priorities of women peacebuilders and local responders ahead of the 20th anniversary of UNSCR1325 and the 25th anniversary of Beijing DPPA. This outcome document fed into the 20th anniversary of UNSCR 1325 and contributed to the UN Peacebuilding Architecture Review. The Liberian WPHF-SI grantees who participated in the Forum shared the declaration with local women's organizations on their return to the country as an advocacy tool to mobilize more funding and increase their leadership.

The WPHF Secretariat provided additional spaces for local women's organizations to share their expertise and demands globally and with different types of stakeholders through online events and its global Community of Practice (see below).

On 14 May 2020, a WPHF-SI grantee from Liberia²⁵, shared her experience in promoting women's rights, movement building and ending violence against women in an online event targeting the private sector and high net worth individuals to raise awareness and support for local women's organizations, titled 'Building Resilience. Leading Response: Women, COVID-19 & Countries in Crisis'.

In addition, on 17 November 2020, a WPHF-SI grantee from Uganda²⁶ participated as a speaker in a Spotlight Initiative learning sprint to share her experience in accessing funding and the importance of flexible funding for women's grassroots organizations.

²² Afghanistan and Haiti selection took place in 2021.

²³ Gbowee Peace Foundation and Women Empowerment Network (WEN)

²⁴ <https://wphfund.org/2020/02/20/vienna-declaration-2020/>

²⁵ Helping Other People Excel organization (HOPE) (Liberia)

²⁶ Slum Aid Project organization (Uganda)

WPHF Global Community of Practice: Building Community, Capacity & Knowledge Exchange for our WPHF-SI Partners

In fulfillment of its mandate to serve as a global knowledge center for local women's CSOs working on the front lines of crises, the WPHF Secretariat led in 2020 the design and launch of the new WPHF Global Community of Practice (WPHF-C), fostering a dynamic, innovative, and collaborative online space for its civil society grantee partners and UN country office focal points. Developed in pro-bono partnership with Dell Technologies, WPHF-C has enabled over 200 (including 48 WPHF-SI-supported) CSO partners across 4 continents to connect with each other, strengthen their networks, exchange information, share best practices, and deepen their institutional skills and capacities.

The WPHF-C Digital Platform was launched in April 2020. Key features and channels of the Platform include a community member directory, a library of knowledge products and resources, a calendar of events, a capacity building portal with training and capacity building resources, social media integration, email distribution group, and linkages to external resources and alternative funding opportunities. A wide range of resources and knowledge products in multiple languages were disseminated via the WPHF-C Platform in 2020, including 175 research publications on Women Peace and Security and Humanitarian issues in English, French, Spanish and Arabic.

Additionally, a private WPHF Facebook group was set up to allow CSO partners to keep in touch, share challenges and achievements with their peers and increase the visibility of their projects. A total of 11 capacity building webinars with 190 CSOs' representatives²⁷ were conducted on a wide range of topics, including Results-Based Management (RBM), qualitative data collection, communications and advocacy, strategic planning, and resource mobilization.

In October 2020, the Secretariat launched the WPHF Peer Exchange Programme, which facilitates interactive peer exchange opportunities spotlighting the expertise, experiences and knowledge products of WPHF-supported civil society partners. Three Peer Exchange Sessions and one Knowledge Café have promoted learning and facilitated exchange of cross-regional knowledge of CSO partners, featuring 8 WPHF CSO grantees and engaging 53 civil society leaders on topics such as women's leadership in socio-economic recovery efforts, ending sexual and gender-based violence, support to women refugees and internally displaced persons, and gender and food security.

Amongst these, 3 WPHF-SI grantees from Uganda and Liberia²⁸ have shared their expertise in mobilizing to prevent and end VAWG with other WPHF CSO grantees around the world. The grantees shared their impacts, good practices, lessons learned and strategies to eliminate VAWG during the session "Protecting Rights and Ending Violence Against women and Girls", held on 24 November 2020, with 38 participants from the WPHF Grantee community (including other WPHF-SI partners).

²⁷ Does not represent the unique number of CSO grantees, but participants that may have participated in multiple sessions.

²⁸ Extend a Life Initiative (Uganda), Platform for Dialogue and Peace (Liberia) and Community Sustainable Development Organization (Liberia).

2020 Annual Survey Findings on WPHF CoP Activities

In December 2020, WPHF conducted an online survey with 113 CSO representatives from 15 countries to evaluate the effectiveness and utility of WPHF Community of Practice activities. Some of the key findings from this survey highlight that 65% of the respondents reported having specifically used new knowledge and skills from capacity building initiatives, and improved their competences in strategic planning, monitoring and evaluation, communications and resource mobilization techniques. Several respondents declared enjoying new networking opportunities with likeminded CSOs and being inspired by their peers to adopt new ways of work and community mobilization approaches (see testimonies below). The respondents have recommended multiplying the training and exchange opportunities and building on efforts to increase accessibility of training events and resources. Priorities for future capacity building initiatives were identified from the survey and will focus on protection from sexual exploitation, fundraising, technologies and data management, advocacy techniques and leadership. The survey's overall findings will be incorporated in the design and implementation of future capacity building plans and knowledge exchange activities designed for WPHF partners (including WPHF-SI grantees) in close coordination with the Spotlight Initiative Knowledge Management and Capacity Development team.

Rights Holders (“Beneficiaries”)

AFRICA (the DRC, Liberia, Uganda²⁹)

Indicative numbers	Direct for 2020	Indirect for 2020	Comments/Justifications
Women (18 yrs. and above)	19,663		WPHF does not collect disaggregated data for indirect beneficiaries.
Girls (5-17 yrs.)	2,041		
Men (18 yrs. and above)	8,069		
Boys (5-17 yrs.)	1,161		
TOTAL	30,934	1,067,184	

²⁹ Implementation of the Projects in Malawi and Nigeria as well as DRC 2nd round will only start in 2021 so that no direct and indirect beneficiaries can be reported in 2020.

Challenges and Mitigating Measures

The main challenge for the programme in Africa during the reporting period was the COVID-19 pandemic. This slowed down on the one hand project implementation (the DRC, Liberia, Uganda) as well as the finalization of onboarding of partners (DRC 2nd round, Malawi and Nigeria). Nigeria has signed all Partnership Cooperation Agreements in 2020 and projects start implementation in the first quarter of 2021. The security situation in country as well as the restrictions due to COVID-19 for office visits usually required for onboarding has slowed down the process. Partnership Cooperation Agreements for DRC (2nd round) and Malawi were underway and to be signed early 2021 with projects ending in December 2022. Country Offices (CO) have guided implementing partners closely to discuss possible strategic changes in implementation and have provided the necessary flexibility to make adaptations in the project designs and budgets. Monitoring visits and capacity building efforts were shifted online to ensure the mandate of WPHF to build CSO capacity was executed. Challenges encountered were the weak internet connection in many of the areas, where the WPHF-SI partners are active, which are often in remote rural areas. Further the grantees ICT skills challenged more interactive exchanges. COs ensured to followed up individually via phone with respective grantees to ensure they received the necessary information. In Uganda for example, the three regional UN Women offices (Adjumani, Moroto and Gulu) received further briefings on the WPHF-SI grantees by the CO to encourage and ensure closer regional following up, in particular, until monitoring visits from the CO are stopped or reduced due to COVID-19.

The security situation in the DRC and in Nigeria rendered project activities as well as capacity building efforts challenging. The insecurity and prevalence of armed groups in project areas affecting access to beneficiaries and the safety of partners and UN Women staff. The security risks were mitigated through a strategic selection of activity locations, travel times and access routes. Extended time for travel was also provided as safe routes might take longer. Continued monitoring of security situations was undertaken while strictly following UN security briefings and guidance for UN missions.

Demonstrations and violence in relation to elections in Uganda and Malawi led to a challenging implementation environment resulting in insecurity, reduction of freedom of movement and limitations in gatherings of people for workshops and trainings. This delayed the necessary approvals from government officials in the NSC for activities as well as engagement with selected partners for onboarding. In Uganda, violence before elections was to be expected and partners already included this in their planning; forward looking activity planning mitigated the negative consequences as well as flexibility provided by the UN Women Country Office in adapting activities.

Despite previous lessons learned aimed at reducing the selection time period at the national level, during the reporting period in Haiti, some delays were experienced in the selection process of proposals, mostly linked to challenges in setting a date for the final selection process at the national level due to the high-level nature of the NSCs and conflicting agendas of Co-Chairs. COVID-19 and security developments at the country level also shifted agenda availability for the meeting to take place. In Haiti, to address these delays, discussions and consultations on the Spotlight Initiative NSC took place until December 2020 and concluded with the organization

of an ad-hoc committee in early 2021 to proceed with the final selection of projects.³⁰ National ownership by decision-makers is key to the sustainability and impact of the CfPs and projects.

In addition, in PNG, a low number of applications were received for Stream 1. Many CSOs did not make the shortlist due to a lack of registration certification, failing to link projects to the outcomes of the proposal, or was applying for the funds exceeding the available dollar limit. Very few applications were received from Highlands region, Bougainville, Western, and West Sepik Provinces with the majority from National Capital District, and Morobe.

Following the outcome of the first call for proposals, the Spotlight Initiative PNG NSC reached a decision to launch a second call and conduct targeted outreach to these specific provinces by providing a more intensive support and focus to strengthen proposal writing. The second call is planned for 2021. Some funding will be allocated to support travel to remote provinces to support CSOs face to face, as support over internet or phone is extremely challenging due to limited network access. This additional support for the second round CfP will be provided by an INGO/NGO, which will help build local capacity of WPHF-SI women's grassroots organizations in PNG, specifically related to proposal drafting. A call for proposal to select this INGO/NGO will be launched in early 2021, in close consultation with the SI Secretariat.

After undertaking the capacity assessments of the 14 selected proposals' organizations, 2 organizations were disqualified due to one of the organizations being registered as a private sector company and the other organization having a record for mismanagement of funds. Subsequently only 7 organizations completed and fulfilled all partnership requirements, bringing the total approved to 10 projects implemented by 7 organizations and 1 co-implementing organization.

Lessons Learned and New Opportunities

On the project implementation level, a vital lesson learned was the skills gap in ICT knowledge and lack of availability of ICT equipment as well as challenging internet connection. In particular, the COVID-19 pandemic showed the vital necessity for local grassroots organizations to have functioning ICT equipment as well as the requisite skills to operate them. Since grassroots organizations often implement in remote areas, internet connection poses a challenge. The distribution of ICT equipment should always be bound to trainings to ensure recipients of the equipment have the necessary skills to take full advantage of the equipment. Specific guidance must be given to partners to find a reliable location to connect to calls and trainings and budgeting of extra airtime should be considered in the future. Overall, during the implementation period under the pandemic, the partners showed an overall improvement of enhanced ICT knowledge, which will be further supported.

³⁰ An ad-hoc committee met in early 2021 and selected the final projects in Haiti.

In the face of the gendered impacts of COVID-19 and the lack of funding posing existential risks for local women's organizations, WPHF together with SI included a new funding stream for institutional support to the CfP. This provided the opportunity for local women's organizations to receive both institutional and programmatic funding to strengthen their capacity and cover the costs of adapting to COVID-19 (technology, safety, hygiene kits, internet costs, etc.) and simultaneously having time to focus on their advocacy and train their staff in proposal writing to ensure future funding and sustainability of their actions.

Innovative, Promising or Good Practices

In Liberia the WPHF and SI partnership is supporting the work of Foundation for Community Initiatives (FCI) on a project to reduce all forms of violence against women and girls in Montserrado, Grand Gedeh and Lofa Counties. In the framework of the project, FCI developed the SAVApp for the collection of data on VAWG and the VAWG reporting. This app will be important for the use of school going girls who are constantly faced with multiple forms of abuses at home, in the communities and at school. Not only is the app expedient of its use at community level, but it will be linked to the national data collection system and feed information to that database. A similar app is also being developed by the partner for the blind and visually impaired. The data for the SAVApp is managed by Girls for Change Institution, a women's rights Community Based Organisation, and ongoing engagement is underway for a wider extension to introduce the App to Gender Justice Clubs, Men Champions, and stakeholders to other counties. The App is currently on Apple Store (<https://sav-app.com/#>) and is opened for feedback and modification based on users' review. It is currently being tested by the Gender Justice Clubs in Grand Cape Mount, Bomi and Margibi Counties. The Reporting App for the visually impaired is almost finalized. Validation of the app will be complete before the end of March 2021.

The partner Platform for Sustainable Development and Peace (P4SDP) in Liberia works with audio-visual material to raise awareness on violence against women. Women in target countries often suffer from illiteracy and cannot access many IEC materials raising awareness on women's rights and VAWG such as leaflets or posters. Illiteracy constitutes a barrier for women's access to information, education and consequently the realization of their rights. The approach using audio-visual tools aims to expose negative cultural behavior patterns through screening of films, interviews or short documentaries ensuring nobody is left behind. Often narratives are emotional and moving, but data is also necessary to show the prevalence. Therefore, focus group discussions are being held where people speak about how they have been affected by VAWG. The discussions are being video-taped and further used to produce the audio-visual tool. The audio-visual material is being screened in communities in the evenings. A projector and a white screen are being brought into the communities to show the videos. After the screening, a discussion on the content of the film was held. A moderator ensures a coordinated discussion after the screening.

The participants could identify with the content they have seen, enabling a neutral discussion on the topics shown in the film to encourage viewers to reflect on harmful traditions.

Audio-visual tools are a strong entry-point to ensure people engage in a discussion as the audience can speak about what they have seen and heard in the screening instead of directly having to speak about themselves. Especially in rural areas, women fear speaking openly about women's rights issues and harmful traditions, as it is culturally not accepted. However, the audio-visual material encourages a more neutral discussion about sensitive topics such as social norms that encourage VAWG, FGM, or economic deprivation.

A WPHF WhatsApp group was set up by UN Women DRC in order to provide a space for exchange and networking among grantees, sharing pertinent information with partners related to legislative developments, opportunities for funding and reporting requirements, and for sharing partners' communication materials to educate and inspire other organizations.

In Uganda, the partner Slum Aid Project (SAP) developed a song called Wise Up with Mthetho Tshemese from iNDLOBONGELA a South African based artist using music to raise awareness on the importance of ending violence against women and girls. Together they are mobilizing fellow Ugandan artists to use music to change individual social behaviors that fuel gender-based violence. Wise Up challenges men to participate in domestic responsibilities, stop perpetrating violence on their female family members and communities and participate in community welfare activities. The song features 4 languages- Lugbara, Luganda, Swahili and South African Xhosa - to make sure it has the widest possible reach. The song will be performed in slum areas in Kampala and Arua. Art remains an under-utilized tool to change ideas, norms and attitudes that validate and encourage violence against women and girls. Due to its success already at initial stages, the UN Women country office committed to expand promotion of the song planned under the WPHF through additional financing.

In PNG, recognizing the challenges associated with limited capacity of CSOs to complete proposals with the inability to support them in person or online, a YouTube video was developed by the WPHF Secretariat and circulated by UN Women country office. The video talked through each section of the proposal providing detail explanation with examples on how to successfully complete it. CSOs were able to download the video and view it as many times as needed. The video on YouTube was viewed 186 times. This initiative will be replicated for future calls for proposals.

Communications and Visibility



WPHF SI Partner Extend a Life Initiative, Uganda ©2020 ELI / WPHF

Global Level

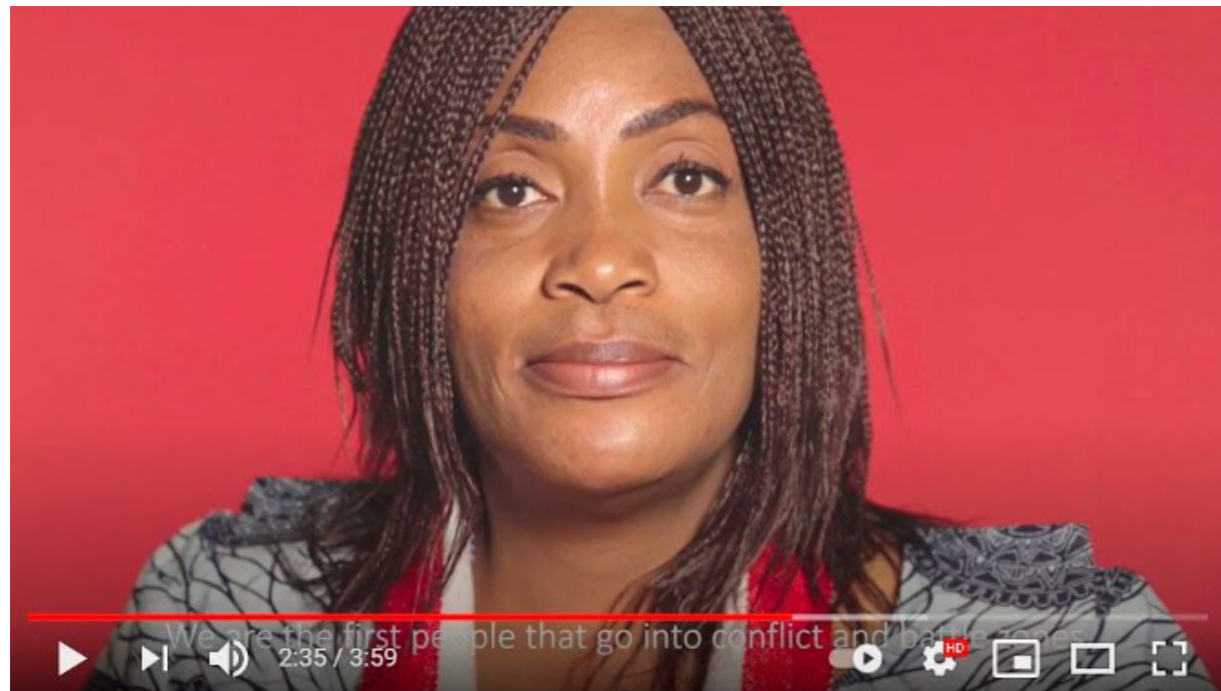
In 2020, the WPHF secretariat and the Spotlight Initiative worked to develop a range of complementary communications initiatives to enhance the visibility of their partnership and the activities of their project grantees, continuing to build a strong foundation for continued coordination and strategic collaboration at the global level.

The WPHF Secretariat worked throughout the year to diligently instruct and reinforce among its grantees and managing UN country office focal points the WPHF + Spotlight Communications Guidelines, which continue to provide detailed guidance on co-branding, logo usage, social media best practices and standard language on the WPHF-SI partnership for use in traditional and new media channels.

Throughout 2020, the WPHF Secretariat leveraged its growing social media presence across its Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn channels (with a total following of over 14,000 constituents around the world) to enhance the visibility of the WPHF-SI partnership, new funding opportunities for local civil society organizations in crisis contexts, and the impact of its partners on the front lines. In close coordination with the Spotlight Initiative global communications team, WPHF highlighted key initiatives across its social media channels throughout the year,

including the active promotion of joint WPHF-SI calls for proposals in Haiti, Afghanistan and PNG, furthering the visibility and awareness among a wide range of audiences. WPHF also leveraged the International Day to End Violence Against Women and the corresponding 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence campaign to drive broader awareness of the impact of WPHF-SI CSO grantees and local women’s organizations to end sexual and gender-based violence in crises settings across the globe.

WPHF produced a conference video highlighting the experiences of the 70 women peacebuilders and humanitarians who participated in the Global Women’s Forum for Peace and Humanitarian Action (GWF2020) in Vienna in February 2020, which included the voices of two WPHF-SI grantees from Liberia. This video was used as a public advocacy tool to help raise awareness of the impact of GWF2020 and to advance the priorities and demands that women civil society leaders articulated in the Vienna Declaration ahead of the 20th anniversary of UNSCR 1325.



Still of GWF2020 Conference Video featuring WPHF SI partner Margaret Taylor of the Women Empowerment Network

WPHF continues to make the Spotlight Initiative partnership clearly visible on its global web channels, highlighting WPHF-SI partnership grantees and project descriptions on country web pages while driving key web traffic to the SI global website.

Samples of relevant social media posts and images:

Women's Peace & Humanitarian Fund @wphfund · Jul 23, 2020
 Congratulations to our latest @wphfund grantees in the #DRC 🇷🇺. Our innovative partnership w/ @GlobalSpotlight is channeling financing to civil-society orgs working to end #VAW & promote women's rights in crisis settings. wphfund.org/countries/drc/ #WomenBuildPeace #WithHer #wphfund



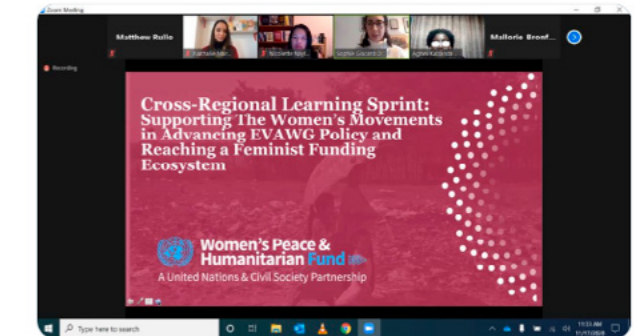
Women's Peace & Humanitarian Fund @wphfund · Nov 25, 2020
 We're proud to support Extend a Life Initiative Uganda, as they work to equip child mothers & young women with information on Sexual & Reproductive Health & Rights (SRHR) & combat child marriage & #SGBV in #Uganda. @GlobalSpotlight @EU_Commission #16Days ♀ | #oranjetheworld ♀



Women's Peace & Humanitarian Fund @wphfund · Jul 20, 2020
 In partnership with @GlobalSpotlight, @wphfund is thrilled to announce its 1st #Call4Proposals in #Haiti 🇲🇵.
 We're financing civil-society orgs working to end #SGBV & protect the rights of women & girls in the context of #COVID19.
 Share & apply today bit.ly/3h8YGqv



Women's Peace & Humanitarian Fund @wphfund · Nov 17, 2020
 Together with @GlobalSpotlight, we're providing flexible financing to support local women's orgs tackling #GBV in contexts of crises. We're working to:
 • engage CSOs in our global & local decision making
 • reach local & grassroots orgs
 • & support them to adapt to COVID-19



Country Level

Over the reporting period, the implementing partners developed and utilized several knowledge products and communication materials, from printed IEC material, booklets, websites, t-shirts, banners, facemasks, calendars, notepads, TV spots and radio talk shows, social media posts and tweets, videos and songs.

In the DRC a communications plan was drawn up during the year, which aims, among other things, to produce a website article for each project in order to raise their profile and disseminate information on the work of WPHF-SI CSO partners. The communications plan also aims to raise the profile of the WPHF in general and will be used as a tool for humanitarian funding. A general

article³¹ mentioning the 7 Spotlight projects was produced using photography provided by a WPHF-SI grantee. The article effectively demonstrated the large number of projects now underway in the DRC and the continued expansion of funding for local CSOs in crisis contexts to end VAWG.

In order to synthesize the Spotlight Initiative projects and render them easily accessible for the donor community, local and national authorities, civil society organizations with whom potential synergies can be developed and other interested stakeholders, two-page project resumes were developed for each project. These 2-pagers provide clear and succinct information on the zones of intervention, budget, objectives and context of each project, as well as detailed background, desired project results, targets and beneficiaries. The 2-pagers are attractively designed using photos submitted by grantees showing project-related activities and beneficiaries, which were selected by UN Women DRC's communications team. A map is included as a visual aid in order to show the zone of intervention of each project. The organizations have also used these 2-pagers for their own advocacy efforts.

In Liberia, the Campaign to Accelerate Women Rights in Liberia project developed knowledge products and communication materials, including a factsheet on GEWE and ending VAWG, training facilitator manual, activity implementation reporting form, training evaluation tool, Media, and a Civil Society Coordinated Intervention Tracking Tool.

In Uganda, the UN Women CO developed an article about the WPHF activities in its Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action (WPSHA) quarterly newspaper, which is shared with a wide range of Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action stakeholders.

The partner Umbrella of Hope Initiative has published a paper on its market research in American journal identifying the most needed products on the market in Gulu to identify the skills training needed to produce goods to sell that provide long term income generation for the beneficiary groups.

Volume 74 No. 1 Article 6 pages 61-75: https://asrjetsjournal.org/index.php/American_Scientific_Journal/issue/archive). The market research enabled the organization to establish market linkages. UHOPI has supported the sale of the beneficiaries' products. A shop has been established at Posta Office, Gulu City, and market links were created through social media platforms, which has increased sales referrals.

Partners are utilizing their own websites as well as a variety of social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter to communicate their projects, ensuring that the WPHF and SI are tagged and linked, as outlined and reinforced in the WPHF-SI Communications Guidelines.

³¹ <https://africa.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/stories/2020/11/congolese-ngos-continue-to-commit-to-the-protection-of-women-and-humanitarian-action>

Human Interest Stories:

Raising the voices of Twa women

In a context of marginalization, extreme discrimination and vulnerability suffered by Twa women in the DRC, the partner UEFA was able to identify women focal points, women role models and other women leaders during their training sessions, who decided to act and to raise the voices of their communities as a result of the trainings they received. Among the indigenous women trained was Madame Chakupewa from Kabwela, in Moba territory. She spoke of a time when her community was severely affected by armed conflict, and where indigenous women were systematically raped by the Bantu ethnic group. Twa women were believed to hold the power to prevent or cure back pain and ward off old age in men who raped them.

During a training session, Madame Chakupewa spoke, and in a commanding tone she condemned the acts of violence and rape of Pygmy women by Bantus. She spoke before local chiefs, Bantu women and men. The participants were perhaps uncomfortable, given that Madame Chakupewa was the first indigenous woman to publicly put this issue on the table in front of them, something which would have been severely culturally stigmatized before. Madame Chakupewa has now committed to take the lead in sensitizing Bantu and Pygmy communities on the issue of sexual violence against Pygmy women. She is the first Pygmy woman to speak out on the radio to present examples of VAWG and to condemn it. Together with other women, she organizes awareness-raising sessions in the villages to make community members aware of VAWG. Currently, other women and men, Bantu and Pygmy alike, listen to her and the discrimination that Pygmy women have long faced is abating.

Economic empowerment of PWD enables them to address vulnerability to VAWG

Abalo Jennifer Oloya is the leader of Lacan Pe-Kun Persons with Disabilities group in For God Village, Bardege Parish Gulu District, Uganda. Jennifer is visually impaired and is the leader of the group that consist of 40 members with different disabilities. She recounts that being a group of PWDs, NGOs had not considered them for any economic empowerment interventions, which has left them vulnerable to VAWG. Jennifer highlighted the complexity of dealing with PWDs as a possible cause of keeping the partners away. Umbrella of Hope Initiative (UHOPI) identified the group members as vulnerable to VAWG in the spirit of leaving no one behind. Consequently, UHOPI has trained the group in bag making skills; soft and entrepreneur skills, gave start up kits to the group as a whole and continues to support and mentor the group.

Jennifer and members of her group are now making reusable bags and selling them to their community. The intervention has created an opportunity for Jennifer and her group to earn income and to better their welfare and protection against VAWG. Jennifer says that women within her community became interested in joining the group to learn how to make the reusable shopping

bags and that the group came up with a joining procedure and allowed other women to be trained in the trade. People with disabilities face structural factors such as barriers in environment, in education and in employment, as well as widespread discriminatory attitudes that limit their chances of achieving success on equal basis with others, thus making PWDs economically disadvantaged and economically dependent. There is no greater disability in society than the inability to see a person as more. Jennifer's groups showed that PWD can manage and that NGO interventions should economically empower PWDs as resourceful actors and assets to their communities.

Next Steps

Africa

For the DRC, Liberia and Uganda the year 2021 will be crucial in showing further results on the outcome and impact level. The respective Management Entities in country will provide close guidance in implementation and impact measurement through further online trainings, capacity building workshops and field visits.

In Malawi, Nigeria and for the second round in the DRC, the outstanding Partnership Cooperation Agreements will be signed and project implementation will start in 2021.

Further field missions will be carried out by all country offices, if possible, to monitor implementation.

Monthly monitoring calls will be held between the WPHF Secretariat and all Africa Spotlight Initiative countries in order to monitor closely the budget absorption as well as discuss challenges and successes.

Afghanistan

UN Women Afghanistan will set up a WPHF-SI NSC and organize the first NSC meeting for the selection of proposals in early 2021, including representation from the EU and civil society.

Following the selection of grantees, the UN Women country office will proceed with the contracting of the selected grantees (revision of ProDocs, capacity assessment, signing of the agreement, transfer of funds) and provide ongoing support to grantees, through capacity building, technical support and monitoring visits (security situation permitting).

Haiti

If delays persist for the Spotlight Initiative NSC, UN Women Haiti will set up an ad hoc steering committee (including EU representation and civil society) and organize the first meeting for the selection of proposals in early 2021.

PNG

The first priority will be to finalize the revisions of selected projects and sign the contracts to start implementation. In addition, the UN Women country office and the WPHF Secretariat will launch a call for proposals to find a CSO to support grassroots CSOs in applying for the second round of call for proposals. The second round of proposals will be launched to reach CSOs from five conflict - affected provinces most impacted by COVID-19. The CSO will be supporting all successful CSOs from the first round and second round calls for proposals in regard to implementation, monitoring, reporting and grant management.

The WPHF Secretariat and UN Women country offices will continue to support WPHF-SI visibility through regular social media posts and development of stories and other communications products.

As part of its continuous advocacy in support of women's organizations in crisis settings, the WPHF will continue to hold visibility events, in partnership with the Spotlight Initiative, on the importance of quantity and quality funding to local women's organizations in crisis contexts.

ANNEXES

Annex B: Risk Matrix

Annex C: CSO Engagement Report

Annex D: Promising or Good Practices Reporting Template



ANNUAL REPORT - ANNEX B
RISK MANAGEMENT REPORT
 Country Programme / Regional Programme:
 Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund
 Reporting Period: 01 January 2020 - 31 December 2020

Instructions: Kindly refer to the Risk Management Matrix in your approved Spotlight Country/Regional Programme Document to report in the below matrix on how your programme has managed all identified risks during the reporting period. Should new risks have arisen, please include them clearly in the Risk Management Matrix below, denoting [NEW RISK] and use this matrix moving forward. Please also update the section on 'Assumptions' as necessary.

Risk Assessment		Risk Monitoring:		Addressing the Risk:		Responsible Person/Unit
(All text in the Risk Management Report: Arial 10 point, normal)		How (and how often) did your programme monitor the risk(s) during the reporting period?		Please include the mitigating and/or adaptation measures taken during the reporting period.		
Risk	Likelihood: Almost Certain – 5 Likely – 4 Possible – 3 Unlikely – 2 Rare – 1	Impact: Extreme – 5 Major – 4 Moderate – 3 Minor – 2 Insignificant – 1	Periodicity	Source for monitoring		
Contextual risks						
Resistance from family, community, traditional and religious leaders	4	4	Quarterly	Calls between the WPHF Secretariat and COs	Strong engagement of men especially from family, community elders, traditional and religious leaders at the programme level. Sensitization and empowerment of women, traditional and political leaders to understand, mobilize against, and stop HF, such as FGM and Child Marriage. Ensuring local ownership and buy-in from local authorities is evaluated during the technical review of proposals and monitored throughout the project.	WPHF Secretariat UN Women Country Offices
Lack of political will at senior decision-making levels within the UN and governments	3	3	Weekly/Monthly	Emails and Calls between the WPHF Secretariat and COs	WPHF uses and leverages existing structures and mechanisms to ensure the buy-in of all relevant stakeholders, including through Spotlight NSCs and PFI JSAs. In the cases where Spotlight NSCs are not established yet, close coordination is undertaken at the national level to establish a joint WPHF-Spotlight NSC.	WPHF Secretariat UN Women Country Offices
NEW: COVID19 pandemic restrictions and health risks	4	3	Quarterly	Emails/Calls between the WPHF Secretariat and COs	COVID19 delays have increased the risks for the timeline of implementation. WPHF Secretariat in consultation with SI Secretariat has developed adaptation guidelines for CSOs and COs to ensure safe delivery of activities and do no harm approach.	WPHF Secretariat UN Women Country Offices
Lack of security, high levels of instability and complex political dynamics in focus country	5	4	Quarterly	Emails/Calls between the WPHF Secretariat and COs	The WPHF Secretariat liaises closely with UN Women Country Offices and Regional Directors to be applied routinely of the evolving contexts in focus country. Timelines are adapted as needed to ensure Do No Harm approach at all levels and to ensure security of partners and staff is ensured.	WPHF Secretariat UN Women Country Offices
Resistance from family, community, traditional and religious leaders	3	3	Quarterly	Emails/Calls between the WPHF Secretariat and COs Quarterly implementation reports and regular monitoring visits and calls on the country level	WPHF Secretariat and UN Women Country Offices ensure that strong engagement of men especially from family, community elders, traditional and religious leaders are involved in the projects and sensitization and empowerment of women, traditional and political leaders to understand, mobilize against, and stop HF, such as FGM and Child Marriage.	WPHF Secretariat UN Women Country Offices
Lack of political will at senior decision-making levels within the UN and governments	2	3	Quarterly	Emails/Calls between the WPHF Secretariat and COs as needed	WPHF will use and leverage existing structures and mechanisms to ensure the buy-in of all relevant stakeholders, including through Spotlight NSCs and PFI JSAs.	WPHF Secretariat UN Women Country Offices
Programmatic risks						
Insufficient funding available to reach WPHF's goal	2	4	Quarterly	Emails/Calls between the WPHF Secretariat and COs	WPHF Secretariat is leveraging the current Spotlight Initiative funding to mobilize additional resources for each country.	WPHF Secretariat
Civil society organizations do not deliver on the planned interventions	3	4	Quarterly	Emails/Calls between the WPHF Secretariat and COs	Quality control of products, close monitoring in country and a quarterly cash advance system to assess progress will allow to mitigate the risks. The National Steering Committee will also be able to suspend or put an end to a project should it fail to deliver. Flexible guidance was developed by the WPHF Secretariat to monitor and approve changes in alignment with overall outcome areas.	WPHF Secretariat UN Women Country Offices
Institutional risks						
Weakened civil society	4	4	Quarterly	Emails/Calls between the WPHF Secretariat and COs WPHF Survey on risks for civil society	The launch of Institutional Funding stream in the new 3 countries (Mauritania, Haiti and PNG) will help strengthen civil society institutions. The development of COVID19 adaptation guidance aimed to ensure flexibility and adequate support to civil society to ensure safe delivery and Do No Harm approach. WPHF-SI grantees have access to additional resources and trainings to build their organizational capacity through the WPHF-C Community of practice. In addition, the UN Women COs provide trainings and regular support to each organization to ensure quality delivery and reporting. The selection of projects at the national level encourages support to a diverse group of CSOs representing groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of violence and discrimination.	WPHF Secretariat UN Women Country Offices
NEW: Lack of results based management and reporting knowledge limiting the monitoring and evaluation of results and impacts	3	3	Quarterly by the WPHF at least bi-weekly by the CO	Emails/Calls between the WPHF Secretariat and COs and partners Quarterly implementation reports and regular monitoring visits and calls	UN Women Country Offices provide technical guidance and capacity building measures to partners on country level to strengthen partners in RM and Reporting. The WPHF Secretariat liaises closely with UN Women Country Offices to provide additional support to the capacity COs. The WPHF Secretariat provides additional guidance and training through tip sheets and capacity building sessions on MSE	WPHF Secretariat UN Women Country Offices
Lack of absorption capacity of women's rights organizations in the target country	3	3	Quarterly	Emails/Calls between the WPHF Secretariat and COs Quarterly implementation reports and regular monitoring visits and calls on the country level	Technical and capacity building support to women's organizations ensure financial absorption while providing quality interventions. Experience has shown in the past significant needs for civil society.	UN Women Country Offices WPHF Secretariat
Financial risks						
NEW: Corruption and misuse of funds by civil society organizations, or accusations of femoral linkages.	2	5	Quarterly	Emails/Calls between the WPHF Secretariat and COs Quarterly implementation reports and regular monitoring visits and calls on the country level	Capacity assessments undertaken by the UN Women CO and UN Women financial reporting procedures are in place and capacity building on anti-corruption is included in the WPHF-C global capacity building plan. If an organization is accused of corruption or misuse of funds, the WPHF and CO will act according to the zero-tolerance policy on fraud and corruption of UN Women. It will be decided jointly with the NSC on how to proceed. The WPHF Secretariat will keep the SI Secretariat informed.	UN Women Country Offices WPHF Secretariat
Assumptions:						



**ANNUAL REPORT - ANNEX C
CSO ENGAGEMENT REPORT**

Country Programme: Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF)

Reporting Period: 01 January 2019- 31 December 2020 - THIS IS A CUMULATIVE REPORT SINCE THE START OF THE SPOTLIGHT-WPHF PROGRAMME

INSTRUCTIONS: Please include any award signed **since the start of the programme** (or done with the pre-funding). Record the full value of the award (all tranches included), **even if it extends beyond the reporting period.**

Reminder that **30-50%** of Spotlight Programme funds are to be delivered via CSOs. Of that funding to CSOs, **50-70%** should be delivered via national, local and grassroots organisations.

Refer to the definitions **BELOW the table** for further explanation of the categories. To **add a row** under an Output, simply copy and paste an existing empty row.

Outcome	Output	Name of Civil Society Organisation (CSO)	Type of CSO (see definition below table)	Total Award Amount (USD) (see definition below table)	Name of Recipient UN Organisation (RUNO) funding the CSO	Modality of Engagement (see definition below table)	Is this CSO woman-led and/or women's rights organisation (WRO)/ feminist CSO? (see definition below table)	Is the CSO a new or existing partner? Please indicate if the RUNO has/has not partnered with the CSO prior to the Spotlight Programme start. (see definition below table)	Primary Vulnerable/ Marginalised Population Supported by Award (see explanation below table)
OUTCOME 6: Women's rights groups, autonomous social movements and CSOs, including those representing youth and groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization, more effectively influence and advance progress on gender equity and women's empowerment, and ending VAWG.									
Output 6.1: Women's rights groups and relevant CSOs have increased opportunities and support to share knowledge, network, partner and jointly advocate for gender equity and women's empowerment, and ending VAWG, more specifically, with relevant stakeholders at sub-national, national, regional and global levels.									
6	6.1	PNG	Coalition for Change PNG	\$ 30,000.00	UN WOMEN	Grantee	Yes	New	
6	6.1	PNG	Kup Women for Peace	\$ 29,791.00	UN WOMEN	Grantee	Yes	New	
6	6.1	PNG	Kup Women for Peace	\$ 84,637.00	UN WOMEN	Grantee	Yes	New	Rural women and girls
6	6.1	PNG	Touching the Untouchables (TTU)	\$ 200,000.00	UN WOMEN	Grantee	Yes	New	Other marginalised groups
6	6.1	PNG	Voice for Change (VIC)	\$ 30,000.00	UN WOMEN	Grantee	Yes	New	
6	6.1	PNG	Voice for Change (VIC)	\$ 200,000.00	UN WOMEN	Grantee	Yes	New	Rural women and girls
6	6.1	PNG	Eden Empowerment	\$ 97,239.00	UN WOMEN	Grantee	Yes	New	Indigenous women and girls
6	6.1	PNG	Kafe Urban Settles Women's Association (KUSWA)	\$ 29,844.00	UN WOMEN	Grantee	Yes	New	
6	6.1	PNG	Imbongu Rural Women Empowerment Program Inc. (IMBONGU)	\$ 29,960.00	UN WOMEN	Grantee	Yes	New	
6	6.1	PNG	Imbongu Rural Women Empowerment Program Inc. (IMBONGU)	\$ 184,040.00	UN WOMEN	Grantee	Yes	New	
6	6.1	Liberia	CARE FOUND- LIBERIA	\$ 80,000.00	UN WOMEN	Grantee	Yes	New	Rural women and girls living in
6	6.1	Liberia	Community Sustainable Development Organization (COSDO)	\$ 108,177.00	UN WOMEN	Grantee	Yes	New	Rural women and girls
6	6.1	Liberia	PaSD (CUPPADL)	\$ 189,725.00	UN WOMEN	Grantee	No	New	Women and girls living in
6	6.1	Liberia	Youth Coalition for Education (YOCEL)	\$ 118,770.00	UN WOMEN	Grantee	Yes	New	Adolescent girls
6	6.1	Liberia	HOPE	\$ 189,730.00	UN WOMEN	Grantee	Yes	New	Rural women and girls
6	6.1	Liberia	Platform for Dialogue and Peace (P4DP)	\$ 178,380.00	UN WOMEN	Grantee	Yes	New	Rural women and girls
6	6.1	Liberia	Women Empowerment Network (WEN)	\$ 60,000.00	UN WOMEN	Grantee	Yes	New	Rural women and girls
6	6.1	Liberia	Gbowee Peace Foundation Africa	\$ 177,316.00	UN WOMEN	Grantee	Yes	New	Rural women and girls
6	6.1	DRC	Bureau d'elaboration et de mise en oeuvre des projets de developpement communautaire			Grantee	Yes		Rural women and girls
6	6.1	DRC	Fondation Femme Plus	\$ 189,063.00	UN WOMEN	Grantee	Yes	Existing	
6	6.1	DRC	Fondation Moyo	\$ 195,269.00	UN WOMEN	Grantee	Yes	Existing	Rural women and girls
6	6.1	DRC	Sauti ya Mama Mkorongamant	\$ 195,296.00	UN WOMEN	Grantee	Yes	New	Rural women and girls
6	6.1	DRC	Union pour l'empancement de la femme autochtone (UEFA)	\$ 180,649.00	UN WOMEN	Grantee	Yes	Existing	Rural women and girls
6	6.1	DRC	Association pour la defense des droits de la femme (ADDF)	\$ 188,006.00	UN WOMEN	Grantee	Yes	Existing	Indigenous women and girls
6	6.1	DRC	Association pour la defense des droits de la femme (ADDF)	\$ 56,167.00	UN WOMEN	Grantee	Yes	Existing	Rural women and girls
6	6.1	DRC	Association des femmes autochtones engagees dans la protection de l'environnement et la lutte contre la	\$ 97,648.00	UN WOMEN	Grantee	Yes	Existing	Rural women and girls
6	6.1	DRC	CAUSE RURALE	\$ 120,475.00	UN WOMEN	Grantee	Yes	Existing	Rural women and girls
6	6.1	DRC	Groupe d'Appui Conseils aux Realisations pour le Developpement Endogene (GRACE)	\$ 191,033.00	UN WOMEN	Grantee	Yes	Existing	Indigenous women and girls
6	6.1	DRC	Innovations pour les Droits de l'Homme et l'Environnement (IDHE)	\$ 72,285.00	UN WOMEN	Grantee	Yes	Existing	Rural women and girls
6	6.1	DRC	Ligue des Organisations des Femmes Paysannes du Congo (LOFEPACO)	\$ 191,711.00	UN WOMEN	Grantee	Yes	Existing	Rural women and girls
6	6.1	DRC	Pilier aux Femmes Vulnerables Actives en RD Congo (PIFEVA)	\$ 84,873.00	UN WOMEN	Grantee	Yes	Existing	Rural women and girls
6	6.1	DRC	Soutien aux Actrices des Femmes Indigenes au Maniema (SAFI-MANIEMA)	\$ 138,613.00	UN WOMEN	Grantee	Yes	Existing	Indigenous women and girls
6	6.1	DRC	Association des Femmes pour la Promotion et le Developpement Endogene (AFFPDE)	\$ 192,336.00	UN WOMEN	Grantee	Yes	New	Indigenous women and girls
6	6.1	DRC	Soutien à La Femme Autochtone de Walungu (SFAW)	\$ 110,772.00	UN WOMEN	Grantee	Yes	New	Rural women and girls
6	6.1	Uganda	Coalition for Action on 125	\$ 160,000.00	UN WOMEN	Grantee	Yes	Existing	Women and girls living with
6	6.1	Uganda	Extend a Life Initiative Uganda	\$ 45,000.00	UN WOMEN	Grantee	Yes	New	Adolescent girls
6	6.1	Uganda	Slum Aid Project	\$ 86,336.00	UN WOMEN	Grantee	Yes	New	Rural women and girls
6	6.1	Uganda	Teso Women Peace Activists	\$ 83,191.00	UN WOMEN	Grantee	Yes	New	Adolescent girls
6	6.1	Uganda	Uganda Change Agent Association	\$ 168,291.00	UN WOMEN	Grantee	Yes	New	Women and girls living with
6	6.1	Uganda	Uganda Women's Network	\$ 91,221.00	UN WOMEN	Grantee	Yes	Existing	Rural women and girls
6	6.1	Uganda	Umbrella of Hope Initiative	\$ 167,331.00	UN WOMEN	Grantee	Yes	New	Adolescent girls
6	6.1	Uganda	Women's International Peace Center	\$ 150,000.00	UN WOMEN	Grantee	Yes	Existing	Rural women and girls
6	6.1	Uganda	Women's Organisation Network for Human Rights Advocacy	\$ 150,725.00	UN WOMEN	Grantee	Yes	New	Sex workers
6	6.1	Nigeria	Ambassadors of Dialogue, Climate and Reintegration (DCR)	\$ 142,163.00	UN WOMEN	Grantee	Yes	New	Rural women and girls
6	6.1	Nigeria	Muslim Sisters Organisation (MSO)	\$ 152,172.00	UN WOMEN	Grantee	Yes	New	Rural women and girls
6	6.1	Nigeria	Women in New Nigeria and Youth Empowerment Initiative (WINN)	\$ 169,653.00	UN WOMEN	Grantee	Yes	New	Other marginalised groups
6	6.1	Nigeria	Grassroots Researchers Association (GRA)	\$ 163,658.00	UN WOMEN	Grantee	Yes	New	Rural women and girls
6	6.1	Nigeria	Green Concern for Development (GREENCODE)	\$ 161,570.00	UN WOMEN	Grantee	Yes	New	Rural women and girls
6	6.1	Nigeria	Initiative for the Development of the Needy, Less Privileged and Widows (INOL)	\$ 145,827.00	UN WOMEN	Grantee	Yes	New	Women and girls living in
6	6.1	Nigeria	Women and Youth Empowerment Initiative (WOYIEN)	\$ 167,066.00	UN WOMEN	Grantee	Yes	New	Rural women and girls
6	6.1	Malawi	Foundation for Rural Development (FRD)	\$ 175,487.00	UN WOMEN	Grantee	Yes	New	Rural women and girls
6	6.1	Malawi	Centre for Civil Society Strengthening (CCSS)	\$ 175,375.00	UN WOMEN	Grantee	Yes	New	Rural women and girls
6	6.1	Malawi	Hope For Today (HFT)	\$ 110,947.00	UN WOMEN	Grantee	Yes	New	Rural women and girls
6	6.1	Malawi	Life Concern Organization (LICO)	\$ 120,911.00	UN WOMEN	Grantee	Yes	New	Rural women and girls
6	6.1	Malawi	Partners in Action for Sustainable Development (PASD)	\$ 70,000.00	UN WOMEN	Grantee	Yes	New	Rural women and girls
6	6.1	Malawi	Purple Innovation	\$ 155,357.00	UN WOMEN	Grantee	Yes	New	Rural women and girls
6	6.1	Malawi	Solidarity for Refugee Women for the Social Welfare (SOFERES)	\$ 81,451.00	UN WOMEN	Grantee	Yes	New	Adolescent girls
6	6.1	Malawi	Women's Lobby	\$ 171,508.00	UN WOMEN	Grantee	Yes	New	Rural women and girls
6	6.1	Malawi	Karonga Debate Club (KADEC)	\$ 41,652.00	UN WOMEN	Grantee	Yes	New	Adolescent girls
6	6.1								
Output 6.2: Women's rights groups and relevant CSOs are better supported to use social accountability mechanisms to support their advocacy and influence on prevention and response to VAWG and gender equality and women's empowerment more broadly.									
6	6.2								
6	6.2								
6	6.2								
6	6.2								
Output 6.3: Women's rights groups and relevant CSOs representing groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization have strengthened capacities and support to design, implement and monitor their own programmes on ending VAWG.									
6	6.3								
PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT COSTS (including pre-funding) - NOTE PMC funds dispursed to CSOs in 2020									
Pre-funding									
				TOTAL AWARDS TO CSOs	\$	7,527,797.00			

Type of CSOs
-International CSOs operate in two or more countries across different regions.

-**Regional CSOs** operate in two or more countries within the same region (i.e. Africa, Latin America, Asia, Caribbean, Pacific). In this case, a regional CSO is not one that operates in a particular region within one country.

-**National CSOs** operate only in one particular country.

-**Local and grassroots organisations** focus their work at the local and community level and do not have a national scope. They tend to have a small annual operational budget (for example, under USD \$200,000); to be self-organised and self-led; and to have a low degree of formality.

Award Amount

In this context, an "award" is any financial grant, contract, or partnership agreement with a CSO.

Type of Engagement

-**Implementing Partner (IP):** Programmes may contract out particular activities for a CSO to implement.

-**Grantee:** Programmes may issue a broad Call for Proposals to which CSOs submit proposals for grant funding.

-**Vendor:** Programmes may engage with CSOs through a procurement process, such as purchasing services from a CSO or hiring a CSO for a training or other activity.

Woman-Led and/or Women's Rights Organisation (WRO)/Feminist CSOs

To be considered a "woman-led CSO," the organisation must be headed by a woman. To be considered a "women's rights or feminist organisation," the organisation's official mission/visions statements must reflect its commitment to addressing multiple/intersecting forms of discrimination and advancing gender equality and women's rights. The organisation should aim to address the underlying drivers/systems/structures, including patriarchy and gendered power dynamics, that perpetuate EAWG and gender based violence and work to transform these.

Please select "No" if the above definitions do not apply to the CSO.

Please select "No information available" if no information is available on or it's not known if the CSO is headed by a woman or is a WRO/feminist CSO.

New or Existing Partner (the rationale behind this question is to understand the extent to which RUNOs are expanding their outreach to CSOs beyond usual partners, giving opportunities to new CSOs)

To be considered a "new partner", the RUNO has not engaged the CSO in any partnership modality, prior to the start of the Spotlight Programme.

To be considered an existing partner, the RUNO has engaged the CSO in any partnership modality, prior to the start of the Spotlight Programme.

Please select "No information available" if no information is available on if the CSO is a new or existing partner.

Primary Vulnerable/Marginalised Population Supported by Award

Under the principle of Leave No One Behind, Spotlight UN Country Teams are expected to ensure the representation of vulnerable and marginalised groups, including by engaging with CSOs that service or advocate for these groups. If the award covers several vulnerable or marginalised populations, select one population that is primarily served by the award.



**Spotlight
Initiative**

ANNUAL REPORT – ANNEX D

**SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE
PROMISING OR GOOD PRACTICES REPORTING TEMPLATE**

**COUNTRY PROGRAMME/REGIONAL PROGRAMME:
REPORTING PERIOD: 01 JANUARY 2020 - 31 DECEMBER 2020**



Spotlight Initiative

Template

<p>Title of the Promising or Good Practice</p>	<p>SAVApp</p>
<p>Provide a description of the promising or good practice. What pillars/principles of the Spotlight Initiative does it address? (When did the activity begin? When will it be completed or is it ongoing?)</p>	<p>In Liberia the WPHF - SI partnership is supporting the work of Foundation for Community Initiatives (FCI) on a project to reduce all forms of violence against women and girls in Montserrado, Grand Gedeh and Lofa Counties (Spotlight Outcome 6, WPHF Outcome 5). In the framework of the project FCI developed the SAVApp. The App strengthens the ability to monitor and collect data on VAWG and enables schoolgirls and adolescents to report VAWG cases and received support and counselling. Further, it allows the girls to report easily and safely violations they have encountered in an anonymous way. They are able to communicate with a doctor and speak to a counsellor for psychosocial support, and other health or legal experts. Doctors from various one-stop centres around Liberia as well as psychosocial counsellors and police officers from the Women and Children Protection section of the Liberia National Police are available 24 hours daily, seven days a week to respond to these cases that will be reported. The SAVApp was developed in the second half of 2020 and is currently in its trial phase. The App is currently on Apple Store (https://sav-app.com/#) and is opened for feedback and modification based on users' review. It is currently being tested by the Gender Justice Clubs in Grand Cape Mount, Bomi and Margibi Counties for scale up.</p> <p>The Reporting App for the visually impaired is almost finalized. Validation and testing of the app will be done before the end of March 2021</p>
<p>Objective of the practice: What were the goals of the activity?</p>	<p>The objective of the App is for the safe and anonymous use by school going girls who are constantly faced with multiple forms of abuses at home, in the communities, on the way to and at school. The schoolgirls will be able to monitor and report on violence they encounter and receive needed psychosocial, health or legal support. Not only is the app expedient of its use at community level but it will be linked to the national data collection system and feed information to that database.</p>
<p>Stakeholders involved: Who are the beneficiaries or target group of the practice? Describe how all relevant stakeholders were engaged.</p>	<p>The data for the SAVApp is managed by Girls for Change Institution, a women's right Community Based Organization, and ongoing engagement is underway for a wider distribution to introduce the App to Gender Justice Clubs, Men Champions, and stakeholders in other counties.</p>
<p>What makes this a promising or good practice? Identify distinguishing feature(s) that make this a promising or a good practice in the efforts to EVAWG and/or in the context of the UNDS reform.</p>	<p>The SAVApp is an innovative and accessible tool that takes advantage of ICT to strengthen adolescent girls' access to justice and services. It allows every school going girl to report incidents of violence and access services despite the challenge of transport, distance and mobility. The App also enables the girls to report anonymously from a location they feel safe and share information with other girls who may need support. Therefore, this app also ensures services for young victims and survivors of VAWG and data collection during a pandemic, such as the COVID-19 pandemic or rainy season, which restricts movement or during times of unrest.</p>
<p>What challenges were encountered and how were they overcome?</p>	<p>The first prototype of the App was not suitable or accessible for persons living with visual disabilities, therefore the App is currently being adapted and tested to also meet the needs of blind and visually impaired persons.</p>





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<p>Outputs and Impact: What have been the results thus far? Do they contribute to long-term impact?</p>	<p>The App is in the testing phase and its impact and usability will be measured in 2021.</p>
<p>Adaptable (Optional) <i>In what ways can this practice be adapted for future use?</i></p>	<p>The methodology of the App could be adapted to monitor and report a variety of other human rights violations, and be adapted to other marginalized populations, not only schoolgirls. It can also be used in programmatic areas like accountability, transparency, or good governance.</p>
<p>Replicable/Scale-Up (Optional) <i>What are the possibilities of extending this practice more widely?</i></p>	<p>The App can be modified to fit different needs of girls and women (disability, language...) and is applicable in all regions.</p>
<p>Sustainable <i>What is needed to make the practice sustainable?</i></p>	<p>It is crucial to ensure that the App is user friendly, linked to existing services, and a strong communication campaign promoting the usage of the app and its benefits. In order for it to have long term impact, data protection must be guaranteed and COs and authorities receiving the data need to be committed and equipped to act upon the information received.</p>
<p>Validated (for a good practice only): Has the practice been validated? Is there confirmation from beneficiaries/users that the practice properly addressed their needs and is there expert validation?</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Additional details and contact information: Are there any other details that are important to know about the promising or good practice? <i>Please provide contact details of a focal person for this practice as well as any additional materials including photos/videos</i></p>	<p>katrin.fischer@unwomen.org (Programme Specialist - WPHF Spotlight Initiative Africa Partnership)</p>





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