

UN Women's Commitment to the Action Coalition on Gender-Based Violence

PROGRESS REPORT 2022



Background

Generation Equality is the world's leading effort to unlock political will and increase investment and implementation on gender equality to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the commitments outlined in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Launched in July 2021, Generation Equality is a landmark effort to advance women's rights and gender equity globally. As a first-of-its-kind global multi-stakeholder initiative, Generation Equality exemplifies how governments, international organizations, civil society organizations, private firms and philanthropists can come together to drive impactful change in the lives of women and girls worldwide.

The Generation Equality Action Coalitions are global, innovative, multi-stakeholder platforms that mobilize governments, civil society, UN agencies, and the private sector to catalyze collective action and spark global & local conversations among generations, drive increased public and private investment and deliver concrete, and game-changing results, to advance equality for women and girls.

As a co-Leader of the Action Coalition on GBV, in 2021 UN Women made a commitment to mobilize **\$400 million to lead transformative action in at least 25 countries to end gender-based violence against women and girls (VAWG) in all their diversity including harmful practices by 2026.** Contributing to the [collective commitments of the Action Coalition on GBV](#), UN Women pledged to:

- **Galvanize the UN system to build on good practices of the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative**, scale up programming, ensure effective coordination and accountability mechanisms.
- **Step up groundbreaking prevention** strategies guided by the RESPECT framework
- **Strengthen access to justice** through gender responsive policing, and the use of innovative technologies.
- **Amplify support and funding to WRO's** by working with partners to secure a minimum of 100 million USD in grants through the UN Trust Fund.
- **Scale up Safe Cities for Women and Girls** to create safe, empowering public spaces free of sexual harassment in 50 additional cities and strengthen action to end sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse in other settings.
- **Spearhead solutions to end tech-facilitated GBV**, working with tech companies, WRO's and other partners to co-create global standards and women and girl designed solutions to tech facilitated violence and discrimination.
- **Invest to address gaps** in the production, availability, accessibility and use of **quality disaggregated data, evidence and statistics** on gender-based violence.

Action Coalition on Gender-Based Violence Blueprint

Through its comprehensive [blueprint](#), the Generation Equality Action Coalition on Gender Based Violence (GBV) is mobilizing governments, civil society, women's rights and youth led organizations, international organizations, philanthropies and the private sector to take concerted action and deliver concrete change for women and girls worldwide, through four concrete actions: (1) Creating enabling policy, legal and resource environments; (2) Scaling up evidence driven prevention programming; (3) Scaling up comprehensive, accessible and quality services for survivors; and (4) Enabling and empowering autonomous girl-led & women's rights organizations to exercise their expertise.

UN Women’s Progress Results: Accelerating efforts to prevent VAWG

Gender based violence (GBV) is a widespread and persistent global issue affecting more than an estimated 1 in 3 women¹, a figure that has remained largely unchanged over the last decade². Despite the scale of the problem, there is more evidence than ever before that GBV against women and girls is preventable. Growing global evidence indicates that investments in sustained multi-year, evidence-driven prevention strategies can drive down prevalence of GBV against women and girls within programme time frames.



OVER 92 MILLION USD

was allocated by UN Women to the ending violence against women (EVAW) impact area in 2022.



167 MILLION USD³

mobilized for EVAW programmes or programmes with EVAW components.

44 PROGRAMMING INITIATIVES

to prevent violence against women and girls developed and implemented across various settings to support positive changes around gender/social norms, including by engaging men and boys and faith-based institutions.

16 COUNTRIES WERE SUPPORTED TO ADVANCE POLICIES TO END VAWG, with a strong focus on

prevention including addressing harmful social norms. These policies and action plans provided blueprints for coordinated multisectoral approaches for VAWG prevention by addressing specific drivers of violence at the individual, community, institutional, and societal levels.

UN Women together with WHO launched the [RESPECT Women website](#), a new [online one-stop platform](#) **TO DRIVING CONCRETE POLICY AND PROGRAMMATIC ACTION TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO VAWG.**

Strengthen support for women’s rights movements as catalytic agents of change

Evidence demonstrates that the presence of a strong and autonomous feminist movement is the single most critical factor to drive policy change in ending violence against women both in transnational contexts and in domestic policy making⁴, signaling the importance of collaborating and investing in women’s movement building.



UN Women has partnered with almost **800 organizations**

and channeled **86 million dollars** to CSOs/WROs working on EVAW since the start of the Spotlight Initiative and the UN Trust Fund allocated a total of **USD 43 million in grants** to CSOs/WROs.



UN Women reached **1,638 women’s rights organisations, autonomous so-**

cial movements and relevant CSOs, including those representing youth and groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, to increase their coordinated efforts to jointly advocate on ending VAWG.



UN Women built **cadres of youth leaders with over 86,000 women and girls and**

3,148 civil society organizations – more than 50 per cent working to end VAW-- increasing their capacities to engage meaningfully in public life and decision-making in line with Our Common Agenda priorities.

Laws and policies: A prerequisite for laying the foundations to address impunity and provide frameworks for coordinated actions.

Multi-sectoral coordinated actions of governments and civil society, including efforts from women's rights activists, can contribute to large-scale reductions in VAWG⁵. Creating an enabling environment is key to preventing and eliminating VAWG. Putting in place and facilitating the enforcement of laws and policies that address violence against women and that promote gender equality are key to strengthening the

enabling environment as per Action 1 of the AC GBV blueprint. UN Women continues to be a global thought and practice leader on gender equality and EVAWG, assisting Member States in strengthening global norms and translating them into gender-responsive laws, policies and institutions at the national level.

Advanced laws, policies and protocols on EVAWG

UN Women led 69 legal reforms and 174 laws or policies were signed or strengthened

In 31 countries UN Women worked to strengthen protocols and standard operating procedures to enhance survivors' access to comprehensive, multisectoral services, including justice.

Advocacy efforts have led to legislation to better protect women from domestic and other forms of VAWG in a number of countries including Cote d'Ivoire, Kosovo and Nepal and FGM was officially banned in Liberia.

Scaled-up strategies and programmes to end VAWG

Building on the 32 country offices across 6 regions where UN Women is implementing the Spotlight Initiative, new successor programmes and self-starters are emerging at country level (Sierra Leone, Uganda, & PNG) and national governments have started to invest in continuing the gains of Spotlight, e.g in Kazakhstan through the Central Asia Alliance to end GBV.

Increasing Access to Essential Services for Survivors of Gender-Based Violence

The provision of essential services, public goods and resources is fundamental for women's agency, autonomy and wellbeing. To this end, UN Women intensified efforts to end violence against women working alongside partners to change social norms, prevent violence, and increase survivors access to comprehensive, multisectoral services. Across 41 countries, UN Women worked with 868 national and sub-national governments, civil society organisations and private institutions to strengthen the provision of essential services, goods and/or resources to end violence against women, and over 2.8 million women across 20 countries gained access to information, goods, resources and/or services through UN Women-supported platforms and programmes.

Lila.Help Global Directory

UN Women, together with the Global Network of Women's Shelters, the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV), and Meta launched '[Lila.help](#)', the first ever global directory (vetted and available in 15 languages) of support services to provide women and girls globally helplines and local emergency services across 100 countries.

Guidance on Safe Consultations with Survivors of VAWG

UN Women partnered with Global Rights for Women to launch the "[Guidance on Safe Consultations with Survivors of VAWG](#)" to provide practical steps and safety measures to incorporate survivors' voices into systemic reform efforts through safe and meaningful consultations.

Gender Responsive Policing: from training to transformation

Strengthening the justice sector response, particularly that of law enforcement, is one of the most challenging issues when responding to VAWG. A positive initial contact experience with police is crucial for survivors of violence and a high-quality police and justice response must be available and accessible to all women and girls who are navigating an often-complex justice system, especially those who are most marginalized and are at greater risk of experiencing violence⁶. Improved criminal justice sector responses require not only increasing women's participation in law enforcement, but also addressing the many institutional and structural barriers, patriarchal systems and negative stereotyping

around gender that are prevalent within security, police and judicial institutions.

To respond to this challenge of transformative change, UN Women, The International Association of Women Police (IAWP) and UNODC have been rolling out the [Handbook on Gender-Responsive Police Services for Women and Girls Subject to Violence](#) (GRP) in 11 countries (**Chile, Kosovo, Bangladesh, Viet Nam, Cambodia, Pakistan, Egypt, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Iceland, Senegal**) across 5 regions. Also, an MoU was signed in November 2022 between UN Women Chile and the Minister of Interior in Chile, to mainstream GRP in the public security reform processes.

Generating and using data to drive change

As the leading United Nations entity driving efforts to increase the production, use and dissemination of gender statistics, in 2022 UN Women developed standards and guidelines to address data gaps on violence against women, contributed to increased capacities for the production of VAW data and advocated for the use of data to inform policies and programming.

This work was implemented in the context of the UN Women - WHO Global Joint Programme *Strengthening Methodologies and Measurement and Building National Capacities for Violence against Women*. In 2022, guidelines on VAW administrative data were published and widely disseminated, and countries across regions are using this guidance to strengthen multi-sectoral data systems on VAW.

High-quality VAW administrative data enables States to effectively monitor who seeks help, the delivery of services, to identify training and resource needs and to assess outcomes for survivors and accountability of perpetrators as they seek to improve VAW policy and programming. UN Women partnered with regional consortia in the Arab States and Eastern and Southern Africa regions to train 46 researchers, NSOs, government and civil society in 18 countries on VAW data collection and use. These trainings contributed not only to strengthened skills to collect and

use data but also to greater demand for data collection and use in those countries and in those regions more broadly. Specialized VAW surveys were supported in 17 countries to fill some VAW data gaps. UN Women worked to ensure that VAWG data, evidence and knowledge are increasingly available and accessible.



Impact of UN Women's data work on policies and legislation

UN Women support to national prevalence surveys on violence against women under the Joint Programme, led to important policy and legislative reforms in a number of countries. This includes the passing of the first-time bill on sexual harassment in 2019 in Georgia; the revision of the National VAW strategy, adopted in 2021, and the draft of the National Intersectoral Programme on Women's Empowerment in Morocco; the development of the National Strategic Action Plan against Gender-Based Violence 2017-2027 in Jamaica, and the establishment of the first rape crisis centre, and an amendment to the criminal code covering psychological violence in Albania.



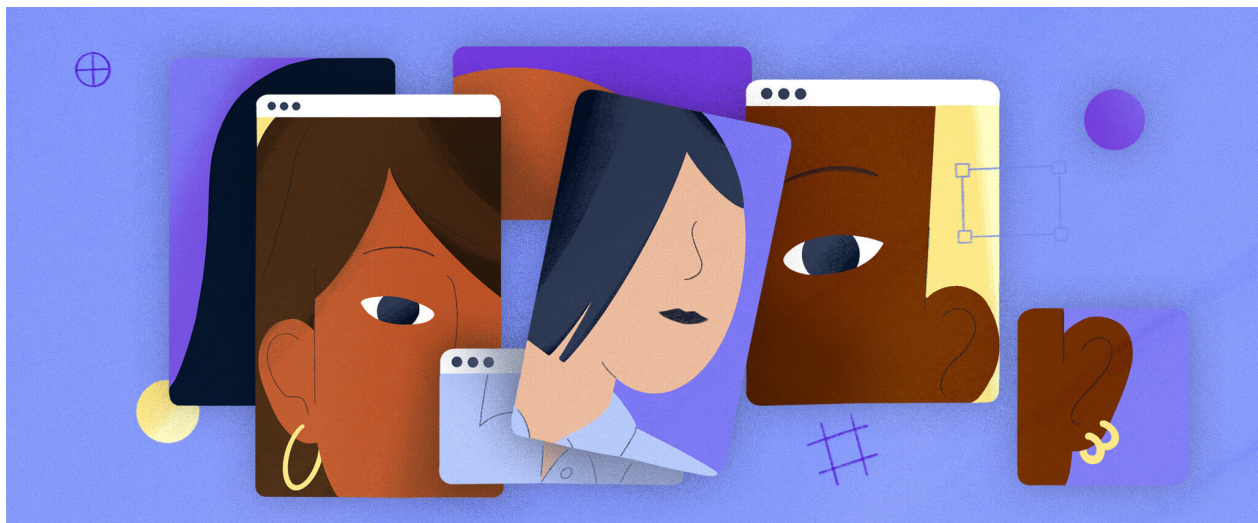
Statistical framework for gender-related killings of women and girls

UN Women together with UNODC developed the Statistical Framework for measuring gender-related killings of women and girls (femicide/femicide), endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission in 2022, to strengthen the availability and quality of femicide data including to understand killings beyond the intimate partner/family relationship. The framework is currently being piloted and used by countries to fill vital data gaps - a critical step to preventing and eliminating gender-related killings of women and girls.



Enhancing data to leave no one behind

UN Women country offices have generated new evidence to strengthen intersectional policy responses to eliminate violence against women, examples including a study on violence against women with disabilities in Egypt and a study on violence against women and socioeconomic impacts in eight townships under martial law in Yangon, Myanmar. This type of research is critical for ensuring that the needs of women and girls in all their diversity, experiencing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination are addressed through policy and programming.



Closing critical gaps on Technology-facilitated Gender-Based Violence (TF GBV)

The increased access to and use of technology and digital tools has further exacerbated existing forms of VAWG, especially sexual harassment⁷, intimate partner violence and trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation⁸. TF GBV can take many forms and occurs as part of a continuum of multiple, interrelated types of violence against women and girls, which are often connected to violence in the offline world. TF GBV is not a new problem, but COVID-19 has put the issue in the spotlight and exposed the inadequacies of our current VAWG laws, policies, and programming to address

these forms of violence. To this end, UN Women has been recognized as a global thought leader on TF GBV and serves as policy and technical lead of the **Global Partnership for Action on Gender-based Online Harassment and Abuse**⁹, playing a key role in ensuring alignment with Generation Equality and Action Coalitions (GBV and Technology & Innovation), connection to UN Women regional networks, offices, CSOs and linkages to UNGA, Commission on the Status of Women and other relevant UN convenings.

Strengthening global and regional norms and standards

In response to growing recognition of the urgent need to address TF GBV, the 2022 Secretary General’s report to UNGA77 on the “[Intensification of efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls](#)” had a special focus on VAWG in digital contexts and analysed data and information submitted by 35 member states and around 10 UN agencies. The SG report makes a series of recommendations to member states and highlights key actions needed to drive change. In addition, UN Women has influenced key normative processes such as CSW67 to ensure a strong inclusion of TF GBV in the [agreed conclusions](#) and has strategically engaged with WROs to develop a collective advocacy strategy to inform the development of a global digital compact including a [consultation](#) convened with Equality Now/the Alliance on Universal Digital Rights (AUDRI), member states and the UN Tech Envoy to ensure women’s voices shape the Global Digital Compact. Furthermore, UN Women developed a [Policy Paper](#) that provides a brief overview of the existing data and evidence on online and technology facilitated VAWG, outlines some of the key developments, gaps, challenges, and emerging promising practices, and makes recommendations to be considered by governments, international organizations, civil society organizations, and the technology sector.

Building consensus on TF GBV definition and measurement

The absence of agreed definitions and methodologies for measurement, coupled with widespread underreporting makes it a challenge to understand the true extent of TF GBV. UN Women, in partnership with WHO, convened a [multis-takeholder group to propose a definition of TF GBV](#) that can serve as the basis for future work. In the [54th Session of the UN Statistical Commission](#) (UNSC), the Commission took note of the need for methodological work to measure TF GBV and of existing efforts to address this gap and will address this issue in next year’s Session.

Enhancing the global evidence base

UN Women has been leading efforts to respond to critical gaps in research and data on TF GBV. At the global level, a scoping review on the state of evidence and data collection on TF GBV was jointly produced with Ladysmith. At the regional and national levels, Un Women has generated data in around 30 countries, including through innovative [studies](#) in Latin America, Arab States and the Asia Pacific Regions to inform future policy, advocacy and programmatic work. UN Women is also working with the Sexual Violence Research Initiative, the Association for Progressive Communication and the Global Partnership for Action on Gender-based Online Harassment and Abuse to co-create a global shared research agenda on TF GBV to establish consensus on the priority evidence gaps that need to be addressed.

Examples of transformative change



Prevention

UN Women Multi-Country Office in Fiji provided technical support to the Government of Fiji to [develop its first National Action Plan to Prevent Violence against All Women and Girls](#). It is a whole-of-government, whole-of-population, inclusive, evidence-based, costed five-year plan with an emphasis on stopping violence before it starts across 13 key and influential settings.



Addressing harmful practices

Under the Spotlight Initiative, the [Council of Traditional Leaders of Africa](#) publicly committed to [abolish harmful practices](#), which resulted in the declaration of a ban on FGM in Liberia and halting/ deterring Child Marriages from taking place in Malawi.



Access to justice

UN Women [supported access to justice for 51,909 people globally, including 1,687 women survivors](#) of conflict-related sexual violence in Kosovo. Strengthening of legislation, advocacy and justice personnel capacities in Kyrgyzstan in the first seven months of 2022 led to a three-fold increase in violence against women cases brought before the courts, compared to the previous year.



Legislation

Cote d’Ivoire, Kosovo and Nepal passed new legislation to better [protect women from domestic and other forms of violence](#).

Endnotes

1. Across their lifetime, 1 in 3 women, around 736 million, are subjected to physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner, non-partner or both (Violence against Women Prevalence Estimates), however, this figure would be even higher if it included the full continuum of violence that affects women and girls including sexual harassment, violence in digital contexts, harmful practices and sexual exploitation.
2. WHO (2021) Violence against Women Prevalence Estimates.
3. This figure is an estimate and may vary depending on exchange rate.
4. Mama Cash (July 2020) Feminist Activism Works! A review of select literature on the impact of feminist activism in achieving women's rights. AWID (November 2020) Moving More Money to the Drivers of Change: How Bilateral and Multilateral Funders Can Resource Feminist Movement. Htun, M & Weldon, S.L. (2012) The Civic Origins of Progressive Policy Change: Combating Violence against Women in Global Perspective, 1975–2005. American Political Science Review. Vol. 106, No. 3 August 2012.
5. Mary Ellsberg, Margarita Quintanilla & William J. Ugarte (2022) Pathways to change: Three decades of feminist research and activism to end violence against women in Nicaragua, Global Public Health, DOI: [10.1080/17441692.2022.2038652](https://doi.org/10.1080/17441692.2022.2038652).
6. UN Women, UNODC and International Association of Women Police (2021) Handbook on gender-responsive police services for women and girls subject to violence.
7. Vogels, Emily A., "The State of Online Harassment", Pew Research Center. Available at: <https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2021/01/13/the-state-of-online-harassment/>.
8. A/77/302.
9. The Global Partnership for Action on Gender-based Online Harassment and Abuse is led by a group of member states working to accelerate action to address TF GBV. As of March 2023, members include: Australia, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Iceland, Kenya, Mexico, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States.