

**FINALMDG-F JOINT PROGRAMME  
NARRATIVE REPORT**

**Participating UN Organization(s)**  
*( indicate the lead agency)*  
ILO,IOM,UNAIDS,UNDP,UNESCO,UNFPA,  
UNICEF,UNWOMEN,WHO.  
  
UNFPA is a lead agency.

**Sector(s)/Area(s)/Theme(s)**  
Please indicate Thematic window and other relevant sub thematic areas  
  
Gender equality and women’s empowerment

**Joint Programme Title**  
Joint Programme to Address Violence against Women

**Joint Programme Number**  
MDGF - 1706 - BGD

**Joint ProgrammeCost**  
**[Sharing - if applicable]**  
**[Fund Contribution):** USD 7,997,378  
**Govt. Contribution:**  
**Agency Core Contribution:**  
**Other:**  
**TOTAL:** USD 7,997,378

**Joint Programme[Location]**  
**Region(s):** Bangladesh  
**Governorate(s):**  
  
**District(s):** 38

**Final Joint Programme Evaluation**  
  
**Final Evaluation Done** Yes x No   
**Evaluation Report Attached** Yes x No   
**Date of delivery of final report** 31 July 2013

**Joint ProgrammeTimeline**  
**Original start date**  
*start date of the programme*  
January 2010  
  
**Final end date**  
30 June 2013  
*(including agreed extended date)*

### **Participating Implementing Line Ministries and/or other organisations (CSO, etc)**

1. Ministry of Information (MoI), ) the Department of Mass Communication (DMC)
2. Ministry of Social Welfare (MoSW), the Department of Social Services (DSS)
3. Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA), the Department of Women Affairs (DWA)
4. Ministry of Religious Affairs (MoRA)
5. Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS)
6. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) and Gender, the NGO and Stakeholder Participation Unit (GNSPU)
7. Ministry of Labor and Employment (MoLE)
8. Ministry of Education (MoE), the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB)
9. Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment (MoEWOE), the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET)
10. Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives (MoLGRDC)
11. Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs (MoLJPA), the Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division, and the Judicial Administration Training Institute (JATI)

Breakthrough Institute (UNESCO)

Sex Workers Network of Bangladesh (UNAIDS)

Network of People Living with HIV in Bangladesh (UNAIDS)

BRAC (UNDP, UN Women, ILO)

STEPS Towards Development (UN Women, ILO)

Bangladesh National Women's Lawyers' Association - BNWLA (UN Women, ILO)

Dhaka Ahsania Mission - DAM (ILO)

National Coordination Committee for Worker's Education (ILO)

Naripakkha (UNICEF)

WAVE Foundation (UNICEF)

Manab Kallyan Parishad (UNICEF)

Men Engage Network (UNFPA)

Thengamara Mohila Sabuj Sangha - TMSS (UNFPA)

Bangladesh Debate Federation (UN Women)

#### *Other Partners – glimpse only*

Human Development Research Centre, HDRC (ILO, UN Women, UNFPA)

The Nielsen Company (Bangladesh) Limited (UNFPA)

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## I. PURPOSE

- a. Provide a brief introduction on the socio economical context and the development problems addressed by the programme.

Violence against women in Bangladesh is found to be a serious social, cultural and economic problem which has far reaching consequences and impacts on the society and on the development of the country. The Gender Inequality Index 2013<sup>1</sup> ranked Bangladesh 146 among 186 countries. The UNDAF 2006-2011 stated that ‘violence against women continues to demand special focus’, foreseeing special interventions to address it. All types of VAW listed in the Beijing Platform for Action (PFA) occur in Bangladesh with estimates that nearly two out of three women have experienced gender based violence (GBV) during their life time, and domestic violence is a common feature although largely underreported. Very few women come forward to report incidences of abuse because it is perceived as a private matter. Women are exposed to various kinds of violence including sexual harassment in the workplace and institutional settings, violence inflicted because parents are unable to pay dowry demands, pregnant women’s deaths associated with violence and injuries, girls and women subjected to trafficking, rapes, and acid-throwing.

Two main causes were identified as hampering progress towards a reduction of violence against women with the first one being the unfavourable policy and legal frameworks or the weak implementation of progressive laws. Bangladesh still maintains its reservation on CEDAW Art. 2 and 16 (1) C., despite a civil society pressure for its removal. The second cause is related to deep rooted social and individual attitudes and behaviour. The unfavourable policy and legal context contributes to the continuation of discriminatory environments and practices which are deep rooted in the traditional patriarchal society of the country. In addition to the two main identified causes of VAW, the protection given to women victims of violence is inadequate and physical and psychological protection is almost non-existent. Against this background, the Joint Programme to address Violence against Women (JP-VAW) in Bangladesh was developed.

- b. List joint programme outcomes and associated outputs as per the final approved version of the joint programme Document or last agreed revision.

According to the approved Revised Results Framework the JP outcomes and outputs are the following:

### **Outcome I:**

**Policies and legal framework aimed at preventing violence against women (VAW), protecting and supporting survivors adopted, implemented and monitored.**

Outputs (ILO/WHO/UNFPA/UN WOMEN):

1. Enhanced capacity of GOB officials and civil society to implement CEDAW for prevention of violence and discrimination;
2. Capacity strengthened for the formulation, adoption and implementation of laws and policies aimed at preventing VAW and protecting the survivors;
3. Information systems on VAW improved

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<sup>1</sup> Human Development Report 2013

**Outcome II: Social attitudes and behavior changes effected to reduce VAW and discriminatory practices**

Outputs (ILO/IOM/UNAIDS/UNESCO/UNDP/UNFPA/UN WOMEN):

1. Strengthened advocacy and public awareness on VAW;
2. Established a national network of gatekeepers and stakeholders to prevent VAW and protect the survivors of VAW.
3. Developed capacity of gatekeepers and stakeholders for preventing VAW.

**Outcome III: Conductive environment created, and capacities enhanced for providing care for women and girls who are vulnerable to, and/or have survived violence**

Output (IOM/UNAIDS/UNFPA/UNICEF):

1. Increased availability of and access for survivors of VAW to shelter, medical, psychological, legal support and vocational training

c. Explain the overall contribution of the joint programme to National Plan and Priorities

Under the UNDAF (2006-2011), the JP was designed to contribute to Bangladesh's National Priority 5 "Gender Equity and Advancement of Women" and was fully aligned with GoB PRS, in order to ensure national ownership by the GoB and Civil Society in general. The JP remains strongly anchored in the current UNDAF (2012-2016), and directly contributes to Pillar 7 Gender Equality and Women's Advancement and Outcome 7.2, in particular (i.e., Social and institutional vulnerabilities of women including the marginalized and disadvantaged are reduced). It is also fully aligned with GoB's updated strategic priorities as expressed in its perspective plan 2010-2021 and in the sixth five-year plan (2011-2015). During the lifespan of the JP, a number of actions were taken, which show the commitment from the Government to fight against VAW. This includes the approval of the revised National Women's Advancement Policy in March of 2011, which addresses many of the recommendations from ICPD, Beijing Platform of Action and the CEDAW. The 6<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan has a strong focus on gender. Moreover, the National Budget has been approved, which identify gender responsive budgeting through Medium Term Budget Framework (MTBF) under which in 2012-13 budget 25 ministries formulated their budget with specific reference to the application of CEDAW by the police, administration and judiciary in the handling of VAW related cases and women's rights. These are some of the results from the mobilization of broad constituencies toward gender equality and women's empowerment, to which the JP contributed through joint advocacy and awareness raising efforts.

Other overall contributions include the following, while more details about these results will be discussed in the section III:

- Improved access among rural women to information on how to access security, legal, medical and rehabilitation support services;
- Improved access to services for the affected women – including legal aid, shelter support and livelihood training, medical and psychosocial support, through MoWCA Women Support Centres and MoSW shelter homes, legal agencies, and UNICEF supported women friendly hospitals of DGHS under MOH&FW;
- Increased public awareness and commitment to fight against VAW, which was significantly contributed by the joint efforts made under the JP to coordinate and implement the United Nation's Secretary General's UNiTE Campaign to end VAW during 16 days of activism in 2012;

- Revision of secondary school curricula and textbooks using the gender lens, which benefitted 33.3 million students.
- Action plan developed by University Grant Commission (UGC) to implement High Court Guidelines to prevent sexual harassment in the universities.
- Draft revision of Labor Act 2006 to highlight violence at work place and associated policy developments, as a result of review of legal/policy framework based on ILO code of practice and subsequent sensitization;
- Increased understanding of government officials (Judicial Officers, Police Officer, Administrative Officers) on CEDAW and on obligations to implement it through their work;
- Knowledge created through research in the areas of sexual harassment at work place, in universities, masculinity and VAW, and documenting experiences of female migrant workers;
- Increased awareness on safe internal and international migration and improved government capacities to address VAW stemming from migration;
- Increased knowledge on the existing laws among general public, facilitating their enforcement – e.g., Hindu Marriage Registration Act; and
- Increased knowledge of judges and prosecutors on national and international legal instruments around women’s rights and violence against women, facilitating the proper dispensation of justice for victims of violence, including punishment of the perpetrators.

As the terminal year of MDGs is approaching, the Government together with UN system and other stakeholders in Bangladesh has been intensifying their efforts to complete the unfinished agenda of MDGs and to articulate a new set of goals in the post 2015 period, keeping the people at the center of development and rights-based, inclusive and equitable approach as principle. On this front, as expected, the JP contributed to achieving progress on the MDG 3 “promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment adopting a more comprehensive approach that addresses issues of access to opportunities and the guarantees of rights”, as well as other MDGs, including MDG 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 and 8.

The recent programme evaluation confirmed the JP’s alignment to MDG priorities and national priorities, both at Government and UN level.

In addition to its contribution to the achievement of current MDGs, the JP also indirectly or directly influenced the Post 2015 discussion at national level as significant awareness raised around violence against women over the past years through the JP and other initiatives led to the GoB’s proposal to include “Achieve Gender Equality” as one of the post 2015 global goals with specific targets on ‘Eliminate violence against girls and women’; ‘Ensure equal opportunity and benefit for women in the economy’; ‘Ensure role of women in decision making process’; and ‘Eradicate child marriage’.

Lastly, this JP has been envisaged within the spirit of “One UN” to make full use of harmonization instruments and modalities applicable to the UN system. The principles of cost-effectiveness and minimization of transaction costs guided the implementation of the JP (Prodoc, p.3). This is in line with the Joint Cooperation Strategy (JCS) signed between the Government and the Development Partners (DPs) in Bangladesh in response to Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and Accra 2008. The JCS represents a partnership of mutual commitment of Government and DPs to create new and more effective ways to better address the emerging development challenges of Bangladesh.

- d. Describe and assess how the programme development partners have jointly contributed to achieve development results.

The programme development partners have jointly contributed to achieving development results through the established governance put forth by the MDGF with a two-tier management set-up having oversight and strategic guidance through a National Steering Committee (NSC) and operational coordination through a Programme Management Committee (PMC).

A working level arrangement was established in the form of a Joint Programme Management Office (JP MO), which initiated other modalities such as the outcome groups, coordination workshops, and joint monitoring visits. Participants maintained traditional work practices for monitoring, reporting, financials and implementation.

During project implementation, 6 NSC meetings, 13 PMC meetings (including the final programme review), 5 coordination workshops, and several joint monitoring visits were held to direct, support, facilitate, track and monitor progress and results in line with the JP strategies and implementation plans.

## II. ASSESSMENT OF JOINT PROGRAMME RESULTS

- a. Report on the key outcomes achieved and explain any variance in achieved versus planned results. The narrative should be results oriented to present results and illustrate impacts of the pilot at policy level)

### **Under Outcome 1, Output 1, 2, 3:**

As a result of JP VAW, acts and laws are being revised, recommendations have been put forward and study results have been provided to inform policy decision making. Details are provided below:

#### **1. Policies, legal framework, and training curricula influenced at national level to address VAW in the workplace**

Unlike other areas of VAW such as trafficking, VAW in the workplace was not widely seen as a priority. Through the JP, partners such as Ministry of Labor and Employment (MoLE), Bangladesh Employers Federation (BEF) as well as trade unions (National Coordination Committee for Workers Education (NCCWE)) have become more aware about the gender discrimination and VAW at workplace. Some key achievements are:

- Review of legal/policy framework based on the ILO code of Practice to address Workplace Violence in the Bangladesh context was done, along with sensitization and advocacy. This resulted in:
  - Labor Act 2006 has been revised, passing of which by the Parliament is being awaited;
  - For the first time, MoLE has included a session on VAW within its own training module;
  - The program of Technical Training Centre of the government has expressed their interest to incorporate “preventing violence against women at the workplace” in their existing training curricula;
  - The Bangladesh Employers’ Federation (BEF) has developed a gender equality policy which incorporated issues of VAW /sexual harassment at workplace that will be applicable for the private sectors employers. The trade unions have already included VAW within their leaders training programs. Better work program and

Indigenous Peoples' Capacity Development project also include the issue of VAW at workplace; and

- NCCWE has included VAW issues within their trade union agenda and women leadership program.

## **2. Increased capacities of law makers to implement CEDAW, Beijing Platform of Action, and related national policies toward gender equality in Bangladesh**

- Under the UN Women's project, a Caucus of 14-member Women MPs was formed and approved by the Speaker to initiate internal discussion and identify issues for lobbying. The caucus will also work to increase capacity of the women MPs on legal tools and procedures on gender equality inclusive of the issues concerning VAW. During formation of the caucus, UN Women arranged discussion sessions on important national and international gender machineries and commitments for women MPs and for the officials of the parliament secretariat for enhancing their capacity. Discussions covered, CEDAW, Beijing PFA, VAW in Bangladesh, Budgeting Process, National Women's Advancement Policy, and Constitutional Rights. Discussion sessions were highly appreciated by the MPs and officials as they acknowledged that the sessions have equipped them strongly to work for establishing gender equality in the country.

## **3. CEDAW Benchbook and Booklet developed to facilitate proper legal processes for the victims of VAW**

- The CEDAW Benchbook was created to serve as a reference guide on CEDAW for judges, police and key stakeholders, and to be used in all court cases regarding VAW. It will be made available on-line, this together with adequate advertising of it, will be key to ensuring access for civil society.
- CEDAW Booklet, an accessible Bangla version of CEDAW, was created for judges, the police and other related stakeholders to facilitate easy understanding for its application and use.

## **4. Gender Responsive Budgeting introduced:**

Analysis of budget of 11 participating ministries was accomplished under the JP. Selected officials of the 11 ministries were also trained to analyze budget by themselves and a training manual was also developed. A preliminary costing exercise was carried out to chalk out possible budget requirement for implementing the Domestic Violence Act. This analysis helped government in following ways:

- Firstly, this helped government to understand how well VAW issues are addressed in the activities of these eleven partner ministries by analyzing the current policies, projects, programs and activities of these ministries. In this context all the activities of these eleven ministries were analyzed to identify gaps and missed opportunities to address VAW prevention and mitigation and implementation of Domestic Violence [Protection & Prevention] Act 2010.
- Secondly, comprehensive recommendations on how the current interventions can support the leadership in the Ministries to build national capacity and commitment were made. A costing exercise for determining integrated package of support services for women and girls who have experienced violence was carried out. These will be beneficial in terms of both prevention and mitigation of VAW and also for providing support services for VAW survivors. The budgetary implications of these activities were also identified.

- Thirdly, awareness and capacity of the government officials of these eleven partner Ministries has been strengthened to deal with violence against women in the context of the activities of the ministries. This initiative has also built awareness among media people, member of the civil society and development partners.
- Finally, comprehensive recommendations on what additional activities can be undertaken identifying strategies for budgetary allocations in next two years are chalked out to support gender responsiveness in national budgeting process.

## **5. Information system on VAW strengthened in partnership with NGO:**

- JP VAW conducted a pilot study to collect data on VAW incidents building on already existing mechanism developed by BRAC. These data have been collected by grassroots women from 44 unions of 6 selected *upazilas* of 6 districts from September 2012, compiled by BRAC, submitted to *upazila* and district women affairs officers. Further support from JP VAW was provided to expand the pilot and its replication in all 388 unions of the 6 districts. From September 2012 up to May 2013, a total of 811 incidents were reported from 44 unions and these are included in the pilot database.
  - This pilot has visualized potential to link information being collected at district level with the national level for a more reliable national database. Pilot was endorsed by MoWCA, who was part of the scoping mission, and would be the guardian of the database.
  - The Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) currently has no database on VAW. Linkages between government, UN and civil society could lead to a more comprehensive and transparent/reliable database. UNDP-BRAC will continue to work on creating a VAW nationwide database building on the pilot of the JP VAW.

### **Under Outcome 2, Output 1, 2:**

As a result of JP VAW, public awareness has been created, and capacity and knowledge of gatekeepers and stakeholders have been increased for VAW prevention. Mostly due to the timeframe and geographical spread, actual behavior change at larger scale as envisaged in the JP's original outcome remains a challenge.

Over 1.2 million people, including journalists, employers, trade union leaders, civil society members, district officials, teachers, religious leaders, curriculum developers, parents, sex workers, judges, prosecutors, and general public were reached directly through awareness raising and/or training activities. It should also be noted that some UN agencies such as WHO ensured that awareness be raised among their own staff as well while advocating to and raising awareness among various stakeholders and the public.

More details about some of the sector-specific and stakeholder-specific results are outlined below:

#### **1. Awareness raised on safe internal and international migration:**

- IEC materials such as leaflets, posters, calendars and a feature film was developed by IOM for awareness campaign targeting potential migrants; especially women migrants about the migration process, their rights, working conditions, sources of accurate information, available training facilities, protecting themselves from being exploited by agents and unscrupulous middlemen. Door to door campaign was conducted in migration prone areas where 14,400 household were reached and wall boards were hosted in all the 38 Technical Training Centres. The feature film was telecasted on the International

Migrants Day 2012 in a private TV channel and was distributed to TTCs. IOM plans to continue airing it frequently at different channels for wider coverage of mass population. Talk shows were organized, highlighting case studies of returnee female migrant workers who faced violence during their stay overseas. There was also video documentary based on the case study, which was widely used by BMET to raise awareness on women's safe migration. In total, approx. 1.2 million people were covered through this awareness campaign.

- Eight types of promotional materials were developed by ILO with standardized information and administrative procedure for safe internal migration, and were disseminated among different stakeholders such as MoLE, MoWCA, MOI, NGOs, Media and other CSOs.
- Studies on the migration situation of the female RMG workers, domestic workers, chatal workers (rice mill workers) and construction workers contributed in development of information-package to be used by NGOs and local elected government officials (UP) with support from ILO. The booklet identifies vulnerable areas, destinations, harms and risks so that the NGO and UP representatives can inform the prospective female migrants on prospect and procedures of organizing migration. This resulted in increase of awareness among women in making migration-decisions. Information in the booklet is sector specific (such as RMG sector, domestic work etc.). The booklet also provides the NGO and UP actors with information on what to do or whom to contact if the rights of the migrant female workers are violated at work locations.
- Community level awareness raising sessions (courtyard meetings) were held for potential female migrants and domestic workers in Khulna, Gazipur, Dhaka city and adjoining areas to raise awareness about their rights (ILO) as well as the migration process, their rights, work conditions, sources for obtaining accurate information, etc. to prevent them from being exploited by agents and unscrupulous middlemen (IOM). The communities have also been sensitized through community meetings, theatre and film shows to extend their support to the female domestic workers and potential migrants for their safe migration. These have led to a positive change in the communities' attitude especially towards the vulnerable domestic workers.
- Local government officials and local leaders were oriented through four advocacy meetings held in Jessore, Comilla, Tangail and Chittagong TTCs on issues related to women migration and the training programmes being provided at TTCs to potential women migrants. This was done in order to sensitize them about the training needs of potential women migrants as well as addressing social taboos and perceptions about women migrating abroad for work.
- Four national level discussions were organized on safe migration process in the light of CEDAW. GR26 of CEDAW was highlighted in the discussions to share government obligations and supporting role of CSOs to ensure safe migration of women.

## **2. Improved capacity to address VAW stemming from internal and international migration:**

- IOM assisted in setting up housekeeping facilities for preparing women for domestic work abroad. Four housekeeping training facilities set up in existing technical training centres (TTC) of the Government by IOM to provide the mandatory 21 days training to all women migrants going abroad as housekeepers. Following theoretical and practical refresher trainings provided to the trainers, a total of 580 potential women migrants have been trained on housekeeping trade and are well aware about their rights and where to seek support in emergency situation. Additionally, some equipment support was also provided to TTC, Faridpur.

- IOM also designed a three day pre-departure orientation module (including supplementary visual aids) and trained trainers in the government training institutes to provide this orientation to all potential women migrants prior to their departure. The Government is in the process of passing a circular to make this orientation mandatory for all women migrants prior to their departure. However, there are still many barriers in terms of access and costs for many potential migrant workers to take this orientation course. Further work will need to be undertaken in order to ensure that this becomes a protection mechanism rather than a barrier to legal migration. Some of the Technical Training Centres (TTCs) provided accommodation at their premises which is a good example of how to address some of the issues around access.
- IOM through the JP supported the development of a web-based database to provide comprehensive online information regarding the training facilities available in the 38 Technical Training Centers (TTCs) under BMET. This database would create an opportunity for the employer to get information about available gender segregated skilled labour and potential employees will get information on available job offers abroad and training facilities in country so that the middlemen could be avoided from the recruitment procedure. Following the finalization of this website and database, training on the use and management of this was held for around 80 participants from BMET and TTC principals and IT officials and has been handed over to the Government of Bangladesh to manage and operate after the completion of the project.
- A training manual for Labour Attaches was developed and finalized through extensive consultation with different stakeholders including government officials and practitioners by IOM. This module will be used by the Government for providing training for the newly appointed Labour Attaches as well as for follow-up training for the existing ones. Additionally, a collection of circulars, instructions published by the Government has been printed for distributing among the Labour Attaches, different relevant ministries and mission abroad. A compilation of good practices done by the Labour Attaches in destination countries in crisis situation was published to use it in the training of Labour Attaches to give them an idea about handling crisis situation more efficiently.
- Following the exploratory visit of officials from Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment (MoEWOE) and Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET) to Hong Kong which was organized to explore protected employment opportunities for women workers there, negotiations between the recruiting agencies in Hong Kong and the Government of Bangladesh have taken place. As a result, MOU with a number of clauses pertaining to safety, security, insurance, protection mechanisms, and minimum wage has been signed between Hong Kong and Bangladesh. Currently intensive trainings are being provided in GoB's Technical Training Centres (TTCs) to potential women migrants aspiring to go to Hong Kong in the housekeeping trade. A country specific booklet was also developed for the Hong Kong bound women migrant workers for providing some basic information that would be useful to them during their stay.
- A network of female migrant workers has been formed named Network of Advocacy, Research and Information (NARI) for women migrant workers. BMET, UN Women, and other CSOs working for women migrant workers contributed in this process. The network would be able to provide support to both aspirant and returnee female migrant workers who are also survivors of violence. This network is also offering support to CSOs for designing and implementing appropriate interventions on reducing risks and vulnerabilities of female migrant workers, assist government departments through portraying the prevailing situation of female migrant workers to take action against violence. A 16 member committee is running the network and the constitution of the network is under preparation under the guidance of BMET and CSOs.

### **3. Secondary school curricula and textbooks revised with gender lens and bottlenecks identified for girl-friendly schools:**

- The two key components of the project of UNSCO-NCTB were (i) review of curricula and text books involving a national workshop on masculinity issues and action research to find out the hidden causes of the drop-outs of girls (Report of Action Research identified the causes of GBV in selected secondary schools as well as social and economic barriers to girls education in rural and urban settings and put forth a set of recommendations to use for gender responsive and sensitive curricula and textbooks development; and training module for curricula and textbook developers); and (ii) building the capacity of the curricula developers and textbook writers on the issue of gender equity through training and guidelines.
- Similarly the knowledge gap of teachers was identified as the main barrier for gender sensitive classroom approach and practice. This was addressed through training of the teachers in the 28 selected pilot schools (4 schools per division) on the newly developed textbooks and curricula. Four to five teachers were trained per school. The trainings were conducted in two phases (two days each). NCTB also carried out five trainings on gender issues for 250 primary school teachers and training instructors.
- In addition, to facilitate the roll-out of new curriculum, seven advocacy workshops were held in all seven divisions of the country for parents, guardians, community, teachers, students, and religious and local leaders on violence against women, gender biases and other gender issues. For advocacy posters and leaflets were developed by NCTB with feedback from JP VAW project team. Awareness raising materials on Violence against Women (Note pad, Pen, Mug, Jute bag, T-shirts) were developed by UNESCO and distributed among students, teachers, Government stakeholders, NGOs, UN, and donors.
- While the above achievements are a significant milestone, this should be seen as a first step and will require extensive scale up as well as on-going revisions in order to achieve impact.

### **4. Strengthened capacity of parliamentarians and civil society to address VAW in the context of HIV/AIDS**

- The JP worked with 50 parliamentarians, identified as a key constituency, with an aim to enhance their awareness and understanding on issues related to rights, violence, stigma and discrimination which are rife against marginalized women, namely those who are HIV positive, those with sex work and sexual minorities constituencies. The workshops aimed to enhance understanding of parliamentarians regarding country laws that make female sex workers more vulnerable to violence and laws that could protect these marginalized women with a view of working towards policy legislative and legal reform on these populations. As a result, parliamentarians developed common understanding of emergent socio-medical and legal issues of these marginalized women and have improved knowledge and skills about their role to address these issues in various capacities. It provided a great platform to discuss laws that hinders sex workers interventions; and violation of rights of transgender population.
- The JP also provided support to the Sex Workers Network through capacity building trainings for their member organizations across the country on HIV, associated violence issues, access to services etc. It also linked them with district human rights cell of Bangladesh Legal Aid Services Trust (BLAST).
- The JP VAW supported the Sex Workers Network in obtaining legal registration from the Social Welfare department which established them as a legal entity and enabled them to work with multiple donors. The programme also provided support to strengthen the actual

organizational capacity through development of operations manuals, in the areas of finance, human resources & administration.

- Sex Workers Network training manual was also developed to build capacity of different sex workers belonging to different self-help groups. The manual is first of its kind in Bangladesh.

#### **5. Increased capacities of law enforcers to facilitate proper legal processes for the victims of VAW:**

- IOM developed training manual for Judges and Prosecutors on Violence against Women which may be incorporated in the Judicial Administration Training Institution's main curricula. Using this manual, the programme trained 979 Judges and 322 Prosecutors to enhance their understanding of issues related to VAW to facilitate proper legal processes for the victims of violence.
- With support from UNWomen, Ministry of Law Justice and Parliamentary Affairs arranged intensive training on CEDAW for Judicial Officers. The training helped participants to know about CEDAW and obligations towards it; also to determine actions to implement CEDAW through their day to day work. The ministry also arranged 5 orientation events on CEDAW for the field level judicial officers, administrators and members of the police departments. 438 officers were given clearer understanding on CEDAW and Bangladesh situations. An extensive discussion took place among participants, where they recommended different steps to implement CEDAW in Bangladesh.
- As a result of capacity building initiatives, 6 District Legal Aid Committees under the leadership of district judges conducted regular meetings and supported victims referred by the JP VAW project.

#### **6. Awareness raised among community gate keepers to fight against VAW:**

- Over 2,000 religious leaders and female religious minded women were trained on VAW, together with 3 interfaith meetings (in Sylhet, Jessore and Rajshahi) with an estimated 300 participants. All participants who discussed this area agreed that this was a key initiative but would require a scale up in order to achieve significant impact.
- 52 batches masculinity trainings were conducted where 1,122 Union Parisad (UP) elected member attended, these trainings is specially organized for male elected member.
- As a result of capacity building initiatives, UP's Standing Committees on Family Conflict Resolution Women and Children's Welfare, now hold regular meetings and the majority of elected leaders are capable of conducting local arbitration (Shalishi) in a proper manner.

#### **7. Media sensitized on gender equality and VAW:**

- Under the leadership of Ministry of Information with support from UNFPA, 128 orientations took place to sensitize 3840 journalists on VAW in 64 districts.
- JP VAW under the UNDP-BRAC project developed a Draft Code of Conduct of Media Professionals on VAW. The target of this tool includes Key Policy makers of GoB, media professionals, Development partners and civil society members. The project also published report on Media Workshops (Bangla & English) targeting the key policy makers of GoB, media professionals, Development partners and civil society members.
- Media forum was formed at divisional level but could not be enacted due to some political enmity.

## 8. Awareness raised among youth and/or at universities:

- The findings of the study to monitor the progress of implementation of High Court's guideline for prevention of sexual harassment were followed-up by SASH, a network named Students against Sexual Harassment which comprises 15 students at each of the five universities, to raise awareness through poster show, orientation session for faculty and administration, advocacy session with university grant commission etc. Officials of University Grant Commission (UGC) participated in good practice sharing and planning workshop to know about successful initiatives to prevent sexual harassment in the universities.
- The secretariat of the Men Engage Network organized a human chain, speech competition and a cultural program in 12 male dormitories of Dhaka University and conducted 4 similar programs in Sirajganj, Rajshahi, Natore and Pabna.
- Bangladesh Debate Federation organized a countrywide debate competition on "End Violence Against Women" among university students. Students of 28 universities participated in competition in 7 zones. There was also a final phase of the competition taking place in Dhaka. It was observed that the competition drew serious attention of the university students and some of them continued their involvement with UN Women's EVAW activities as well as sought support to build their capacity and also to carry out researches on the issue. It was found in an evaluation after one year of the competition that a major part of the participants are working as change agents and actively advocating to end VAW.
- To sensitize the youth regarding violence against women and also to build young people's capacity to challenge harmful aspects of violence against women in the community, a national essay competition was organized among university, college and school students. 45 out of 400 essays were selected through the preliminary selection process and then the final 10 essays were selected by the judges. The top ten essays were published in the youth page of the daily Samakal for wider circulation.
- MoWCA has supported school level debate competitions on women rights, VAW and masculinity issues to stop GBV at Upazila and district based 52 schools in 7 selected districts including two essay contests to stop VAW.
- 6243 young members of a community (students from grade 8 to grade 12) were oriented on CEDAW, so that they can recognize their rights and also acknowledge others' rights. As advocacy material, an easy bangla children's version of CEDAW has been created in a booklet form which can be taken home by the students. There was active participation from all participants, who showed eagerness to learn about CEDAW and be able to use it for the betterment of their community. 200 service providers and community leaders have been oriented with the provisions laid out in CEDAW, so that they know how to prevent violence against women in their community and assist survivors of violence against women.
- The Department of Anthropology of Rajshahi University in Bangladesh organized an international conference, titled, "Utilization of Anthropological Knowledge in Development," on December 2-3, 2011. Violence against Women' is the prioritized theme of the conference. The main goal of the conference is to figure out critical insights of contemporary development thought and practice from anthropological perspective. The conference had two platforms of critical discussions on VAW. Firstly, national and international anthropologist will present paper and posters on different aspects of violence against women in Bangladesh. Papers on policy, practice and cultural trends related with VAW were presented by the abstract committee. As a side event UN Women organized a NGO fair to display and disseminate different IEC materials and documents produced by NGOs. A wide variety of programmatic experience and knowledge products on VAW has

been distributed through this fair. The conference and fair drew attention from the students of different universities.

- Awareness raising campaigns with the Ministry of Youth and Sports through banners on VAW during sports tournaments. Different youth clubs at district level has organized sporting events where different banners and festoon on VAW and related issues have been displayed to the spectators of that sports and supporters of that club to raise awareness on VAW and related issues.
- Youth groups reportedly participated in the 16 day campaign.
- The JP contributed to annual youth concerts which were organized in collaboration with the renowned Bangladesh music band, BAMBA, during the 16 days of activism campaign. The concerts, one of the biggest music events, attracted more than 15,000 youth (mostly men) annually, who not only enjoyed music but also received strong messages against VAW to ‘become a REAL MAN’.

## **9. General public sensitized and broad constituencies mobilized to fight against VAW**

- Under JP, local artists performed 39 interactive drama shows on VAW issues with 13,000 community people watching.
- 840 film shows and community meetings using AV Vans of Ministry of Information were carried out to raise awareness around gender equality and VAW, reaching out 420,00 (approximately community members).
- 23,638 Ex REOPA Women Crew Members, as well as 2,335 local youth of 388 unions under 6 districts received training and attended awareness raising events on VAW, who in turn acted as advocate in their communities to stop VAW including child marriage. REOPA women were linked to BRAC services which provide them with free effective access to legal support and counseling.
- Over 535 village level popular dramas on VAW, human rights and women empowerment were staged where 178,629 community people attended and heard the key messages on how to respond to VAW.
- Community Dialogue Facilitation Tool and Action Research materials were developed to capitalize positive deviance to change men’s gender discriminative practices (e.g., domestic violence, child marriage, etc.). Implementation of community dialogue facilitation tool in the form of Action Research primarily aimed to develop effective strategies to initiate community dialogue on women empowerment and ending VAW engaging community people, specifically men addressing masculinities. Involving 7000 men and women in Rangpur, Sirajganj, Natore and Pabna in community dialogue on women empowerment issues (birth of girl child, girls education, dowry, wife battering, health care during pregnancy, marriage registration, early marriage, marriage registration, polygamy and household work), the Action Research assessed whether identification and celebration of positive masculine practices with regard to different women empowerment issues initiate self-reflexive processes among participating men and whether such processes can bring institutional change with an easy and simple scale up mechanism involving university and college students. The research findings suggest that such processes may initiate changes and there are immense possibilities of using university and college students as community dialogue facilitators on women empowerment issues in a cost effective way.
- Inter-generational dialogue on gender equality and VAW was organized by MoWCA in each division and at national level with the presence of ministries, journalists and women activities in which policy and legal gaps were identified; and public awareness was raised.
- 26 Episode drama serial featuring violence against women has been produced to sensitize the economic upper class and social elite as role model for general public.

- In 2012 Bangladesh observed the United Nation’s Secretary General’s UNiTE Campaign to end VAW which was for the first time coordinated among 11 ministries and 11 UN agencies and a large number of Civil Society Organizations. This high level joint advocacy effort had a wide geographical scope and reached diverse population groups including from remote areas. The campaign was spearheaded by the government with about 30 parliamentarians pledging ‘NO’ to all kinds of VAW. Awards were given for 9 well documented good practices on ending VAW. The campaign received wide media coverage and involved not only a multitude of diversified actions and synergistic effects, but also distribution of information, education and communication materials backed by establishments of a Media Forum at divisional level to review the status of VAW and support the role of the media in combating VAW.

### **Under Outcome 3, Output 1:**

As a result of JP VAW, availability and access to services for women affected by VAW has increased, with more women receiving medical, legal, psychosocial, shelter support as well as livelihood training. Sustainability remains as a main challenge.

#### **1. Affected women economically empowered through decent employment opportunities and IGA support:**

- The JP supported women, infected and affected by HIV by enhancing their entrepreneurial skills such as cattle rearing, handicrafts etc and providing them with small grants to support the start-up of Income Generating Activities (IGA) initiatives. A baseline study was conducted (UNAIDS, Network of PLHIVs) to identify women affected by HIV/AIDS and with low income level. On the basis of the baseline study, 146 vulnerable women were identified along with feasible entrepreneurial opportunities. Accordingly Income Generating Activities (IGA) training manual was developed, and trainings were organized in 4 divisions of the country to equip them with necessary skills and information. Grant support of BDT 10,000 (\$128.3) was provided to each participant after successful completion of IGA training. Cash transfer was made to participants in their skill areas to generate family income and they have started businesses such as cattle raising, small shops, and handicrafts, etc.

#### **2. Increased Access to Protection Services for migrant workers:**

- The JP has provided support to the help desk set up in the three international airports (Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet) and Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET) for providing support to the outgoing and incoming migrant workers. They also disseminate essential information to the migrant workers regarding available facilities in country and abroad. IOM also supported Bangladesh Embassy at Amman, Jordan to provide temporary shelter support to women migrant workers who are being exploited at workplace and sought assistance from the embassy. They also provide legal support to the VAW victims. IOM also set up a help desk at Probashi Kollyan Bank (Migrants’ Welfare Bank) for disseminating essential information to potential migrant workers regarding safe migration process, available loan facilities for migration and investment upon return.

#### **3. Increased Access to Protection Services for women affected by VAW**

##### ***1) Through enhanced referral services at community level:***

- Smart cards which gave access to a BRAC hotline were provided to more than 23,000 REOPA Women Crew Group members. 908 Community Members solicited and received legal, medical and counseling services from District Legal Aid Committee, BRAC, Legal Aid and Union Parishads and its members. As a result they now know the basic information and process for getting support from different service providers.
- A poster on VAW service providers was created in English and Bangla for Local Government Institutions, local organizations and community people.

**2) *Through development of training manuals and capacity building of service providers:***

- The WHO-GNSPU project under JP VAW developed training modules for doctors and nurses for the use by the Stakeholder Participation Unit (GNSPU) for training and advocacy purposes. Subsequently, training was conducted by the GNSPU for doctors and nurses in various districts and upazilas.
- Training manual on psychosocial counseling for victim care and support for shelter home staff was developed and IOM negotiated with the Department of Social Services to incorporate the curricula in their regular training of the staff (i.e., Foundation Courses). Total of 283 staff from MoSW shelter homes and MoWCA Women Support Centres (all level – from management to the support staff including guards and cooks) as well as doctors and nurses from Women Friendly Hospitals and relevant staff from NGOs who deal with VAW survivors received training.

**3) *Through Women Support Centers for victims of VAW:***

- JP VAW supported 9 women support centers run by MoWCA for survivors of VAW. The JP provided IGA training, health care, legal services and arbitration. It was reported that during the time of the JP VAW the centers supported 685 mothers and 635 children. Linkages were made with legal support through which 2,093 cases were resolved via arbitration and 834 cases via court.
- Following the finalization of a comprehensive training module, a total of 41 staff members of Government and NGO shelter homes were provided training on “Psychosocial Counseling and Victim Care and Support”. Survivors of all support centres received counseling support from these trained staff members in different course of time.
- A new SOP for victims of VAW in shelters was still being developed at the time of the evaluation. Although, participants did not expect major changes, the final SoP is expected to contain updated and detailed formats and procedures.

**4) *Through MoSW’s shelters for underage sex workers:***

- The JP supported 6 existing shelters for under aged sex workers run by the Ministry of Social Welfare. Support to the shelter homes included funds for food, fuel, bedding, clothing, medication, healthcare, cosmetics, education and IGA training for the creation of decent job opportunities. Some other provisions, such as televisions, to provide recreation for those staying in the shelters were also included. IGA Training was provided on beautification, traditional and industrial sewing, and vegetable gardening. It was reported that a total of 19 survivors were able to secure employment in other organization as a result of the JP VAW. Latest data from MoSW, however, says that 70 survivors were awarded money for the self-employment /own business in project time.
- A number of community awareness meetings were also held to sensitize the community to the girls’ situation, although deemed insufficient by those to make a difference, who felt more work needed to be made with the communities.

## ***5) Through Women Friendly Hospitals:***

- The JP supported the implementation of WFHI in 13 government hospitals (12 district hospitals and one upazila health complex). A WFH certificate states that the hospital provides decent gender socio-appropriate care, with separate lines & toilets for women, separate counseling room for survivors of violence, private breastfeeding areas, as well as links to legal support and counseling, etc. Committees for the hospitals to include key local stakeholders in the discussion, which included female lawyers, elected representative & journalist, are also in place.
- The main components of the WFH are 1) Accreditation of the hospital on the basis of standard service delivery to women to ensure “Quality care” such that women’s dignity, privacy and confidentiality are maintained and the voice of the women is heard; 2) Support in provision of Mother and Baby package, involving both emergency and routine care facility for the mothers along with neonatal care and breast feeding facilities; 3) Management of women victims of violence, which includes treatment, medico-legal certificate with confidentiality, separate bed/room/examination table/toilet and closet along with two trained doctors and two trained nurses (both are female). The provisions of medico-legal counseling and referral for the victims of VAW are also in-built within the initiative. The health professionals also provide evidence at court; 4) Gender Equity – at women friendly hospitals the women have separate process to access health care services to ensure equity (the provisions for female patients are responsive to the women’s needs within the cultural context).
- Additionally the targeted facilities were provided support for infrastructure, supplies, water/electricity supply, and “VAW Counseling room” where specially trained service providers provide one to one psychosocial counseling to the survivors of violence.
- Nurses and support staff were recruited locally to fill up vacancies, although budget for sustainability of locally recruited staffs remains uncertain. A total of 40 government national level managers and five NGO officials received training of trainers (TOT) on WFHI, a total of 233 government service providers received training on Gender and Development. 65 Doctors and Nurses of WFHs were provided training on “Psychosocial Counseling and Victim Care and Support”. In addition, 195 members of stakeholder committee and 52 NGO staffs received orientation on VAW. Capacity building was supported for National & Local Women Activist NGOs on WFHI and VAW.
- Till date, 6 district hospitals have been accredited as women friendly by National Accreditation Board. Remaining 7 facilities have achieved the desired score to be certified as WFH as per informal assessment done by partner NGOs.
- Core activities including implementation of activities under WFHI plan, quarterly Stakeholder Committee meeting and monthly meeting of Implementation Committees are ongoing. Committee stakeholders participated in 28 meetings and the 16 days activism campaign. All the hospital based WFHI action plans have been integrated within broader district MNCH micro plan to have synergy and leveraging resources.
- As a result hospitals reported that increased number of female clients including survivors of violence received medical treatment and counseling. During the last three years of implementation (2010, 2011 and 2012), a total of 12,555 female survivors of violence received treatment and counseling from the project supported facilities, and legal aid assistance was provided to a total of 2,588 survivors with support from 15 partner legal aid agencies at local level. Number of victims received medical and counseling services increased over the period.

### **Cross-cutting across Different Outcome Areas:**

#### **1. Knowledge created to support informed policy making and programme response:**

The following studies were conducted under the JP:

- The Situational Analysis of Sexual Harassment at Tertiary Educational Institutes, the first baseline study on sexual harassment at tertiary educational institutes in Dhaka, which gives insights into the prevailing situation and will assist in formulating programmes to end sexual harassment at tertiary educational institutes.
- Situation analysis of female internal migrants and domestic workers. Findings provided some policy and programmatic direction, especially as studies on workplace VAW issues are scarce.
- Social and economic base line study on women infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.
- Baseline Survey on Public Private Partnership (PPP) and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) on VAW, intended for use by the UN, CSOs and corporations with CSR practices. This study will open opportunities for UN system to engage in public private partnerships with real potential to advance women's empowerment and gender equality.
- A research study titled "Returnee Women Migrant Workers of Bangladesh: Insights into Improving the Employment Experience and Opportunities in Reintegration" was commissioned and disseminated to profile women returnee migrants and gain a better understanding of their challenges and vulnerabilities both at the destination country, as well as upon return. Furthermore, it intends to provide an analysis of the needs and gaps in services and existing support mechanisms to find ways to better utilize remittances and support employment options.
- WHO-DGH undertook a review to update existing guidelines and tools on how to cope with battered women and for handling victims of VAW in local clinics and hospitals. The results of the study on help seeking behavior of victims of violence are expected to contribute to enhancing the development of policies for addressing VAW.
- The project conducted a scoping study including a mapping exercise and drafted a strategy document for establishing a comprehensive national database on VAW.
- A study to monitor the progress of implementation of High Court's guideline for prevention of sexual harassment has been carried out and findings have also been disseminated.
- Survey "Men's Attitude and Practice regarding Gender and Violence against women in Bangladesh" was conducted in collaboration with the regional joint programme on VAW called, P4P (Partnership for Prevention). This created some knowledge around masculinity in Bangladesh, and contributed to national statistics in this area. The research organizations, programmers, planners, and policy makers will be able to take the findings forward in their future interventions, policies, and further in-depth research.
- Research study Assessing Violence Against Women (VAW) and Victims Health Care Needs and engendering HIS Data undertaken by the Department of Women and Gender Studies, University of Dhaka.

## **2. Knowledge product developed and disseminated:**

With the support of the MDG-F Knowledge Management Initiative for the Gender Window, the JP developed a knowledge product on its experience in Bangladesh and on new programming areas on gender equality and women's empowerment in the country. The document builds on good practices and lessons learned emerging from the implementation of the joint programme. The product was shared with wider stakeholders during the dissemination workshop held at conclusion of the JP in June 2013.

## **3. JP VAW website developed:**

The JP VAW website was developed and launched, which will be maintained by MoWCA after the end of JP. The knowledge products, scoping report, evaluation, lessons learned etc are hosted in the website. It also holds links of partner agencies' and partner ministries' websites. MoWCA can further update the links and place the database on VAW on the website. The website is creating an opportunity for accessing knowledge and information which aids in changing attitudes and behaviors to eliminate VAW. It is also a dissemination mechanism for the government to reach externals with achievement made by JP and remaining challenges to be tackled.

b. In what way do you feel that the capacities developed during the implementation of the joint programme have contributed to the achievement of the outcomes?

Clearly, capacity building was the central to JP VAW programme approach, and the capacities developed during the life of the JP have contributed in many different ways and at all levels towards achieving all three JP outcomes. With increased capacity of law makers, law enforcers, as well as policy makers and government and non-government agencies, policies, laws, budgeting mechanism, and information system have been reviewed, revised and better implemented (outcome 1). With increased capacity of duty bearers as well as right holders, broad constituencies have been mobilized to end violence against women (outcome 2). With increased capacity of service providers, access to protection services for VAW survivors and quality of such services have been improved (outcome 3).

With increased capacity of implementing UN agencies and Government Ministries in the form of improved knowledge and understanding on structural causes of gender inequality and VAW, the JP were able to design training and advocacy materials addressing the very issues in the context of Bangladesh, which contributed to the achievement of the outcomes. On the other hand, increased capacity in joint programming in itself led to the better coordination and the improved programme coherence between the participating agencies and ministries over the course of JP period, thus contributed to the overall achievement of the outcomes.

c. Report on how outputs have contributed to the achievement of the outcomes based on performance indicators and explain any variance in actual versus planned contributions of these outputs. Highlight any institutional and/ or behavioural changes, including capacity development, amongst beneficiaries/right holders.

Details on how the outputs of the project have contributed to the outcomes are elaborated in section II a. However it is difficult to comment exactly on variance between actual and planned targets due to lack of clear M&E framework with baseline and target values from the beginning of the project, which is also highlighted as constraints during mid-term review and final evaluation. Nevertheless, an attempt was made to report on the achievements as per the revised M&E framework (see the Annex X). Below is brief summary achievement on each of the performance indicators (source: endline survey).

*Indicator 1: No. of (revised) policies/laws approved to align and comply with internal framework on women's rights and VAW/G-related issues.*

JP-VAW project intended to work on 16 policies/laws; however, most of the interventions actually focused on the actual implementation/enforcement of laws and policies, which was found to be a major challenge in Bangladesh. However, the JP also contributed to the new or revised policy formulation such as: Bangladesh Nari nity-2011, Gender Equality Act 2012, National Population Policy incorporating gender issues, National action plan on VAW, and Labour Law 2013 (revised), etc. In addition, other policy related achievements are:

- Technical Training Centre has incorporated “preventing violence against women at the workplace” in their existing training curricula.
- The Bangladesh Employers Federation (BEF) has developed a gender equality policy which incorporated issues of VAW /sexual harassment at workplace sectors employers.
- NCCWE has included VAW issues within their trade union agenda and women leadership program.
- The Bangladesh Employers Association has already incorporated VAW in their policies related with workplace safety.

*Indicator 2: Level of accountability and awareness within gov't offices for compliance with legal/policy frameworks addressing SGBV and VAW/G.*

Most of the government officials are aware of the compliances related to the gender and GBV issues (above 80%) and they are practicing these in their offices.

*Indicator 3: Level of awareness of government officials (national, district and local) and police on CEDAW/Gender/VAW policies and laws.*

About 75% of the officials interviewed are aware about the CEDAW and gender related laws and policies.

*Indicator 4: Status of gender inclusive budgeting in eleven (11) partner ministries.*

Government uses the term gender responsive budgeting. Analysis of budget allocation particularly for women made by partner ministries show that Five ministries budget allocation remain as last year, four ministries have slightly increased the budget allocation and two ministries have slightly reduced the budget.

*Indicator 5: Percentage of civil society, public servants, law makers have an understanding on CEDAW Bench Book (developed under JP activities), and women rights (looking at some specific areas e.g./incl. migrant and workers/work-related issues).*

CEDAW bench Book has been drafted, but could not be widely circulated before May 2013. As a result, not many stakeholders know about this, even though they may know about CEDAW in itself or concept/information highlighted in CEDAW. End line study shows that among the Religious leaders 7.5%, Judges and Prosecutors 50% and Journalist 58% are aware about this book.

*Indicator 6: No. of work places that have adapted ILO Code of Practice*

ILO code of practices has been widely adapted (100%) in the intervention areas. Government has recently revised the labour law and incorporated the ILO code of practices. However, limitations are still there in the labour law as several groups, including ILO, have commented. This will be further reviewed soon.

*Indicator 7: Status of information system on VAW*

A number of UN and government agencies are working to strengthen a national database and reporting system in VAW. Amongst all, UNDP along with BRAC and MOWCA is developing an integrated database (yet to be complete), which has a good potential. Apart from this, Ministry of Home Affairs and MoWCA have a separate database on GBV.

*Indicator 8: Pre/post-screening survey of individuals viewing TV series on general level of awareness of VAW.*

TV series (26 weeks) was developed, but finalized only at the end of project, and telecasting could not be completed during the project period. Therefore, no pre- and post-test surveys were conducted.

*Indicator 9: % of boys aged 10-19, men aged 20-60, girls aged 10-19 and women aged 20-49 in the selected districts who are aware of the negative effects of GBV.*

All categories of respondents are well aware of the VAW and are able to correctly identify the VAW issues (above 90%). More than 70% of the respondents were also able to mention at least two negative effects of each category of VAW.

*Indicator 10: Pre/post-training survey of migrant workers level of awareness of VAW and rights when travelling abroad.*

80% of potential migrant workers are aware of possible physical and psychological violence, about 55% also mentions about sexual violence and 30% mentions about financial violence. 55% mentions about their rights to have a safe working place, 20% mentions about right to information and to report to get help.

*Indicator 11: Network and training participants' attitudes, behaviors and awareness of VAW.*

Shelter home staff: 94% is aware about physical violence; 87% about psychological violence; 62% about financial violence; 56% about sexual violence. All (100%) staff possess do not support the practice of beating wives for not cooking or having forced sex. They have positive attitudes toward taking care of children. However, 32% think that wives should take advance permission from husbands for going out.

Union facilitators/ team members are knowledgeable about different forms of violence such as: physical violence 90%, psychological violence 56%, financial violence 37%, sexual violence 27% etc.

*Indicator 12: Capacity of service/support providers to offer support to VAW victims/survivors (related to outreach, services and practices).*

NGOs providing support to victims/ survivors have capacity to provide legal, psychological and health support with referral linkages with appropriate government offices.

*Indicator 13: Level of institutional capacities to deliver support/services to victims of VAW and/or address VAW-related issues (e.g. medical/health and legal issues addressed; effectiveness of monitoring and reporting systems; effectiveness of procedural/operational guidelines; accountability measures for delivering services to victims; confidentiality, screening, conflict resolution; capacity for outreach services, counseling, referral and post-services support/continuing/ongoing support aimed at prevention of VAW/G)—for Shelter Homes, Hospitals, NGOs, etc.*

No separate assessment of capacity of service facilities and providers are done at the end of project.

- d. Who are and how have the primary beneficiaries/right holders been engaged in the joint programme implementation? Please disaggregate by relevant category as appropriate for your specific joint programme (e.g. gender, age, etc).

Direct Beneficiaries: January 2010- June 2013 (Cumulative)

Direct Beneficiaries	Men	Men from Ethnic Groups	Women	Women from Ethnic Groups	Boys	Girls	National Institutions	Local Institutions
Targeted Number	1723128	8562	1646103	5913	23741886	24463762	1512	34876
Reached Number	1347551	6026	1177450	4017	23726292	24424258	893	33511

These beneficiaries have been engaged in the JP implementation through public sensitization, advocacy, training, and service provision. For further details, please see narrative provided under II a.

- e. Describe and assess how the joint programme and its development partners have addressed issues of social, cultural, political and economic inequalities during the implementation phase of the programme:

- a. To what extent and in which capacities have socially excluded populations been involved throughout this programme?

JP has involved women, infected and affected by HIV, through providing skills and opportunities for entrepreneurship and income generation with a view to economically empowering them. The same group of people also participated in the JP through capacity development initiatives aiming at enhancing their self-help network and increasing their voice toward more inclusive policy and legal framework to safeguard their rights. The JP has also reached out underage sex workers through provision of multi-sectoral services including livelihood training at shelter homes run by MoSW.

Furthermore, women, youth and children in general are socially excluded in Bangladesh context, and they were engaged at all levels of JP implementation as recipients of sensitization, training, and protection services, as well as active change agent toward more gender equitable society.

- b. Has the programme contributed to increasing the decision making power of excluded groups vis-a-vis policies that affect their lives? Has there been an increase in dialogue and participation of these groups with local and national governments in relation to these policies?

The Sex Workers Network obtained formal recognition through the social welfare registration. The Network comprises of 29 organisations, and it can now work with other organisations. Decision making power has increased due to both awareness creation and IGA for those groups.

- c. Has the programme and its development partners strengthened the organization of citizen and civil society groups so that they are better placed to advocate for their rights? If so how? Please give concrete examples.

Through the JP VAW, the informal network became formal, and it is working with civil society organisations supported by such organisational strengthening. With UNAIDS assistance, organizational operational manuals were developed, and need based advocacy with relevant stakeholders in various capacities was undertaken. Further, the network provided emergency rescue and legal support for sex workers.

Organization of citizen and civil society groups through WFHI supported by DGHS and UNICEF is another example. Local community is an important part of WFHI implementation as vital members of the Stakeholder Committee formed by DGHS. Members included female lawyers, elected representative of municipality or upazila parishad, journalists, teachers, representative from administration and police forces and officials from hospitals. The JP has built their capacity to monitor the services in the facilities and to provide feedback to improve the care. The local community has also contributed fund for purchasing drugs for poor women, paying salary to some locally recruited staffs and renovating female toilets, etc.

- d. To what extent has the programme (whether through local or national level interventions) contributed to improving the lives of socially excluded groups?

The programme has contributed to improving the lives of socially excluded groups at both local and national level. PLHIV are better off and have increased their social status and income due to IGA. The same applies to the girls in the shelter homes who attended various training. Based on the obtained skills and the increased networking for job opportunities, several were provided with employment, and their lives have improved. WFHI, through listening and responding to the voices of women while providing services, increased significantly the utilization of life saving and protection services by female clients, including survivors of VAW.

- f. Describe the extent of the contribution of the joint programme to the following categories of results:

a. Paris Declaration Principles

- Leadership of national and local governmental institutions
- Involvement of CSO and citizens
- Alignment and harmonization
- Innovative elements in mutual accountability (justify why these elements are innovative)

JP Final Evaluation identified the strong leadership and ownership of the External Relations Division (ERD) of Ministry of Finance was amongst the main drivers of the success of JP VAW. While UNFPA acted as lead agency for the UN, on the government side, ERD acted as facilitator, ensuring coordination between development partners and implementing partners in line with its mandate. ERD and UNFPA together acted as co-chairs of the Programme Management Committee (PMC), the core governance mechanism for the JP implementation and monitoring, through which mutual accountability was ensured. The fact that JP VAW has strongly been anchored in UNDAF in itself also ensures mutual accountability as UNDAF monitoring has been organized

jointly by government and UN agencies with set mechanism such as joint annual review and UNDAFInfo database with open access to both UN and Government agencies.

Through implementation of the JP, many UN agencies built and strengthened existing partnership with NGOs and civil society, with some significant outcomes such as the legalization of the Sex Workers Network. BRAC, the largest NGO in Bangladesh, has been a key partner at various levels of the JP, and has involved other specialized NGOs such as BNWLA, ASK and Mahila Praishad.

JP VAW was fully aligned with GoB's updated strategic priorities as expressed in its perspective plan 2010-2021 and in the sixth five-year plan (2011-2015). During the lifespan of the JP, a number of actions were taken, which show the commitment from the Government to fight against VAW, such as the approval of the revised National Women's Advancement Policy 2011.

#### b. Delivering as One

- Role of Resident Coordinator Office and synergies with other MDG-F joint programmes
- Innovative elements in harmonization of procedures and managerial practices (justify why these elements are innovative)
- Joint United Nations formulation, planning and management

RCO played an important role as liaison between JP VAW and MDG F Secretariat. It provided policy guidance to ensure the JP's compliance with MDG F requirements and accountability framework. The RCO was represented in the strategic level discussions. The Resident Coordinator co-chaired the National Steering Committee meetings. The RCO represented in all the PMC meetings and the technical review committee meetings. RCO also assisted Joint Programme Management Office (JPMO) through participating on behalf of UN agencies in a number of review panels facilitating the JP VAW decision making such as selection of evaluation consultants as the size of JP VAW often made it impractical for all participating agencies to join every process and also transferring funds from AA. The information exchange with JP on nutrition and food security was also facilitated by RCO especially in the areas of joint monitoring, contextualizing ToR and few other strategic plans, selection of consultants etc. Though there was limited formal interaction, but informal discussions continued throughout, primarily to seek suggestions and discuss on strategies.

The JPMO was set up to act as central coordination and oversight mechanism, ensuring harmonization of procedures and management practices. The JPMO frequently convened meetings with UN agency focal points for JP VAW who in turn coordinate with their respective government counterparts. Following the findings and recommendations from mid term review, the JP also formed three outcome groups as well as introduced coordination workshops and joint monitoring visits to more regularly exchange information and collectively monitor the JP progress. Many of the JP focal points also acted as UNDAF gender pillar group members (or UN gender theme group members). The Overlap of the memberships of these different groups and their frequent meetings through different mechanisms led to strengthened network of the JP focal points (or gender focal points) as they now feel that they are all friends.

The same group of people played a key role in formulation, implementation and monitoring of UNDAF 2012-2016. Pillar 7 (gender) has two outcomes, one of which was meant to be achieved mainly through JP VAW and its follow-on programme.

### III. GOOD PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNED

#### a. Report key lessons learned and good practices that would facilitate future joint programme design and implementation

##### **Key lessons learned on Design:**

- Design process is a key for joint programme. Adequate time and participation needs to be ensured.
- Programme strategies need to be agreed at the design stage (for advocacy, communications, monitoring, coordination, etc), and this will help to identify synergies and ensure clear division of roles (to avoid duplication) among partners and outcomes-clusters.
- Geographic spread has different impact depending on the nature of the activity.
- The expected outcomes should be realistic according to the resources available.
- The programme design should adequately assess the existing capacity and human resources.
- JP should develop a clear monitoring and evaluation strategy from the beginning, together with common tools, agreed (realistic and results oriented) goals and sufficient capacity to implement it. Similarly, a coherent advocacy focus through the identification of common messages, areas of focus and target beneficiaries is necessary for impact and visibility.
- Sustainability of programme activities needs to be looked at the design stage, especially given the nature of VAW which requires a long term strategy beyond the scope of any programme. Commitments after the programme period should be agreed at this stage and included in the Government's TPPs so they can be included in planning cycles.

##### **Key lessons learned on Joint Programming:**

- The UN is still learning how to do joint programming. Limiting the number of partners might facilitate the process.
- In-country capacity, in addition to expertise and mandate, should be taken into consideration when looking at budget distribution.
- Joint programming helps to avoid duplication and identify opportunities for synergies and collaboration, but only when partners participate in the joint programming process effectively and substantially.
- Benefits of inclusiveness (in terms of number of agencies) are off set with challenges to coordination and hamper the learning process towards real joint programming
- For successful joint programming adequate and realistic assessment of human resource, which takes into consideration requirements for coordination, needs to take place.

##### **Key lessons learned on Management and Coordination:**

- Joint structure (JPMO) needs to be fully in place from the beginning.
- Joint programming has potential to be cost effective in terms of coverage and leverage. Overhead costs can also be reduced. However, JPMO could have been better staffed.
- There is a need for a more realistic alignment between resources and goals, and this needs to be reflected in how achievements are measured (M&E framework).
- Inadequate resources for M&E can lead to weak reporting, analysis, and quality control.

##### **Key lessons learned on Synergy:**

- If planning is not based on comparative advantage of participating agencies and linkages between different interventions are not identified, it is difficult to ensure synergy at implementation level.

- A common communication strategy needs to be in place from the beginning to ensure impact and visibility.
- When a patient is admitted, there should be better communications between the hospitals and the police so that legal action can be taken and perpetrators brought to justice.
- It is important to have conceptual clarity around theory of change and to identify the programmatic synergy across different agency components at the JP design phase. Geographical convergence is equally important in this context.

### **Good practices:**

Outcome 1: CEDAW Bench book as the reference tool of judges; CEDAW Training Manual; Training on CEDAW for government officials; budget analysis process through gender lens and Domestic Violence Act costing exercise; and easier Bangla version of CEDAW were identified as good practices by government partner agencies.

Outcome 2: Good practices were identified as: courtyard meetings on internal and international migration; community drama sessions; awareness raising with communities and parliamentarians on sex workers and victims of trafficking; 16 day campaign as a UN-wide model to build on.

Outcome 3: With regard to shelters, IGA activities undertaken are seen as a best practice that can be replicated and scaled up with significant and sustainable impact. Under MoWCA, linkages made to legal counseling is seen as a best practice. Under DGHS of the MoHFW, the Hospital Services Management department aided in developing a greater social support system for WFH by working with grassroots Committees and Networks, which can be seen as a best practice, particularly because WFH are now sustainable in that it has been incorporated in Operational Plan 2011-2016 of the Health SWAp and scale-up is being planned.

Holistic interventions through interagency approaches and partnerships such as psychosocial counseling training for service providers in different sectors also forms a part of JP VAW good practices.

Further details on lessons learned and good practices can be found in the published JP VAW knowledge product, “*Committing to the future of Bangladesh: Joint Programme to address Violence against Women. Key Achievements and Lessons Learned during the Intervention Period, 2010-2013*”.

#### **b. Report on any innovative development approaches as a result of joint programme implementation:**

- IOM involved some of the girls of the MoSW shelter home within the project coverage of the Café Mukti (a project for economic empowerment of disadvantaged women under IOM), seen as a positive by product of joint programming.

#### **c. Indicate key constraints/challenges including delays (if any) during programme implementation:**

- With its 20 partners (9 UN agencies and 11 ministries), the JP had an inborn challenge in terms of coordination. Lack of conceptual clarity around theory of change and wide geographical spread made further the JP difficult to ensure programmatic synergy across different agency components.

- Lengthy process involved in the Government approval of the JP and subsequent TPP formulation under each Ministries and approval (pre-requisite for the new projects) delayed significantly the start-up of the JP implementation.
- Delayed fund disbursement at different times during the project period (once as per NSC decision; other times because of varied level of implementation rate per agencies while request for next instalment to MDG F couldn't be initiated without collectively reaching the threshold) negatively affected the implementation of some activities.
- The JP's expected outcomes were very ambitious to achieve within the limited timeframe of the programme.
- Transfer of key persons from the Ministries, UN agencies, and other implementing partners and proper knowledge management was a challenge. Additionally, some of the Government offices were found to be under-staffed.
- Limited number of TPP revisions permitted during the course of the project (as per GoB regulations) led to the closure of MoYS project component before completion of all planned activities.
- The political instability caused disruptions in the execution of planned activities – field level activities, in particular, were negatively affected. Despite extensive planning, re-planning and flexibility, the JP encountered implementation delays.
- The wide geographical spread tended to dilute the programme's impact, in part by making it harder to ensure internal consistency and quality control.
- Lack of financial and human resources:
  - to scale up WFHs to treat VAW victims around the country;
  - to provide quality counselling services for VAW survivors (inadequate number of skilled staffs);
  - to provide proper treatment, referral for social and legal services, and to document injuries for a database on survivors and perpetrators;
- Lack of ownership of some health managers who consider JP-VAW as additional management responsibility

d. Describe and assess how the monitoring and evaluation function has contributed to the:

a. Improvement in programme management and the attainment of development results

Monitoring and evaluation framework of the project was not well developed and methodological consistency was limited from the beginning. In order to improve consistency and coherence, framework was revised during the project period, incorporating MDG-F prescribed indicators. Individual government and UN projects used to use half yearly monitoring and reporting system. Completion of activities has been regularly monitored through field visits and exchange of information, which have been reported through half-yearly reports. Each project has a steering committee to monitor progress and oversee project activities as well as provide guidance. In addition Project Management Committee (PMC) co-chaired by ED and UNFPA reviewed progress half yearly, provided guidance, and made strategic decisions as required. Each partners reported on the development results as per M&E framework. Different projects under the JP were approved in different time, thus not all projects could start at the same time. This also made the JP-VAW difficult to develop linkages and attaining development results collectively.

Overall, lack of baseline and measurable indicators (a baseline was done only in 2012, and it could not adequately address the indicators) made it difficult to track the progress and assess level of achievement.

b. **Improvement in transparency and mutual accountability**

Though JP VAW was a joint programme, each partners had separate work plans with limited linkages with other work plans. Each partner had its own accountability system. With a view to strengthening mutual accountability and transparency through joint review and peer feedback system, outcome groups were introduced for three outcomes after mid term review. They met regularly, reviewed together achievements and provided feedback to each other. However, due to unclear M&E framework and weak reporting system, its contribution was more in terms of activity tracking than results based monitoring.

c. **Increasing national capacities and procedures in M&E and data**

JP VAW did not make adequate contribution to the national M&E capacity development due to its own limitation. An M&E person was recruited after starting the project and the person left the project six months before the end of project. During the project period, JP VAW arranged some training for the project staff on M&E and reporting. However, in terms of data for development, it contributed to the development of a database for reporting on VAW under the project supported by UNDP and implemented jointly by BRAC and MOWCA.

d. **To what extent was the mid-term evaluation process useful to the joint programme?**

Midterm review of the JP VAW project was done during mid-2012, about two years after the implementation starts. It may be noted that not all projects could start at the same time due to different approval time of TPPs from the government. Therefore for some projects, it was early, and for some it was late. The Mid-team review focused on overall progress and also identified challenges and bottlenecks that to be addressed. While the projects could not get adequate time to address many of the identified gaps and challenges before the closure in June 2013 (and some projects closed even earlier – e.g., June 2012), on the other hand, recommendations were taken very seriously. Action plan was developed, and its implementation status was monitored periodically. Outcome groups, coordination workshops which discussed extensively the issue of sustainability and exit plan, joint field visits are some of the initiatives introduced after mid term review. Scoping and formulation mission of the new JP made use of mid term review findings and recommendations, including those which are design related. As a result, the new JP (currently in draft format) is much stronger in concept with clear theory of change, coherence, and strategic focus. In this sense, mid-term evaluation was extremely helpful and useful.

e. **Describe and assess how the communication and advocacy functions have contributed to:**

a. **Improve the sustainability of the joint programme:**

With common communication and advocacy strategy, though it was developed late, JP VAW's breadth of partnership across multiple UN agencies and Government Ministries could contribute to raising the visibility of violence issues. The joint campaign to stop VAW during the 16 days of activism in 2012 as part of the UN Secretary-General's UNiTE was a good example. For the first time, such a campaign was coordinated among 11 UN agencies (with 2 additional agencies), 11 Ministries, and a large number of CSOs. This joint advocacy effort aimed at changing social attitudes and behavior to reduce VAW and discriminatory practices. The national campaign had a wide geographical scope and

reached diverse population groups, including those from remote areas. From the onset, the campaign was spearheaded by the GoB with 30 parliamentarians pledging “No to all kinds of VAW”. Official ceremonies surrounding the campaign brought together government officials, parliamentarians, foreign diplomats, UN and other development partners. The campaign ended in the presence of the State Minister for MoWCA and with nine good practices to end VAW documented and awarded nationally. Large media coverage on VAW, distribution of IEC materials, a multitude of diversified actions and synergistic effects characterized the campaign and the visibility of the JP.

The awareness raised across-the-board through the above mentioned campaign and other communication and advocacy efforts of the JP is clearly the first step toward social change. It also created momentum for the new follow-on joint programmes on VAW as many organizations (including the participating UN agencies and government ministries) whose programme did not conventionally address VAW now see their roles – in other words, ending VAW became everyone’s business.

Policy-level changes effected by advocacy efforts such as revision of Labour Act 2006 and revision of school curricula/text books have some long-lasting impact.

The JP VAW website launched as part of joint communication/advocacy initiatives is meant to store relevant information, data and knowledge products for future reference and thus can contribute to the sustainability of the JP.

Finally, though not done in a systematic manner, strong voice presented by the JP VAW UN focal points during the formulation of UNDAF 2012-2016 resulted in having a stand alone pillar dedicated to gender equality while at the same time mainstreaming gender across all pillars. This in itself has ensured the sustainability of JP results and outcome areas as gender pillar has two outcomes, one of which was meant to be achieved mainly through JP VAW and its follow-on programme.

**b. Improve the opportunities for scaling up or replication of the joint programme or any of its components**

All knowledge products and information stored in the website created opportunities for scaling up.

The scoping and formulation of the above-mentioned follow-on programme has taken place already. The new programme builds on the lessons learned from the JP VAW and scale up the promising interventions supported by the JP.

**c. Providing information to beneficiaries/right holders**

The JP produced a number of leaflets, posters, brochures, radio and TV programs and live theatre performances for the beneficiaries / right holders at all levels. Awareness raising, public sensitization, and campaign activities described in the earlier sections of this report reached over 1.2 million people with the information related to VAW for prevention as well as protection services available for VAW survivors.

**f. Please report on scalability of the joint programme and/or any of its components**

- a. To what extent has the joint programme assessed and systematized development results with the intention to use as evidence for replication or scaling up the joint programme or any of its components?**

The joint programme has assessed development results with the purpose of using those for replication or scaling up. The process of producing a JP VAW knowledge product was initiated more than a year ago, and the document was completed by an international consultant, printed and disseminated during June 2013.

Furthermore, based on lessons learned from JP VAW, a scoping mission and a formulation mission were conducted in preparation for a second phase of the JP. In this process, detailed analysis of the structural causes of VAW in Bangladesh was done while reviewing the lessons learned from the JP. It concluded that, despite many challenges, JP VAW has laid foundations for next phase and has made clear the need for and potential of multi-sectoral, comprehensive programming, in part by identifying specific gaps in the national response. Promising interventions need to be scaled up, and JP VAW has helped to energise the inter-ministerial collaboration and donor commitment to make this happen. Some of the gaps identified include: survivor-centred response and lack of attention to prevention; the challenge of social change that involves fundamental transformation in the distribution of power, opportunities, and outcomes for both men and women; translating laws and policies into action on the ground and lack of emphasis on the role of civil society in holding Government and other actors to account; lack of rights-based strategies for violence prevention based on ideological commitment to addressing gender based violence as a human rights violation and the need for engaging and supporting different groups or constituencies as active agents in their own human rights advocacy (vs., ‘beneficiary – passive recipients’ approach). The scoping and formulation missions further identified three opportunities to address underlying conditions of VAW and recommends the follow-on programme to take advantage of these: i) changing political economy of gender; ii) patriarchal norms of gender and sexuality in flux for youth; and iii) growing demands for greater accountability.

The focal points of the JP VAW also had an opportunity to interact with the UN Special Rapporteur on VAW during her recent visit to Bangladesh. Based on a presentation of JP VAW and a brief on the concept of the new joint programme (JP-GPV) on 28.5.2013, she provided the following comments:

- Assessment and analysis done so far is appropriate and the concept of the new programme is on track.
- It shows reflection and learning, and it makes sense to have joint programmes on a theme (VAW) to change realities through talking together, working together, and this way avoiding the huge fragmentation in this area where many don’t know what others are doing.
- The “charity-welfare model” will have to be challenged. It is a challenge of human rights. A deeper understanding and working with the human rights framework is required.
- Prevention and response need to be linked. But in reality, accountability is really weak. The structural causes must be worked on, which is the transforming factor. The justice system doesn’t work – unregulated.
- 3 steps are important to address VAW: 1. Addressing the structural root causes, 2. Transformation of the society to be more equitable, 3. Increase the accountability of institutions.

Finally, UNDAF gender pillar found that the joint programme against VAW has made efficient use of available resources, thereby increasing its impact and standing as a successful One UN example for future replication.

b. Describe example, if any, of replication or scaling up that are being undertaken

- IOM is using the IEC materials produced under this JP VAW project in other relevant projects of IOM. The Judicial Administration Training Institution has taken an initiative to incorporate the topic “Addressing VAW” in their main curricula for regular training.
- IOM has negotiated with the Department of Social Services to incorporate the training curricula on psychosocial counseling and victim care and support in their regular training of the Staff specially the Foundation Courses.
- Textbooks are edited, printed and distributed every year and provided free to all students. This will continue as government routine responsibility after the end of JP VAW.
- MoHFW plans to scale up WHFI by DGHS from 13 to 30 health facilities through allocation of more resources in the operational plan of hospital management services within HPNSDP. UNICEF will continue to support implementation of WFHI in its ongoing Joint UN-MNHI project and continue the capacity building support to DGHS and partners.
- Interventions to address issues of masculinity as per recommendations from the study as well as action research supported under JP VAW, community mobilization for VAW prevention, and capacity building of MoWCA in use of SOP and service provision at women support centres will continue or be scaled up under other projects supported by UNFPA.
- With government revenue budget, MoSW continues to run all six shelters supported under JP-VAW project.
- UNFPA will use three TV spots (on early marriage & girls’ education, women’s rights in decision making, and building gender sensitive attitude among boys) developed under JP VAW for existing projects.

c. Describe the joint programme exit strategy and assess how it has improved the sustainability of the joint program

An exit strategy was developed through the means of a coordination workshop, which contributed to thorough discussions on sustainability measures. This provided an increased understanding and clarity on mechanisms in place, and limitations in this regard. A lesson learned is the necessity to have built in sustainability measures at the programme design stage.

#### IV. FINANCIAL STATUS OF THE JOINT PROGRAMME

a. Provide a final financial status of the joint programme in the following categories:

1. Total Approved Budget: 7,997,378
2. Total Budget Transferred: 7,997,378
3. Total Budget Committed: 7,705,088
4. Total Budget Disbursed: 7,577,656\*

b. Explain any outstanding balance or variances with the original budget

\* This amount will be confirmed after the financial closure of the project by the respective UN agencies regulation

**V. OTHER COMMENTS AND/OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

The accomplishments made by JP VAW could not have been possible without the generous funding from the Government of Spain and its people, who have been dedicated to eradicating VAW in Bangladesh. We are grateful for their support, both in terms of funding and as a partner of JP VAW's success and lessons learned.

Though many have doubted that such an enormous programme with so many UN agencies and Ministries involved could adequately function, through our successes, we have proven that a programme as large as JP VAW can and will have a huge impact on ending VAW in Bangladesh. JP VAW has overcome numerous barriers in accomplishing many of its goals and outcomes with the collaborative efforts.

**VI. CERTIFICATION ON OPERATIONAL CLOSURE OF THE PROJECT**

By signing, Participating United Nations Organizations (PUNO) certify that the project has been operationally closed.

PUNO	NAME	TITLE	SIGNATURE	DATE
UNFPA	ShamimaPervin	Senior Programme Officer-Gender		30 July 2013
ILO	Srinivas Reddy	Director	(	31 July 2013
IOM	Sarat C. Dash	Chief of Mission	/	30 July 2013
UNAIDS	S. M. Naheean	Programme Associate		30 July 2013
UNDP	MajedaHaq	Programme Analyst	v	30 July 2013
UNESCO	KiichiOyasu	Officer in-Charge	(	29 July 2013
UNICEF				
UN Women	Naheed M Ahmed	National Program Manager	c	30 July 2013
WHO	DrThushara Fernando	WHO Representative to Bangladesh		30 July 2013

## **VII. ANNEXES**

1. List of all document/studies produced by the joint programme
2. List all communication products created by the joint programme
3. Minutes of the final review meeting of the Programme Management Committee and National Steering Committee (13<sup>th</sup> PMC meeting minutes was circulated to all 27 June 2013)
4. Final Evaluation Report
5. M&E framework with update final values of indicators