



Spotlight Initiative

To eliminate violence against women and girls

Annual Report

Papua New Guinea

1 January - 31 December 2022

Initiated by the European Union and the United Nations:



Programme Title & Programme Number	Priority regions/areas/localities for the programme
<p>Programme Title: The EU/UN Spotlight Initiative Programme in Papua New Guinea (PNG)</p> <p>MPTF Office Project Reference Number:¹ 00119125</p>	<p>East Sepik; East New Britain; National Capital District; Western Highlands; Morobe; Hela; Southern Highlands; Enga; Jiwaka; Simbu; Eastern Highlands Provinces. Western Highlands and West Sepik were added in June 2020</p>
Recipient Organization(s)	Key Partners
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● UN Women ● UNDP ● UNFPA and ● UNICEF <p>Associated UN Agencies: OHCHR</p>	<p>Government: Departments of Community Development, Youth & Religion; Justice and Attorney General; Planning and Monitoring; Finance; Health; Education; Royal PNG Constabulary; National Statistics Office; Social Workers Association of PNG</p> <p>NGOs: International and national NGOs; Grassroots women led and women rights organizations (Please refer to Annex C)</p> <p>Private sector companies: National Research Institute.</p>
Programme Cost (US\$)	Programme Start and End Dates
<p>Total Phase I budget, and (where OSC approved) Phase II budget as per the Spotlight CPD/RPD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Total approved Phase 1 budget: USD 17,088,442 (includes Agency contribution) ● Total approved Phase II budget: USD 7,972,231 (includes Agency contribution) 	<p>Start Date: 01/01/2020.</p> <p>End Date: 31/12/2023.</p>

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

<p>Phase I and (where OSC approved) Phase II Spotlight funding:² USD 24,831,673.</p> <p>Phase I: Spotlight Contribution: USD 15,680,000 USD Agency Contribution: USD 1,408,442 USD</p> <p>Phase II Spotlight contribution: USD 6,720,000 Agency Contribution: USD 1,252,231</p> <p>Spotlight Funding and Agency Contribution by Agency:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Name of RUNO</th> <th>Spotlight Phase I (+ II, where OSC approved) (USD)</th> <th>UN Agency Contributions (USD)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>UN WOMEN</td> <td>6,979,247</td> <td>105,959</td> </tr> <tr> <td>UNDP</td> <td>5,417,820</td> <td>910,919</td> </tr> <tr> <td>UNFPA</td> <td>5,558,854</td> <td>872,104</td> </tr> <tr> <td>UNICEF</td> <td>4,444,079</td> <td>542,691</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL:</td> <td>22,400,000</td> <td>2,431,673</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Name of RUNO	Spotlight Phase I (+ II, where OSC approved) (USD)	UN Agency Contributions (USD)	UN WOMEN	6,979,247	105,959	UNDP	5,417,820	910,919	UNFPA	5,558,854	872,104	UNICEF	4,444,079	542,691	TOTAL:	22,400,000	2,431,673	
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			Report Submitted By:																		
			Name: Pearl Atuhaire Title: Programme Technical Coordinator E-mail address: pearl.atuhaire@unwomen.org																		

²The Spotlight Contribution refers to the amount transferred to the Recipient UN Organizations, which is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#).

Annual Report

Contents

Acronym List	5
Executive Summary	6
Contextual Shifts and Implementation Status	12
Implementation progress by outcome area	14
Programme Governance and Coordination	15
Programme Partnerships	20
Results	26
Capturing Broader Transformations Across Outcomes	26
Reporting on the implementation of Participatory Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (P-MER)	28
Capturing Change at Outcome Level	29
Rights Holders (Spotlight programme “beneficiaries”)	37
Challenges and Mitigating Measures	40
Lessons Learned and New Opportunities	43
Innovative, Promising or Good Practices	44
Please see attached Annex D for Promising and good practices	45
Communications and Visibility	45
Testimonials	62
Sustainability	65
Next Steps	65
Annexes	68

Acronym List

C4D	: Communication for Development
COSI	: Community of the Spotlight Initiative
COVID-19	: Coronavirus Disease 2019
CPD	: Country Programme Document
CSC	: Country Steering Committee
CSE	: Comprehensive Sexuality Education
CSO	: Civil Society Organisation
CSRG	: Civil Society Reference Group
DfCDR	: Department for Community Development and Religion
DoE:	: Department of Education
DoH	: Department of Health
EUD	: European Union Delegation
FBO	: Faith Based Organisation
FSC	: Family Support Centre
FSV	: Family and Sexual Violence
FSVAC	: Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee
FSVU	: Family and Sexual Violence Unit
GBV	: Gender Based Violence
HACT	: Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers
HYTARC	: Highlands Youth Training and Rehabilitation College
IP	: Implementing Partner
NBC	: National Broadcasting Corporation
NDOH	: National Department of Health
NDOE	: National Department of Education
NCD	: National Capital District
NGO	: Non-Governmental Organisation
NYP	: National Youth Policy
OCFS	: Office of Child and Family Services
P4CD	: Parenting for Child Development
PHA	: Provincial Health Authority
PMU	: Programme Management Unit
PNG	: Papua New Guinea
PPE	: Personal Protective Equipment
RC	: Resident Coordinator
RCO	: Resident Coordinator's Office
RUNO	: Recipient United Nations Organisation
SARV	: Sorcery Accusation Related Violence
SBCC	: Social Behaviour Change Communications
SI	: Spotlight Initiative
SOE	: State of Emergency
SOP	: Standard Operating Procedures
SRHR	: Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
TOR	: Terms of Reference
TOT	: Training of Trainers
VAWG	: Violence against women and girls

Executive Summary

The Spotlight Initiative in Papua New Guinea (PNG) reached significant milestones in the overall effort to prevent violence by enhancing laws, strengthening critical institutions and services and engaging the broader community, while also enhancing Civil Society (including grassroots women organizations) to effectively prevent and respond to all forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG), including the most vulnerable groups.

Pursuant to the May 2021 public hearings by the Special Parliamentary Committee on gender-based violence (GBV), a second inquiry was supported by Spotlight in March 2022 to monitor implementation of the recommendations from the 2021 Report and produce a final report to Parliament tabled in April 2022.³ Moreover, following the July 2022 national elections and establishment of the 11th Parliament, a significant political breakthrough was achieved at the national level in November 2022 with the establishment of a permanent Parliamentary Committee on gender equality and women's empowerment and (GEWE) and GBV⁴ which will continue to conduct oversight over Government agencies to promote more effective approaches to addressing VAWG. This is a key milestone for the Spotlight Initiative and gender equality and an unprecedented result in the Pacific region. The elimination of VAWG remains pertinent to the national political agenda in light of this achievement.

The Spotlight Initiative maximized the efficiency and effectiveness of advocacy efforts by securing sustainable Government support for ending VAWG. In 2021, Spotlight supported the Department of Community Development and Religion (DFCDR) to develop the first-ever national GBV budget, resulting in the Government's allocation of PGK 7.9 million to address GBV in the 2022 National Budget. The Spotlight Initiative then provided technical support to DFCDR in 2022 to provide GBV/SARV grants to 13 national CSOs/women's organizations as part of the National Budget.⁵ The Spotlight team also supported DFCDR to develop a 2023 National GBV budget proposal (increased to PGK 9.8 million) which was endorsed by the Government in the November 2022 budget session. This budget work and implementation support promises to strengthen ties over the long-term between the GoPNG, civil society and the United Nations (UN) in PNG, while emphasizing the importance of long-term efforts to end VAWG.

³See here for information on the April 2022 public hearings and to download the Report on GBV tabled in Parliament in April 2022 by the Special Parliamentary Committee on GBV - <https://www.unitedforequalitypng.com/gbv-parl-committee>

⁴Information on the Permanent Parliamentary Committee on GEWE can be found at <https://www.unitedforequalitypng.com/gewe-parl-comm>.

⁵<http://www.ngbvs.gov.pg/post/government-awards-13-grants-to-csos-to-address-gbv-sorcery-violence>.

The Spotlight Initiative also supported DfCDR to organise the first ever GBV National Advisory Committee meetings in 2022, as required by the National GBV Strategy.⁶ The first meeting was held in March 2022 and a second meeting was held in December 2022, both of which were used to review progress implementing the Strategy and coordinate stakeholders. Recommendations will be followed up in 2023. The Spotlight Initiative also supported DFCDR to finally move forward on establishing the National GBV Secretariat, by supporting the development of TORs for 10 staff in the Secretariat and supporting advocacy by DFCDR and the Special Parliamentary Committee on GBV to get those positions officially approved. Recruitment should commence in 2023.

In the spirit of leaving no one behind, the Spotlight Initiative sought opportunities to address the needs of people facing intersecting forms of discrimination and to create meaningful engagement with women living with HIV/AIDS and other vulnerable groups. For example, during the 16 days of Activism with the support of Spotlight Initiative, the Women Affected by HIV/AIDS (WABHA), and the National AIDS Council Secretariat (NACS), co-hosted a dialogue with state, and non-state actors, resulting into a 10-point set of recommendations accessible [here](#) that were unanimously agreed by about 100 experts. Parties including donors like the European Union (EU), and USAID (United States Agency for International Development), and community members agreed on the amplification of addressing VAWG, and HIV. Key interventions from this dialogue have been reflected in the Partner's 2023 Spotlight Initiative workplan.

Following years of advocacy for a legal framework to recognise and protect women human rights defenders, the Spotlight Initiative supported the Constitutional and Legal Reform Commission to consult on a Human Rights Defenders Protection (HRD) Bill, with broad stakeholder participation of over 224 (F-134, M-90) across the four (4) regions of the country. The diverse reflections put the spotlight on several human rights issues of concern in PNG, which led to a decision for a Policy on the Protection of Human Rights Defenders to be drafted first. This policy will support administration of the Bill once enacted and establish sustainable administrative arrangements for the protection of HRDs.

⁶<http://www.ngbvs.gov.pg/post/national-gbv-advisory-committee-inaugural-meeting>.

Following the Mid Term Assessment (MTA) conducted in 2021, the Programme Management Unit (PMU) organized two consultative sessions with the Technical Working Group (TWG)⁷ on the MTA recommendations wherein a joint action plan [here](#) was established. Some of the recommendations have been adopted and others are still work in progress.

During the reporting period, the programme took concrete steps to improve the effectiveness of grassroots CSOs through capacity strengthening, and coalition building. For example, considering that access to services in rural areas can be sustainably mobilized, and made available by the local CSOs, about 18 grassroots organizations have been directly engaged through training and mentorship support delivered by OXFAM. This resulted in better service delivery, and stronger participation of CSOs in provincial level planning and advocacy for local GBV responses.

Furthermore, in accordance with the MTA recommendations, a dedicated EAW CSOs' capacity, and movement building technical specialist was hired. The specialist has supported institutional reviews through a series of technical consultations with the CSOs within Oxfam's CSO capacity building hub supported through the Spotlight Initiative. The Oxfam CSO Hub commissioned an endline evaluation at the end of the year. The recommendations are expected to be used for further local CSOs' capacity strengthening, and action planning. The lessons learnt from the CSO hub pointed out the fact that there is potential for sustaining the programme, through amplifying the engagement of the local CSOs, who are more knowledgeable about their respective local contexts.

Finally, the programme faced some challenges during the reporting period, including the slow absorptive capacity of grassroots CSOs that was evidenced by the slow pace of financial liquidations for the funds disbursed. With most organizations receiving unprecedented high amounts of grants, continued capacity strengthening of grassroots CSOs in reporting, monitoring and spot-checks, allowed RUNOs to track and mitigate the reporting risks. However, the need for financial systems, and institutional strengthening in the areas of governance and feminist leadership remains eminent. Moreover, staffing gaps were visible in some of the RUNOs that were stalling implementation. By the close of the reporting year, most RUNOs were still recruiting focal points. Notwithstanding, the team has continued to identify opportunities to deliver as One, as in the spirit of UN Reform, developing mechanisms

⁷Composed of the CSO Reference Group, CSO Partners, UN Agencies, Development Partners and the European Union Delegation (EUD), the CSNRG and the Government

and practices to incorporate interagency coordination throughout programming in order to achieve more streamlined implementation and more comprehensive results.

Summary of key results per Pillar

Outcome 1: Legal and Policy Framework

- Consultations for a HRDP Bill completed by the Constitutional Law Reform Commission and recommendation for a Policy and institutional framework for oversight were adopted. Resultantly, a policy on Protection of Human Rights Defenders will be drafted and consulted upon, under the leadership of the Department for National Planning and Monitoring and the Department of Justice. The government is also considering the establishment of a Human Rights Commission.
- Technical support to finalize provincial GBV strategies in five 5 targeted Spotlight provinces has extended to 21 provinces, to enhance support for the implementation of the National GBV Strategy.

Outcome 2: Institutional Strengthening

- A permanent Parliamentary Committee on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment was established in November 2022 by the 11th National Parliament.
- 2022 National GBV Budget implemented with support provided to award 13 grants to CSOs from across the country to implement activities to prevent and/or respond to GBV and SARV.
- 2023 National GBV budget (increased to PGK 9.8 million) developed with Spotlight Support and endorsed by Government in November 2022 budget session.
- 10 positions in the National GBV Secretariat finally approved by the Department of Personnel Management with recruitment to commence in 2023.
- 833 survivors of violence and abuse in NCD, of which 20 were child abuse cases, received case management services and were able to recover from the trauma inflicted upon them.
- The first Country Programme Social Service Workforce (CP SSW) assessment and mapping and its action plan developed.
- The first Provincial By-Law for the protection of children, a costed action plan and a draft Children's sector plan were developed in Enga province for enhancing child protection services during the reporting year.

Outcome 3: Prevention and Norms Change

- By implementing the Parenting for Childhood Development (P4CD) Program, 4,452 (M: 1773; F: 2679) in four provinces – Morobe, Western Highlands, NCD, and Jiwaka– improved their parenting skills and behaviors towards their children. This number represents a 50% increase from 2021. Accordingly, 9,236 (M: 4,572; F: 4664) lives benefited from their parents' and caregivers' strengthened knowledge and skills from participation in the P4CD Programme.
- Over 5,303 community members in the target provinces gained enhanced awareness and knowledge, on topics such as the Family Protection Act, Child Protection, Domestic Violence, Rape Incest and Child Abuse, SARV, Social Problems (Alcohol, Drugs), tribal and clan fights, and Welfare for Persons Living with Disabilities (PLWD).
- In 2022, PNG witnessed a growing movement of men and boys standing up for women's rights (including politicians; church; youth and community leaders) through campaigns such as the 'SANAP Wantaim Campaign,' and the "Changing the Headlines". These youth and male champions gained new knowledge on positive masculinity and gender equality and are now change agents providing leadership in communities by raising awareness and mobilizing the community to utilize available services.
- Through the Sanap Wantaim Campaign, a total of 1541 (903F/611M) people were reached in 2022 through various interventions which included outreach activities in six communities (5 in the National Capital District and 1 in Western Highlands Province, five schools (4 in Western and 1 in Eastern Highlands Province), two markets (1 in Morobe and 1 in East Sepik). Use of radio and TV programmes broadcast by the National Broadcasting Corporation which has national coverage across all 22 provinces of the country ensured a wider reach.
- 4,700 IEC materials (brochures, posters) that were disseminated to selected provinces on the GBV and SARV are increasing community knowledge on the continuum of violence.

Outcome 4: Quality Services

- About 348 GBV survivors (215 women, 49 girls, 61 boys, and 23 men) received safe accommodation, repatriation, non-food items, sanitary items, and case management services from 13 locations in the National Capital District (NCD), Morobe, Enga, East New Britain and the Eastern Highlands Provinces.
- A total of 5,400 persons (F-3445, G-707, B-329, M-913, FLWD-6) facing multiple and intersecting forms of violence benefitted from counselling services either directly

(face-to-face) through CSO partners or through the 1-Tok Kaunselin Helpline offered by partner ChildFund PNG.

- 527 parents completed the first phase of the programme as training of trainers (ToT) on updated Comprehensive Sexuality/Life Skills Education and 800 more parents will graduate in March 2023. This contributed to reduced incidences of adolescent pregnancy, STIs, and HIV.
- Development of the Curriculum for professional counselling in PNG was completed and the first cohort of 10 Counsellors completed the Certificate IV course. Further roll out is planned for 2023.

Outcome 5: Data

- During the reporting period, the Spotlight Initiative worked in collaboration with the National Statistical Office (NSO) by undertaking formidable research to analyze the 2016-2018 Demographic and Health Survey data on GBV and SRHR. The analysis indicated a high level of variation across different sets of data, both within and between regions and provinces.
- A national child protection data management system using Primero continued to be improved. The data generated informed case management training sessions held last year.
- Spotlight also has begun work to develop a family protection order tracking system that will work across a number of sectors including the Royal PNG Constabulary, the district and village courts, the National GBV Secretariat, Provincial GBV Secretariats and through GBV partners including CSOs and NGOs.

Outcome 6: Women's Movement

- 18 CSOs are now better able to prevent and respond to various forms of violence and advocate for gender equality in their communities, following exposure to various capacity building opportunities within the CSO Capacity Building Hub and funding from the Spotlight. An average of 20 men and 20 women from the 18 organizations benefited. 15 out of the original 18 CSO Hub partners trained on creative approaches to community dialogues, 11 females and 16 males on transformative leadership, and feminist approaches. The EHFV CSO identified and supported six (6) community-based organizations working with safe houses and persons living with disabilities by formalizing their entities for better response to VAWG.
- Initial work done in 2021 through the baseline assessment and community conversation enabled capacity building support of the CBOs in 2022, including the development of organizational strategic and work plans, by-laws, organizational

structure, basic financial management and defining basic personnel duties to ensure growth and sustainability.

- The CS NRG's understanding of their role was further enhanced through refresher training and work planning following the MTA results. The CS NRG continued to be represented in the National Steering Committee and played a pivotal role in bringing Civil society voice and evidence during Parliamentary enquiries. CSO recommendations were adopted by the Parliamentary Committee. PNG CS NRG has grown into a regional movement through its active engagement within the regional and global learning and exchange programs.

Contextual Shifts and Implementation Status

A significant contextual shift was the very vocal government support for ending VAWG evidenced by the establishment of a permanent Parliamentary Committee on GEWE in the new Parliament elected in July/August 2022. This high-level political support was demonstrated through the allocation of USD 2.3 million (PGK 7.9M) for the 2022 National GBV Budget, and the endorsement by the new Parliament of a 2023 National Budget which increased funding to address GBV to USD 2.75M (PGK 9.8M). There were also significant legislative advances, such as amendments to the Family Protection Act, that provide a solid foundation for strengthening the links between VAWG and VAC, as well as protections for service providers.

Between May and July 2022, the period of the national general election, violence has escalated in parts of the Highlands region. The presence of security personnel in the conflict-affected areas is limited, tensions remain high, and outbreaks of new violence could continue at least through the end of August during the period for challenging election results. The Highlands region witnessed multiple incidents of election-related violence, causing a slew of negative consequences, including loss of human lives, destruction of property and population displacement. In this context, women and girls have become more vulnerable to violence and a number of communities have reported incidents of GBV following displacement. According to the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) rapid assessment tool (October - November 2022) a total of 31,481 IDPs (6,054 IDP households) across 29 sites in Hela, Southern Highlands, Enga, Western Highlands, Jiwaka and Eastern Highlands provinces were identified, thus increasing the IDP (internally Displaced Population) by 56.59% since 22 August 2022.

Moreover, in some places, violence resurfaced from long-standing issues, including land disputes, retribution, and unsettled disputes between clans, who are using the instability around elections to re-ignite fights, tribal conflict continued and with a tense situation in the Highlands region. Incidents of violence motivated by tribal conflict occurred in urban centres, including Port Moresby. Officials and partners reported killings, including those of women and children; sexual violence against women and girls; sorcery accusation-related violence against women; destruction of homes, schools, churches, hospitals, businesses, and agricultural warehouses; and violence and destruction of homes and properties in communities and churches hosting displaced persons. In most cases, churches, considered safe havens, hosted displaced populations; six churches in Enga province hosted about 2,000 people, mostly women and children. Tribal violence was a significant barrier to effective service delivery and programme implementation as it diverted critical health and justice resources from other incidents.

Through 2022, PNG was affected by a number of natural disasters. The September 2022 Earthquake that left 21 total deaths and 30 people with injuries. 1,076 permanent, semi-permanent and traditional houses were damaged or destroyed (Relief web report 2022). The same source reported widespread power outages, communication infrastructure disruptions and damage to roads and bridges.

COVID-19 itself had less of an impact on the programme in 2022, due to the continued observation of the health protocols. However, for most RUNOs telecommuting was still applied which on a smaller scale delayed the implementation of some interventions. Notwithstanding, the Spotlight Initiative ensured a comprehensive partnership approach, ensuring coherence and synergy, and implementing programmes with a view to ensuring that no one is left behind while also ensuring that women and girls are empowered to take appropriate action to end VAWG.

The programme implementation remained largely on track by the closure of the reporting year as per the AWP 2022. Progress and results are described further in this report. For example, the partnership with Oxfam in support of the CSOs hub was concluded this year, and direct technical support is now provided to the CSOs through the dedicated CSOs Capacity, and Movement Building Technical Specialists. The results of the evaluation done by OXFAM will inform further capacity building training and mentoring on building movement for VAW/G, and Gender Equality. All the other partners had largely concluded their targets for the year. For a few that did not receive their funds during this reporting period, they have responded to a call proposal, which is currently being processed. For

example, the Spotlight Activity 6.2.1.1 Support women living with disability, women living with HIV, and others experiencing intersecting forms of violence run their own campaigns on EVAWG (End Violence Against Women and Girls) was initiated and will be fully implemented in phase II.

Through the Spotlight Initiative, the Women Affected by HIV/AIDS (WABHA), and the National AIDS Council Secretariat (NACS), hosted a dialogues with the state, and non-state actors, which had a conversation that emphasized the need to ensure sustainability of the long-term global goal in the light of accomplishing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS), particularly SDG 5 on gender equality, SDG 3, on health, and SDG 17 on partnerships. This dialogue resulted to 10-point recommendations (consolidated recommendations from VAWG, and HIV dialogue of dec 8.docx), that were unanimously agreed by about 100 experts, including donors like the European Union, and USAID (United States Agency for International Development), and community members on the amplification of addressing VAWG and HIV, and this outcome has been reflected in Partner’s 2023 work plan that the Spotlight Initiative is supporting. Together the women sought ways to better address their needs and those of women at risk. This platform for women with lived experiences of life with HIV was at the heart of the event with more women able to freely share and learn from others in the room. Key recommendations are set to be adopted in 2023’s Programming to support these vulnerable women in implementing their own interventions for the prevention and response to VAWG.

Implementation progress by outcome area

Spotlight Initiative - Outcome areas	Implementation progress as of 31 Dec 2022.
Outcome 1: Legal and Policy Framework	90%
Outcome 2: Institutions	80%
Outcome 3: Prevention and Norm Change	85%
Outcome 4: Quality Services	80%
Outcome 5: Data	79%
Outcome 6: Women’s Movement	90%
TOTAL	84%

Programme Governance and Coordination

a) National Steering Committee

Under the overall guidance of the National Steering Committee (NSC)⁸, the Programme continued to generate genuine ownership and Political buy-in. This is evident by the deep commitment of the Government co-chair of the CSC – the Secretary for the Department of Justice and Attorney General – who leads the Initiative through the permanent Steering Committee, illustrating the importance of the justice sector in ending VAWG.

The NSC met three times in 2022: in Q1, Q2 and Q3 while updates for Q4 were shared with the members. In addition to these notable action items, the NSC reaffirmed its commitment to ending violence against women and girls in all its forms and supported the fostering of new partnerships to further build the programme. The following key decisions were made by the NSC during their meetings:

- Tasked the Technical team to take into account the MTA recommendations through conducting consultations with key stakeholders.
- NSC reviewed and approved the PNG Spotlight Initiative Phase II proposal and budget, workplan and the periodic and annual joint programme narrative reports.
- Managed stakeholder relations at the country level.
- Reviewed risk management strategies and ensured the programme proactively managed and mitigated risks.
- Reviewed the Annual Work Plan for 2022 and proposed its approval in the first quarter of 2022.

Through the NSC national ownership of the Programme has been enhanced. In 2021, the Government of PNG committed 7.5 million Kina to GBV programming in 2022. In November 2022, the new Parliament endorsed a 2023 National GBV Budget which increased funding to 9.8 million Kina. The Secretary for DfCDR specifically highlighted the technical support received from the Spotlight Initiative in preparing the budget at the Q3 NSC meeting.

b) Civil Society National or Regional Reference Group (CSRG)

⁸The NSC is chaired by the Secretary for the Department of Justice and Attorney General and the UN Resident Coordinator. It has representatives from the EU delegation, four heads of RUNOs, co-chairs of the CS NRG representatives from seven ministries, including National Planning, Community Development, Justice and Attorney General, Health, Education, Provincial Affairs and Police Constabulary, Churches representative and one from the Business Coalition for Women

The Spotlight Civil Society National Reference Group (CS NRG) in PNG esteems the principle of ‘Leaving no one Behind’ in its governance, structure and function. It has an inclusive, and diverse membership, represented by about 12 organizations that were drawn from the 11 Spotlight targeted provinces. For example, the Key Population Advocacy Consortium has 3 seats, including women living with HIV and Sex Worker (1 seat), LGBTQI (1 seat), Women living with disability (1 seat), church based organization (1 seat), reproductive health (1 seat), school based violence representative (1 seat), Human Rights Defenders (1 seat), Provincial and National Representative (1), Representative from organization working with men and boys on EAW (1 seat)⁹. Moreover, there are five (5) provincial seats (East Sepik, East New Britain, Enga, Morobe and Motu Koita) most of which are aligned with the work that Spotlight Initiative is taking place within these respective provinces. The CS NRG has maintained good representation on these provincial seats.

The CS NRG played a leading role in harnessing civil society expertise that independently monitored, and supported the Initiative’s effectiveness, and accountability, while engaging a gender equity movement in PNG. During the reporting period, the CS NRG advocated for the prevention of and response to VAWG through women’s movements, human rights defenders and CSOs, and advised the programme, as part of the technical governance structure. The CS NRG promoted cohesion, and synergies in its functions, toward a common vision. For example, their engagement with all its members broke the barriers between church-based organizations, and the key populations and demonstrated respect for the rights of each member of the group and beyond.

With the CS NRG’s independent monitoring function, they worked collaboratively with the spotlight implementing agencies, on a jointly planned monitoring visit, informed by the joint monitoring tools developed. The CS NRG provided inputs to the Spotlight 2022 reports, regularly updated on their work at the NSC meetings, and initiated the development of a shadow report on project impact and actual outcomes.

The CS NRG provided advice, and perspectives on all advocacy avenues that contribute to eliminating VAWG, and harmful practices-related issues in the country. For example, the CS NRG participated in the Global/regional CS NRG forums for learning exchanges, and national CSOs advocacy forums, which have been a step forward to help to build the movement in PNG, while engaging in partnerships for the visibility of EAWG issues through dialogues at

⁹These are also some of the organizations holding the seats highlighted: USAID PEP, Magna Carta, Family for Change, FSVAC, Consultative Implementation and Monitoring Council (CIMC), Eastern Highland Family Voice, PNG IMR, Kup Women for Peace, Kup Women for Peace, and Equal Playing Field.

the national level. These forums include the Biannual CS RG Forum for the Pacific region, the Sexual Violence and Research Initiative Forum (SVRI) 2022, Cancun, Mexico, and Spotlight Learning Exchange Symposium in September 2022, Cancun, Mexico. All these interactions further empowered the CR RG's engagement to strengthen the movement building locally.

The CS NRG conveyed four (4) meetings in the Spotlight Provinces during the reporting period, with action points clearly followed up on, and implemented. The CS NRG operated on a work plan with a total budget of PGK K103,407.00 (\$44,000) however, actual expenditure exceeded this resulting in re-allocation of funds from other activity budgets. The budget was utilized to implement key actions per their approved workplan for 2022. The program budget funded the CS NRG convening with a total amount of PGK 232,494.08 (\$ 91,731.76). PNG has just initiated the process of doing the scorecard, which is anticipated to be finalized during the first quarter of 2023.

During the reporting year, the CS NRG developed a Monitoring Plan informed by the CS NRG Monitoring Toolkit and engaged with RUNOs (Recipient UN Organizations) and CS NRG members on the joint monitoring plan. The training on the joint monitoring tools empowered CS NRG members on how they could unpack and use the indicators for the scorecard reporting.

The CS NRG members played a very meaningful role in the revision of the MTA recommendations of the spotlight programme, including strengthening its theory of change. During the reporting year, the role of the CSOs was more visible and empowering due to the challenges of limited engagement expressed by the CSOs during Programme inception. Local CSOs are now being prioritized more than ever. For example, Oxfam-managed CSO hubs enabled CSOs to collaborate in consortiums while receiving technical support from the hub.

It is worth noting that sustaining the interest, and commitment of the CS NRG members is not guaranteed, considering that there are no monetary incentives given for the time spent on the functions of the CS NRG. However, following discussions with the Spotlight Secretariat progress has been made on exploring the possibilities of providing incentives, and in what form. To this effect, PNG is exploring ways to provide such incentives for instance by exposing the members to international forums and or learning events such as the Mexico Learning Symposium, which the programme also considered as empowerment for sustainable skills to improve the functions of their mandate. Moreover, discussions for compensation of CS NRG Co chairs who handled the majority of the administrative tasks, were underway by the end of the reporting year.

The CS NRG's lead role as an advisory group to the Spotlight Programme positioned them as a strategic body whose knowledge of the Spotlight programme provided an opportunity to engage in advocacy, and resource mobilization for the continuity of the services, and programmes being supported by the Spotlight programme.

The CS NRG is encouraged to be a part of the GBV Secretariat, and other Gender, and Human Rights coordination groups. The CS NRG are a formidable force with the movement building on promoting gender transformative and human-rights approaches to EAW, national programme policy development, and legislative reforms.

Moving forward the sustainability of the CS NRG is a question that both the reference group members and key stakeholders need to investigate into as the experience and knowledge built throughout this period is worth sustaining and can contribute effectively to future programming.

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

As the first UN programme in line with the reform, under the leadership of the RC, inter-agency partnership among RUNOs to align with the UN reform process was fostered from the beginning in the spirit of delivering to demonstrate coherence in coordination and technical synergy, especially to jointly plan and implement, and bring all actions into one activity. For instance, the use of shared platforms; during the reporting period, the Programme Management Unit (PMU) continued to actively encourage all team members to use the COSI platform as a forum where all documents are uploaded and available to the team. This shared platform is an important tool for streamlining communication and facilitating coordination across the team. For efficiency during implementation, RUNOs leveraged joint delivery. This was most evident through the common dialogues held for instance on the Social Behavioral Change Communication Strategy (SBCC) in which all RUNOs provided inputs during consultations and will later on adopt this for uniform messaging during Programme implementation.

Similarly, the Resident Coordinator provided overall guidance for the programme and ensured alignment with national priorities, the Spotlight Initiative rules and regulations, overall delivery against the six pillars as well as coherence with the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), wherein focal points ensured that SGBV interventions and gender issues were well mainstreamed in the work plan.

Technical Committee meetings were held throughout the year, bringing RUNOs together to discuss progress and challenges as well as identify opportunities to collaborate and provide programming synergies. The Technical Committee meetings are held monthly. However, 10 meetings were held during the reporting year. The RUNO Technical Committee meetings were complemented by Heads of Agency meetings, which also promoted technical coherence throughout the programme by engaging the highest office holders in each agency while enabling more comprehensive and cross-cutting results that leverage the comparative advantages and expertise of the agencies, as Heads of Agency hold the authority and awareness to connect Spotlight programmatic activities and outcomes to complementary activities from other teams within their agency. The monthly technical team meeting provided a critical space for sharing of technical resources and supported more effective coordinated planning preventing duplication.

During the reporting period, the Spotlight Initiative PNG established its first ever Technical Working Group Meeting that brought together CSO partners, CSO NRG Group Members, the UN Focal Points, the EUD Focal point and development Partners, all in one space to discuss the Phase II workplan, MTA recommendations, plan for a Joint Monitoring Visit create durable solutions to issues raised and create opportunities for sustainability and learning. The TWG meeting is planned to be held every quarter but in 2022, it was held twice since its establishment in August 2022.

The frequency of Pillar meetings fluctuates based on need and relevance, with more frequent meetings held earlier in the year given planning and coordination needs. Pillar meetings provided a platform for technical coherence with UN Women leading Pillar 4 and Pillar 6, UNFPA Pillar 5, UNDP Pillar 1 and 2, and UNICEF leading Pillar 3.

d) Use of UN Reform inter-agency tools

Through the leadership of the RC, the Spotlight Initiative in PNG modelled a new way of delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 5 on gender equality, SDG 3, on health, and SDG 17 on partnerships, in an integrated way, leveraging the collaborative advantages of RUNOs. This approach facilitates knowledge sharing at all levels enabling a holistic approach to solutions, learning and knowledge management among team members with highly specialized technical expertise.

Similarly, during the reporting period, UNCT leveraged a unique daily subsistence allowance (DSA) rate applicable across all programs in PNG for coherence. It also applies to cost-sharing

for offices located in one space/building where all RUNOs are located, and PMU all seated in one office.

Programme Partnerships

a) Government

The Spotlight Initiative in PNG depends on a solid partnership with the Government for its success and sustainability. During the reprogramming and through meaningful partnerships with a wide range of government entities and departments the Spotlight team was able to expand its reach, ensure multisectoral, comprehensive programming, and make progress in terms of national ownership over ending VAWG work. The Spotlight Initiative engaged the Government through cooperative consultation dialogues such as addressing the MTA report recommendations of strengthening coordination and dialogue and also during the preparation for the National Steering Committee. The UN was also invited as observers to the GBV Advisory Committee meetings (that were themselves organised with technical support from the Spotlight Initiative). Two meetings for the National GBV Advisory Committee were held during the reporting period in March and December 2022. The Committee is chaired by the DFCDR Secretary and is well represented by government departments and civil society stakeholders addressing GBV.

The Department of Justice and Attorney General (DJAG) is a key partner under Pillar 1 on laws and policies, and the Attorney General himself is the Chair of the CSC. The Spotlight Initiative worked with DJAG to support close coordination and collaboration for the SARV National Action Plan Review. DJAG was engaged in the provincial consultations towards the finalization of the Women's Health Protection Bill to ensure women and girls' greater access to comprehensive GBV and SRH services. The department was also instrumental in the development of the Human Rights Defenders (HRD) Bill together with the Constitutional Law Reform Commission (LRC).

The Department of Community Development and Religion (DfCDR) is a key partner. In 2022, the Spotlight Initiative provided technical support to the DfCDR for the planning and rollout of the PGK 7.9 million made available for the 2022 fiscal year, drafting the 2022 National GBV Budget, and for operationalization of the National GBV Secretariat. As part of implementation of the 2022 National GBV Budget, key support included purchasing and delivering office and IT equipment to set up provincial GBV Secretariats in 21 provinces, as well as the awarding of small grants to 13 CSOs who are supporting response and advocacy for GBV and SARV.

Moreover, in 2022, the DfCDR National GBV Secretariat staff participated in a combined virtual and in-person (in Bangkok, Thailand) capacity-building workshop and coaching on GBV coordination and preparedness in humanitarian emergency and development settings.

Under Pillar 2 on Institutional Strengthening, the Spotlight Initiative in PNG continued to work with the Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS), a government entity mandated by law to manage family and children's affairs in the country. The Spotlight Initiative partnered with OCFS to implement the Lukautim Pikinini Act 2015 thereby initiating an important and long overdue process of decentralization of social welfare functions from the national to the provincial level which is key to strengthen the protection system for women and children at risk and survivor of violence. Additionally, the Programme worked with the National Department of Health (NDOH) in the development of a roadmap for the implementation of the New Clinical Practice Guidelines for SGBV (i.e., the Medical and Psychosocial Care for Survivors of GBV and SARV–National Clinical Practice). In addition, preliminary consultations with the NDOH and the provincial health authorities on the draft minimum essential requirements as part of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the Family Support Centres (FSCs) in targeted spotlight provinces were undertaken. The SOPs for FSCs will require national NDOH endorsement and contextualization for each health facility before rollout in 2023.

Similarly, the Spotlight Initiative worked closely with Provincial GBV Secretariats. The Secretariats provide technical assistance to establish GBV secretariats in the targeted Spotlight provinces. The National GBV Strategy¹⁰ prioritized the establishment of Provincial GBV Secretariats across the country, which would be mandated to coordinate efforts to address GBV at the sub-national level. This work acknowledges that the PNG Government is pushing for more decentralization of service delivery by Provincial Administrations (PAs), and that it is important that GBV be integrated within the structures of these PAs. Currently most of the provinces have Gender Focal Persons among PAs most of them being Child Protection Officers.

Under Pillar 3 on social norms change, the Programme worked closely with the National Department of Education (NDoE), specifically the Guidance and Counselling, and Curriculum Development Divisions. RUNOs also tap into the Local Education Group Steering Committee, a forum for information exchange, coordination and collaboration between the DoE and development actors working in education. Partnership with the NDOE resulted in an increase

¹⁰<http://www.ngbvs.gov.pg/post/national-gbv-advisory-committee-inaugural-meeting>.

of knowledge among girl and boy students, youth, women and men including marginalized groups on gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours, child rights, as well as reproductive rights as integral to the NDoE Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) programme.

Further still, the Spotlight team worked with the Consultative Implementation and Monitoring Council (CIMC) of the Institute of National Affairs to review and update the male advocacy strategy and module/tool kit. The module/toolkit is now being used to train males in selected Spotlight communities to advocate for gender equality and women's human rights. Male community advocates are provided with information, skills, knowledge and experiences to change attitudes and behaviours of men on women's human rights and equality between women and men by the National Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee (FSVAC). Through this programme, male advocates undergo a four-stage process (i.e., foundational training on GBV, culture and religion, individual reflections on VAW; and practicum-delivery of advocacy messages in the community). The training material was developed in collaboration with the Pacific Regional Women's Network Against VAW.

Moreover, the Programme strengthened collaboration with the NDOH under Pillar 4 on Response. The NDOH is working to coordinate the healthcare response to GBV with a particular focus on FSCs. The NDOH ensured the delivery of specialized services through the health system, including referral pathways, through the new Clinic Guidelines for GBV and SOPs. Because of their jurisdiction over the health sector in Spotlight target provinces, the Provincial Health Authorities of Western Highlands, Southern Highlands, Eastern Highlands, East New Britain, and Morobe were selected as partners.

Under Pillar 5, the programme worked with an independent consultant who worked in collaboration with the National Statistical Office (NSO) to analyze the 2016-2018 Demographic and Health Survey data on GBV and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR). The analysis indicated a high level of variation across different sets of data, both within and between regions and provinces. The Programme also initiated a consultation with the provincial health authorities on the use of the two-page facility register for recording cases of VAWG as part of the WHO manual for health managers. Moreover, in collaboration with the Royal PNG Constabulary as part of the legal response to the referral pathway system, the Spotlight team worked closely with the Courts and Police Units in Port Moresby (NCDC) providing support in order to develop a common system for family protection orders in relation to GBV cases. The diversity of ministries and government entities with which the

programme partners with were critical to ensuring a whole-of-government approach to ending VAWG.

Under Pillar 6 on CSOs and women's movements, the partnership with the Constitutional Law and Reform Commission (CLRC) aimed at ensuring that the human rights of the people of PNG are protected. And having a protective environment for human rights defenders is a demonstration of the government's commitment to allowing every woman and man to enjoy their rights. The development of the human rights defenders' protection Bill and Policy has also involved close consultation with other key national agencies such as the Department of Justice and Attorney General, Department of National Planning and Monitoring, Department for Community Development and Religion, Department of Personnel Management, Ombudsmen Commission, Department of Finance and Department of Treasury, Office of Workers Compensation. A key challenge has been the delay in establishing the National Human Rights Commission, which could provide an independent body to implement and enforce the HRD Protection Bill and Policy once endorsed. Key national agencies have acknowledged the progress made to date in establishing the Commission.

b) Civil Society

Thirty-three (33) grassroots, local and international CSOs (please refer to Annex C) continued to be engaged across various contract modalities during the reporting period. RUNOs ensured these organizations reach their final partner agreements because of the central importance of civil society to the programme. In the spirit of Leaving No One behind principle (LNOB), the Programme partnered with various groups of CSO, including national, local/grassroots, women's rights and/or feminist CSOs, and those representing groups facing intersecting forms of violence such as the women and girls living with HIV/AIDS. Grassroots organizations such as the Community Development Agency of PNG, Mustard Seed Global PNG, Save PNG, Rural Women's Development Foundation, and the Human Rights Defenders Association of PNG received small grants to implement specific outreach programs and institutional strengthening.

CSOs were able to reach the hard-to-reach communities, creating ripple effects during the reporting period. Interventions included working with human rights advocates, women groups and CSOs on GBV and SARV elimination, relevant legislation, and awareness-raising on the consequences of GBV and SARV through this support. Moreover, additional support from the Spotlight was provided to DfCDR to launch a call for proposal and manage the small grants award process for 13 CSOs in December 2022 under the National GBV Programming Budget.

Moreover, during the reporting period, CSOs completed the first phase of the programme to train teachers through the Trainee of Trainers (ToT) approach on updated Comprehensive Sexuality/Life Skills Education with ToT instruction manual for teachers aid in four priority sites (i.e., Lae, Western Highlands Province, East New Britain, and Port Moresby). Another partner CSO, Family Planning New South Wales, works closely with National Department of Education (NDOE) and ChildFund to ensure that these manuals, while adapted to the PNG context, follow the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) standards for CSE in-school and out of school. In addition, 527 parents completed the training, and 800 more will graduate in March with this skilled peer educators are well equipped to teach other teachers in the communities about positive relationships and connect young people to SRHR services. This is contributing to the reduced incidence of adolescent pregnancy, STIs, and HIV.

Following the capacity building of CSOs through OXFAM's CSO Hub on networking and collaboration in the previous year, in 2022, implementation/ delivery was accelerated through such partnerships wherein larger CSOs partnered with smaller CSOs at the grassroots levels. For instance, the Eastern Highlands Family Voice (EHFV) local CSO partnered with other local CSOs during the reporting period, ensuring that they built their capacities and supported them to implement key community interventions. The EHFV and Help Resources worked with local communities to change negative behaviours and norms as well as establishing advocacy networks including formalizing community-based organizations. Initial support to PNG Counsellors Association (PNG CA) through PNGINA-FSVAC resulted in further financial support that will be provided through Phase II of the Programme in expanding the number of professional counsellors. PNG Business Coalition for Women expanded its engagements with corporate organizations in strengthening the capacity of these organizations in supporting economic security of women (and men) experiencing violence within their homes and workplace.

Coordination and collaboration with CSO partners and CSO networks continued through the GBV Subnational and national taskforce group meetings to ensure interventions' synergies and track implementation. Moreover, CSO partners and the CS NRG, as the oversight body, continued to monitor critical interventions in selected Counties, participated in the review of the recommendations for MTA, provided inputs in phase II planning, were represented at the National Steering Committee, and continued to provide information in various Spotlight Initiative documents as required.

The CS NRG has a diversified membership that is represented by members across all spheres of life who are all provided with the space to articulate their priorities, where there are opportunities to do so. Recently, during the 16 days (about 2 and a half weeks)16/20 days of

Activism, the women affected by HIV/AIDS and other key populations held dialogue with state and non-states actors, including the donors, and used the moment to voice out their concerns and priorities needing support. This resulted in recommendations that will be implemented during Phase II of the Programme.

C) European Union Delegation (EUD)

Since its inception, the Spotlight Initiative in PNG has always underscored the close collaboration between the Government, CSOs, EUD and the UN. From the onset of Programme design, collaboration with the EUD in technical, program and management discussions helped identify the value of building synergies. This helped prevent duplication and strengthened synergy, information-sharing and joint targeted communication on GBV, SARV prevention and SRHR promotion. The political advocacy led by the EU/UN leadership with the Government has also been critical to making the gains possible in the program.

Collaboration with the EU delegation in PNG remained inclusive and close starting from the Programme design and development at the technical and leadership levels. During the reporting year this engagement continued into the programme implementation, the EUD is a member of the TWG and technical and steering committee meetings. The EU/UN leadership has been strongly promoting and advocating for the Spotlight Initiative. The Head of Delegation also attended the national civil society forum on gender and human rights which was convened by the Spotlight Initiative, which contributed to the visibility of the programme and illustrated the joint EU-UN commitment to eliminating violence against women and girls. In addition, regular bilateral discussions were held between the EU-UN leadership on operational and programmatic progress and delays in implementation to provide guidance to the RUNOs.

c) Cooperation with other (non-RUNO) UN agencies (if applicable)

During the 16 Days of Activism, the Programme collaborated with UNAIDS, to support the key populations targeting, women living with HIV/AIDS, sex workers, transwomen, and women with disabilities all of whom were integrated into the programme as a means of “leaving no one behind”. The Spotlight Initiative provided technical support to the National AIDS Council Secretariat and women living with HIV as they co-hosted a day’s worth of technical dialogue and an education session with states and non-state actors on gender transformation and human rights-based applications to programming and accountability, within the principle of “living no one behind”. This session sensitized both state and non-state actors and resulted in recommendations that will be incorporated into 2023 Programming under the Spotlight Initiative. This collaboration provided an opportunity for the women within the key

populations to voice their own issues, challenges, and priorities on the HRD Policy being developed. The Spotlight Initiative continued to engage with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on the development of the Human Rights Defenders draft policy and Bill.

e) Other Partners and resource mobilization (if applicable)

The Spotlight Initiative has maintained close collaboration with the Australian Government, which is one of the country's largest donors, for example, through their participation in the Steering Committee. With extensive and long-term investments in women's empowerment, peacebuilding and gender-based violence programs across the country, the technical and contextual inputs from the Australian Government as part of the CSC ensure the Spotlight programme accelerates activities that precede it and complement activities to end VAWG in provinces not within the scope of the Spotlight programme. These partnerships allowed the programme to leverage the technical expertise and pre-existing networks across the UN system to enable more meaningful and targeted programming.

New Projects were established as a result of the gains made through the Spotlight Initiative since its inception; these include the joint U.S-UNDP program on security and justice system capacity building that focuses on three outcome areas¹¹ and the SARV project¹² funded by Korea through a partnership between UNFPA and DfCDR on addressing sorcery-related issues in PNG. These new resources to address GBV and SARV in PNG are a great opportunity and will ensure that synergies are built between the Spotlight and abridge the existing funding gaps.

Results

Capturing Broader Transformations Across Outcomes

2022 was a promising year in terms of efforts aimed at sustaining combat on the prevention of GBV and SARV. The Spotlight Initiative has been working closely with DfCDR to support provinces in the operationalisation of GBV Secretariats and in the development of provincial strategies in line with the aspirations of the National GBV Strategy. Through this partnership,

¹¹These outcomes areas aim to: Enhance law enforcement (e.g. FSVUs, CID) across the country supporting them to more effectively provide services addressing gender-based violence, including through improved case management, capacity; Drive a public awareness communications campaign to build community understanding of the role of law enforcement in addressing GBV and finally expand services for GBV survivors delivered through the establishment and/or extension of safe houses and associated services.

¹²<https://png.unfpa.org/en/news/unfpa-koica-sign-%E2%80%9Cgame-changing%E2%80%9D-16-million-kina-agreement-end-gbv-and-sarv>

capacity building support was provided for provincial GBV focal points in developing work plans, budgets and cash flows that align with provincial finance and planning requirements in our efforts to advocate for sustainable financing of GBV activities and programs at subnational level. Parallel to this approach, the Spotlight Initiative supported the establishment and operationalization of the National GBV Secretariat in partnership with DfCDR. To date, Spotlight is working in partnership with the government, giving technical assistance to 21 provinces to finalize their provincial GBV strategies.

Further still, the Programme provided technical support to the National government through DfCDR in planning and rolling out the committed budget of PGK 7.9 million for the 2022 fiscal year. Through Spotlight's continued support, the government also committed PGK 9.8 million for the 2023 fiscal year. This is a milestone achievement for the government's active support to the efforts to end GBV and SARV. The government is collaborating with the UN to ensure that the country's collaborative efforts are built on and supported at national and subnational levels.

Working on linkages and creating synergies across outcomes led to efficiently creating an enabling environment and securing political buy-in that is a primary vehicle for change in decision-making at the executive levels of government and the national parliament. For instance, the support provided under Pillar 1 on laws and policies in turn led to the launch of the National GBV Advisory Committee and the formation of the Permanent Parliamentary Committee on GEWE and GBV. This was an unexpected but welcome result for the program that culminates from advocacy and gender sensitization activities with political leaders. This Committee succeeds the Special Parliamentary Committee on GBV, formed to advocate for ownership and accountability by the government for issues around gender inequality, more specifically GBV.

Moreover, the CSOs forum was also hosted by the national FSVAC, attended by over 100 participants, and resulted in 'a renewed call to action' that brought together CSOs (including those representing vulnerable groups, women rights defenders and grassroots CSOs), and the government on a platform for joint implementation and accountability on the prevention and response of VAWG.

The CS NRG as reflected in their structure, and functions, continued to engage in programmes that deliberately apply the 'Leaving No One Behind Principles' As they struggled to have stigma free, and non-discriminatory services provided to key populations like women living with HIV/AIDS, sex workers, trans-women, LGBTIQs, advocacy efforts mobilized political, moral, and financial support to these groups, who by the end of the reporting period were finalizing a work plan for Spotlight phase II.

Reporting on the implementation of Participatory Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (P-MER)

The Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation work has been in development. During the reporting period the M&E Consultant provided technical guidance to Oxfam in their capacity building of CSOs in Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E). Participatory M&E was emphasized to OXFAM for implementation in grassroots reporting and learning activities from 2022 through the end of the project, at which time lessons learned and promised M&E practices will be shared. By the close of 2022, the report was still yet to be submitted by Oxfam to UN Women (the lead on Pillar 6) and key stakeholders for review before finalization.

Oxfam's evaluation of the CSOs Hub was commissioned at the close of the reporting year and is still in progress. The recommendations from the evaluation are expected to be used for further local CSOs capacity strengthening, and action planning through the development of a CSO Strategy in collaboration with the CSOs, CSNRG and other key stakeholders. The lessons learnt from the CSOs hub pointed out the fact that there is potential for sustainability of the programme, through amplifying the engagement of the local CSOs, who are more knowledgeable about their respective local contexts.

After the new Programme Technical Coordinator came on board, she engaged with the CSNRG to clarify all stakeholders' premises and roles, especially NRG members in the PME process. At the inception of 2022, a recommendation was made to hire the full time M&E Specialist and CSO Technical Specialist to guide the process while simultaneously leading the capacity building of the team. The CSO Technical Specialist was hired by October 2022 while recruitment was still ongoing for a full time M&E Specialist that will join the Programme on 1st January 2023.

The CS NRG members were engaged in the development and review of the Joint Monitoring tools and selection of Provinces and communities where PME will be kicked off in the first quarter of 2023 and later replicated. The intention of this engagement was to assess which CSO indicators lend themselves to this type of approach and to train NRG members in facilitating this as part of the monitoring.

Moreover, key elements of participatory M&E were adopted during the design and development of the Phase II Workplan using the global spotlight approach and guidance tools.

Albeit there is a need for continuous support and training to all Spotlight teams (RUNOS, CS NRG, CSOs) as well as the inclusion of this approach in the initial design of M&E frameworks

to encourage more use of this valuable tool. With the M&E Specialist on board in 2023, this will be one of the key focus areas of support.

Capturing Change at Outcome Level

Outcome 1: Legal and Policy Framework

An all-inclusive HRDP Bill consultation was completed under the leadership of the Constitutional Law Reform Commission. While the intended outcome was the drafting and enactment of the Bill, consultations with key agencies recommended a Policy to guide the legislation and test critical proposals emerging from the consultations and indicated in the Bill. The drafting process was informed by a series of consultations with key national government agencies, CSOs focal points and provincial government representatives for the proposed bill. The HRDP consultation re-tabled the need for a human rights oversight mechanism for the country, in line with recommendations from the Universal Periodic Review in 2022. The Policy and its Bill are anticipated to protect human rights defenders, including CSOs and institutions associated with Gender, and Human rights in all contexts (Humanitarian, Peace, and development). It is anticipated that in the first quarter of 2023 a policy will have been endorsed, and launched, to pave way for enactment of the HRD Protection Bill. Focal points from CSOs who participated in the consultations represented groups who work with survivors affected by GBV, SARV in the space of governance, economic empowerment, environment, health (HIV/AIDS), disability, key populations.

Outcome 2: Institutions

The first Provincial By-Law for the protection of children, a costed action plan and a draft Children's sector plan were developed in Enga province for enhancing child protection services during the reporting year, following the launch of the first provincial councils for child and family services (PCCFS) in Enga in 2021. This was achieved through the continued support of the Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS) to implement the Lukautim Pikinini Act 2015 (LPA) for decentralization of the social welfare functions of the Government. This provided an opportunity for a coordinated response for prevention of VAWG including SARV and protection of girls and boys across sectors and at provincial level.

In 2022, the Enga PCCFS, conducted a rapid assessment focusing on children during the onset of the humanitarian situation in the province. This was critical because humanitarian actors could not travel due to security matters. The assessment informed the UN system-wide response to VAWG, enabling the Spotlight initiative in PNG to respond and mobilize resources. In addition, two (2) new Provincial Councils for Child and Family Services (PCCFS)

in Morobe and the National Capital District (NCD) were established in 2022. The process for the establishment of PCCFC was initiated in Madang, Central and Milne Bay. The five sub-national governments committed to implementing the LPA with available resources.

The Spotlight Initiative's support to NOCFS was critical in establishing a Country Programme Social Sector Welfare (CP SSW) workforce system. This included developing and implementing the national SSW assessment study and developing a costed road map and action plan. Strengthening and institutionalizing a standard SSW system is an opportunity to strengthen the child protection system across sectors and package the quality minimum services required to respond to child protection issues with efficiency and effectiveness, bringing case management to another level of competency in the child protection space.

Through the capacity enhancement support provided by the Spotlight Initiative to the Government during the reporting year, quality and efficient services were delivered through Child Protection Case Management (CPCM). The Spotlight Initiative supported the Government in building service delivery capacity by rolling out the CPCM module, which was developed in the previous year, and by strengthening the continuum of services across different sectors. In turn, the Pacific Institution for Leadership and Governance (PILAG) and the National Training Council (NTC) endorsed the CPCM Facilitator Manual and a Case Management Competency Assessment and Learner Guide to train and certify case workers.

Similarly, case management services were provided to 833 survivors of violence and abuse in NCD, of which 20 were child abuse cases. This followed a two-week capacity building training rolled out in December 2022 enhancing the knowledge and skills of 44 Provincial Child Protection Officers and Community Child Protection Volunteers (20 males; 23 females) from Southern and Momase Regions. The focus of the training was on case management and PRIMERO skills to deliver quality case management services.

The Spotlight provided institutional funding to the Family Sexual Violence Action Committee (FSVAC), an institution established to provide coordination and technical assistance to the national GBV response. With government funding secured for a GBV Secretariat, Spotlight and development partners in the country jointly advocated for sustainable government funding for this structure.

Outcome 3: Prevention and Norm Change

In 2022, with the Spotlight Initiative's support, the first evidence-based, cross-sectoral National Social and Behavioral Change (SBCC) Strategy for prevention of contributing social norms to VAWG and SARV was developed and validated with the engagement of 80 key stakeholders such as national and subnational Government, CSOs, FBOs, Spotlight CSO

reference group, and the UN. In addition, the SBCC strategy is integrated as a key strategy for preventing VAWG and SARV in the NOCFS' first corporate Strategy document. Furthermore, for the first time, NOCFS established parenting/SBCC positions in its human resources organogram. Accordingly, NOCFS and provincial administrators of NCD, Morobe, Madang, Simbu, Southern, West and East Highlands and Central Provinces committed to addressing contributing social norms and harmful practices to VAWG and SARV with an action plan on 1st of Dec 2022.

Similarly, by implementing the Parenting for Childhood Development (P4CD) Program, 4,452 (M: 1773; F: 2679) in four provinces—Morobe, Western Highlands, NCD, and Jiwaka, improved their parenting skills and behaviours towards their children as evidenced through a pre and post-test evaluation conducted. This number represents a 50% increase from 2021. Accordingly, 9,236 (M: 4,572; F: 4664) lives benefited from their parents' and caregivers' strengthened knowledge and skills from participation in the P4CD Programme. Through the Spotlight Initiative, a pool of 418 (199 male and 219 female) community parenting facilitators/experts was established in the same four provinces and partnered with seven community leaders from local FBOs and CSOs, promoting the P4CD program and engaging parents in their communities to prevent violent disciplining and promote positive parenting. In addition, 200 parenting facilitators are schoolteachers demonstrating integration with the education sector.

Improved parenting based on the available data on the P4CD program parents/caregivers' pre and post-exposure questionnaires which showed changes in discipline practices by parents/caregivers after completing the entire programme cycle. As a result, a reduction in all elements of harsh parenting, namely verbal abuse, corporal punishment, psychological control or abuse and neglect, were reported. There were also improvements in family well-being, including parent confidence, self-efficacy, and reports of children being well cared for. These improvements were observed across all demographic groups, including men, women and caregivers of different ages and educational backgrounds. The collected data will henceforth be stored in the dashboard for future reference.

Coupled with the above, community members and leaders gained enhanced knowledge on good parenting in the NCD by December 2022. Building on the recommendations of the P4CD programme evaluation, NOCFS initiated the institutionalization of this programme the NCD child protection officers were trained to be P4CD facilitators to start training of trainers (TOTs) for the training of other CPOs and CCPVs to roll out the P4CD program at scale and at the provincial level, in cooperation with FBOs and CSOs, as a first step for the institutionalization of the program in 2022 and beyond.

In 2022, PNG witnessed a growing movement of men and boys who gained new knowledge on positive masculinity and gender equality and became change agents providing leadership in communities by raising awareness, mobilizing the community to utilize available services and standing up for women's rights. This was made possible through the 'SANAP Wantaim Campaign,' Community Action Groups (through the work of Eastern Highlands Family Voice) to engage young men on women and girls' rights. For example, the 53 trained youth reached a total of 1541 (903F/611M) people in 2022 through various interventions which included outreach activities in six communities (5 in the National Capital District and 1 in Western Highlands Province), five schools (4 in Western and 1 in Eastern Highlands Province), two markets (1 in Morobe and 1 in East Sepik). The youth have also disseminated messages through radio and TV programmes broadcast by the National Broadcasting Corporation which has national coverage across all 22 provinces of the country.

In light of the above, community leaders have acknowledged positive behavioral change amongst the men and young boys including visible support for women and girls in gardening as well as husbands accompanying their wives to hospital for their children's health needs. The community conversations also used sporting activities to provide confidential counselling for women and girls who find it difficult to leave the home to access such services. The Spotlight Initiative facilitated community conversations and focus group discussions that reached out to an audience of over 5,303 people in 2022. This brings the total reached since 2021 to over 25,436 people. EHFV has used IEC materials to improve knowledge (disseminating 4,700 brochures and posters) on topics such as Family Protection Act, Child Protection, Domestic violence, Rape Incest and Child Abuse, SARV, social problems (alcohol, drugs), tribal and clan fights, rights and welfare for PLWD.

Furthermore, the Spotlight Initiative continued to implement the "Changing the Headlines" Campaign. A cumulative 2,850,000 people (49% females) were reached by December 2022 since the launch of the campaign in 2022 through programs broadcast through different channels including social (Facebook) and traditional (radio, TV and newspapers) media. One main component of the campaign is a 34-episode radio drama series featuring local celebrities and broadcast on the National Broadcasting Corporation (NBC) to tackle the different forms of violence.

Over 5,303 community members in the target provinces gained enhanced knowledge by following the 4,700 IEC materials (brochures, posters) that were disseminated to them through the EHFV CSO on awareness topics such as the Family Protection Act, Child Protection, Domestic Violence, Rape Incest and Child Abuse, SARV, social problems (alcohol, drugs), tribal and clan fights, rights and welfare for persons living with disabilities (PLWD). Following the various field visits and monitoring carried out by the EHFV, community leaders

acknowledged the positive behavioral change amongst the men and young boys, and the support given to women and girls in gardening as well as husbands accompanying their wives to hospital for their children's health needs. The community conversations also used sporting activities to disguise counselling for women and girls who are always afraid of receiving this support for fear of being abused by their husbands or family members.

Furthermore, seven (7) P4CD partners gained enhanced skills on preventing sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) through the spotlight Initiative support, such as, capacity building training on PSEA measures, development of PSEA action plans and policy and identification of reporting and referral pathways. Moreover, violence in schools was reduced tremendously and students' behaviors improved positively through the "Respect You Respect Others" training in 10 schools in Nawaeb district (Morobe province). As a result, during the reporting period, 30 schools in NCD, and Western Highlands Province (WHP) drafted a School Behaviour Management Policy (SBMP), based on the national SBMP, to address GBV in schools, through the training and engagement of 54 teachers.

Outcome 4: Quality Services

About 348 GBV survivors (215 women, 49 girls, 61 boys, and 23 men) received safe accommodation, repatriation, nonfood items, sanitary items, and case management services from 13 locations National Capital District (NCD), Morobe, Enga, East New Britain and Eastern Highlands Provinces. As a result, survivors gained confidence in the response system and an assurance that the CSOs and safe house entities would progress their cases through the referral pathway and network in other provinces, enabling safe repatriation to their families. This also in turn resulted in increased reporting of GBV cases, thus reducing the chances of comprising cases at the community levels.

Improved survivor centred counselling services in PNG during the reporting year. This was as a result of the spotlight recruiting and training conducted by the National FSVAC and PNG Counsellors' Association of 10 Counsellors on the Certificate IV course with Technical and Further Education (TAFE), International Education Agency (IEA), which in turn expanded the number of professional GBV Counsellors.

Outcome 5: Data

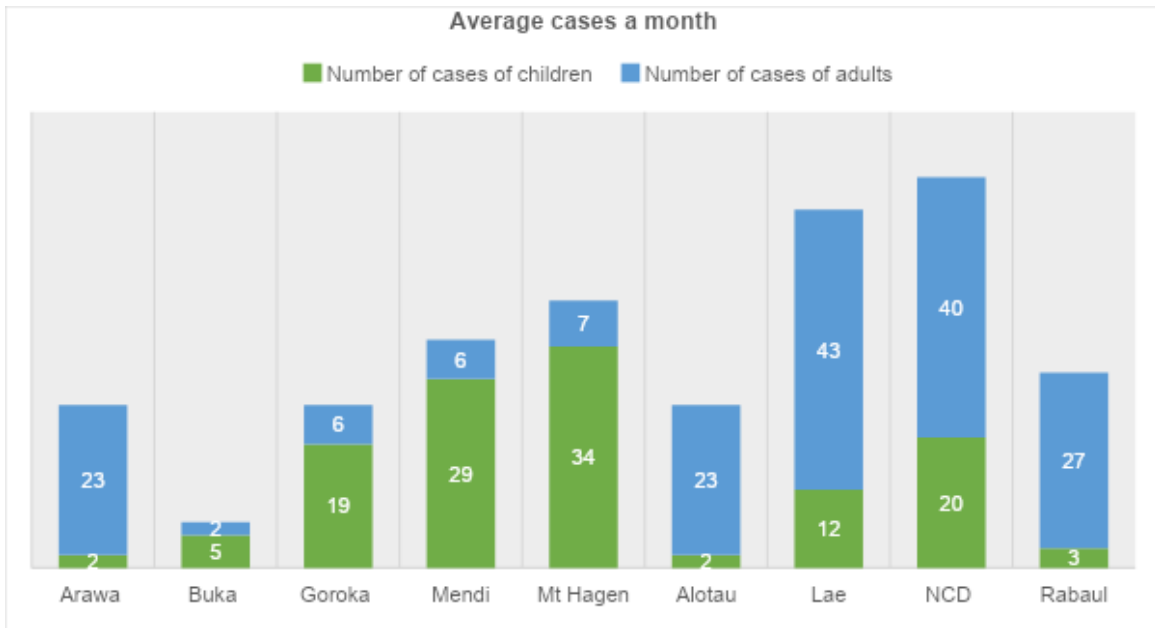
During the reporting period, the Spotlight Initiative worked in collaboration with the National Statistical Office (NSO) by undertaking formidable research to analyze the 2016-2018 Demographic and Health Survey data on GBV and SRHR. In PNG, among the currently married women aged 15-49 who have been married only once, 21% first experienced spousal

physical or sexual violence within the first two years of marriage, and 37% had experienced such violence within five years.

The analysis indicated a high level of variation across different sets of data, both within and between regions and provinces. For example, at the regional level, Momase has the lowest percentage overall (51.3%) of women who have experienced physical violence but has the highest percentage among women aged 45-49 (75%). The Highlands has the highest percentage overall (59.3%) and also has the highest percentage for ages 30-34 (73.4%). The significantly low percentage in Chimbu of never married women to have experienced physical violence (5.7%) rises dramatically for women who are married (60.5%) and women who are divorced, separated, or widowed (94.4%). This pattern suggests a strong association between marriage and the likelihood of experiencing physical violence, which also might be related to the meaning and practice of bride price exchanges in this context.

The analysis also provided insights on associations between variables. Interpretation of patterns however was limited by the variation in sample sizes between provinces, which became more apparent when looking closely at background characteristics. This variation indicated the complexity of intersecting factors related to the experience of violence. As a way forward, the analysis presented in the report will be complemented in 2023 by a literature review of existing studies and research to strengthen the interpretation of these findings and provide further contextual understanding to inform advocacy for the prevention and response to GBV, development of policies, plans and budgets and the design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of GBV response and prevention programs and services in the provinces.

The Spotlight Initiative completed a baseline assessment of FSCs, detailing the services provided and staff available at each facility. Of the nine FSCs surveyed, only four (4) were able to provide overnight accommodation. Three (3) FSCs had just one staff member. The chart below shows the number of cases handled in a month by each FSC surveyed by the age of the survivor. The results show a significantly higher proportion of children are presenting to FSCs in the Highlands Region. The results of this baseline will inform further training for FSC staff, with those in the Highlands requiring training on responding to child survivors of violence and on appropriate protection mechanisms and referral pathways for these survivors. This assessment is under final review and will be published in early 2023.



Moreover, in 2022, the Provincial Health Authority and DfCDR of Milne Bay agreed that Milne Bay would be used as a pilot for the testing of the use of a two-page facility register at the provincial level for recording cases of VAWG as part of the WHO manual for health managers. This was as a result of a consultation initiated by the Spotlight in collaboration with the provincial health authorities on VAWG case recording. The consultation report showed the need to harmonize the collection of GBV data to guide planning and budgeting. From early 2020 to 2022, collection of GBV data was sporadic with the surge of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a way forward, consultation across provinces will continue in 2023 to harmonize the collection of GBV data monthly at the family support centers located in the provincial hospitals and generate data analytics with the use of infographics for increased understanding. The standard global ethical guidelines of GBV data collection and reporting will be followed at all times. Also, the piloting will check if other groups such as women living in remote sites, people with disability, sex workers, or LGBTQ communities are reached by the data collection. At the moment, each province is collecting its own data using its own template. Support from the Provincial Health Authorities as well as the FSVAC will be obtained to ensure the sustainability of the GBV data collection initiative.

Outcome 6: Women’s Movement

CSOs are now better able to prevent and respond to various forms of violence and advocate for gender equality in their communities. This follows the various trainings that local CSOs benefitted from during the reporting period, thus enhancing their capacities under the OXFAM CSO Hub. The target CSO Organizations were composed of 20 men and 20 women,

with 15 out of the original 18 CSO Hub partners trained on creative approaches to community dialogues, 11 females and 16 males on transformative leadership, and feminist approaches with 13 out of the 15 CSOs hub partners targeted. With the enhancement of CSO capacities, the CSOs partnerships and collaboration with FSVAC and CIMC Consultative Implementation and Monitoring Council (CIMC) improved, and the two institutions played a key role in providing technical support in drafting the HRD Policy.

The CS NRG members actively participated in the consultations and development of the Spotlight phase II proposal and workplan as well as the development of their operational workplan to support the implementation of the project. The CS-NRG convened four quarterly meetings, which resulted in successful advocacy and capacity development of its members. For example, the 4th quarter meeting resulted in the development of their 2023 work plan, training and unpacking of the joint Monitoring Plan, and better comprehending the elements of the scorecard reporting.

CSOs, including Human Rights Defenders, led strong advocacy for legislative reform and policy development on gender equality, and rights based EAW bills and policies. For example, they were a pressure group for the HRD Protection Policy development and approval.

During the reporting period, technical support to women living with HIV, disability etc. to run their own campaign was initiated through a technical dialogue held with the states and non-states actors on VAW and HIV rights-based response, which resulted to a 10-point recommendation, being used as an advocacy product, to mobilize additional resources that empower women living with HIV/AIDS and other key populations. Other recommendations will be implemented through Phase II of the Spotlight Initiative Programme.

The EHFV CSO identified and supported six (6) community-based organizations working with safe houses and PLWDs by formalizing their entities for better response to VAWG. Initial work done in 2021 through the baseline assessment and community conversation enabled capacity building support of the CBOs in 2022, including the development of organizational strategic and work plans, by-laws, organizational structure, basic financial management and defining basic personnel duties to ensure growth and sustainability.

Reporting on SRHR

The programme conducted consultations on the national comprehensive sexual education (CSE) curriculum with the National Department of Education (NDOH) to educate young people on the sexual and reproductive rights and healthy relationships including those facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination. CSE is taught in and out of school, covering HIV/STI risks, condom use and safe sex behaviours,

respectful/responsible/consensual sexual relations, and uptake of Adolescent SRH services in collaboration with the National Department of Education, Child Fund and Family Planning New South Wales.

CSE Training Workshops include issues around gender and vulnerable people in communities. Thirty-six lecturers from PNG Education Institute (PNGEI) and Sacred Heart School participated in the Training of Trainers (TOT) on CSE: 28 lecturers were from PNGEI, and eight lecturers were from Sacred Heart. Out of the 36 participants from both institutions who attended the training, almost 100 percent of the participants have shown through questioning sessions and group participation that they understand the content accurately. However, during the group practices, only about 90 percent of them have shown that they can utilize participatory/learner-centred methods.

SRH services were provided in the Family Support Centers (inside the hospital) of partner Provincial Health Authorities, including condom supply, HIV/STI information/testing, and ending GBV counselling. Adolescent and Youth Population community outreach was undertaken by Y-PEER and NGOs working with young people living with HIV and young key populations.

The Spotlight Initiative also partnered with NDOH and the provincial health authorities on the rollout of SOPs for Family Support Centers in selected provinces, with specific attention to identifying and responding to survivors of sexual violence. At the national level, focus will be on updating the Adolescent Health Policy and Gender and Health Policy in the last year of the Spotlight initiative (2023).

Rights Holders (Spotlight programme “beneficiaries”)

Indicative numbers	Direct for 2022	Indirect for 2022	Comments/Explanations
Women (18 yrs. and above)	16,176	3,120,000	Direct: This includes community women, survivors of violence and women representatives from CSOs and women rights organizations involved in community dialogues, training workshops and skills training program; National Department of Education officials on Comprehensive Sexuality Education; Justice and Security institutions officials; women who accessed multisectoral services at county and national levels through

			<p>innovative and targeted interventions.</p> <p>Indirect: Includes women reached through awareness raising engagement which included community outreach, distribution of flyers and posters and other related activities held in the 11 target Spotlight Provinces; women rights defenders reached through awareness and strengthened capacities, among others</p>
Girls (5-17)	14,203	1,680,000	<p>Direct : This includes girls who formed part of the community engagements, public awareness activities, child survivors supported through case management services including access to justice, medical and psychosocial support; the justice and security actors in the counties; health services provided through integrated centers including safe houses for GBV survivors and Police facilities; graduates of Y-Peer programmes in Banz, Jiwaka Province, from Jiwaka and neighbouring provinces; and girls participating in CSE programmes in-school and out-of-school.</p> <p>Indirect: Girls reached through awareness arising on prevention and response services messages and campaigns social media among others</p>

Men (18 yrs. and above)	4, 177	3,380,000	<p>Direct: Men reached through behavioural change community dialogues, community engagement activities, community leaders and members, media practitioners, religious leaders, members from the CSO representatives. Security and justice male officers trained, and capacity strengthened in GBV prevention and response; provision of SRHR services on psychosocial services; radio programmes and awareness campaigns; sensitization on legislation and policies on GBV and SARV</p> <p>Indirect: Men reached through provision of services, radio and TV messages, open air awareness activities, awareness on legislation through community information sharing and awareness by Provincial officials etc.</p>
Boys (5-17 yrs.)	4,834	1,820,000	<p>Direct: Boys and youth who benefited and participated in awareness raising on prevention of GBV; Through behavioural change campaigns; community volunteer youth group members, students, engaged in community meetings, dialogues by CSOs; peer counselling, SRHR services among others with the strong support of faith-based organizations, especially in the Highlands; and CSE for in-school and out-of-school youth.</p> <p>Indirect: Youth who were reached</p>

			through radio messages, flyers, posters; awareness and provisions of SRHR services advocated by the Provincial officials, and awareness and prevention campaigns done.
TOTAL	*39,390	10,000,000	

***Note:** The reduction in number from the reported 55,000 to 39,390 in 2022 was due to limitations such as election related violence

Challenges and Mitigating Measures

Delayed recruitment of critical staffing such as RUNOs focal points led to delays in programme implementation in some cases. In most cases, some agencies did not have full time staff on board, which led to their limited participation in meetings or timely contribution to reports. RUNOs with no dedicated focal points were recruiting during the reporting year and new staff expected in the Quarter (Q) 1 of 2023. The M&E role was occupied by a consultant who was not based in POM and as a result, while the Communication Officer post was vacant from April 2022 to December. However, for both positions, recruitment was finalized by the end of the reporting period and staff expected to commence in January 2023.

Connecting with provincial partners during the peak of COVID-19, in Q1, was also a challenge due to movement restrictions, limited availability and familiarity with ICT and at times, poor telecommunication networks. Meetings of national partners could generally be accommodated through the use of online meeting approaches, with some meetings even setting up socially distant meeting rooms connected online. However, often poor internet connections in the provinces made it much more difficult to maintain connections with local partners.

To resolve this, WhatsApp groups were leveraged as one mechanism for facilitating group discussions. By the end of Q4 some RUNOs had purchased internet dongles and data packages for their partners and provincial CP officers, to facilitate their connections with the Initiative, as well as to enable them to better connect with their own provincial partners. Additionally, due to the fear of the risk of COVID 19¹³ infections, the UN PNG still had work

¹³As of March 2022, pandemic control measures posed limited restrictions on Spotlight activities. Building on lessons learned in 2020 and 2021, the programme continued to adapt to the changing situation of the COVID-19 socio-economic recovery in PNG and the potential for new variants to emerge to ensure that implementation can proceed.

from home arrangements across RUNOs. This led to disengagement in physical meetings not just for the UN but also with some Partners. Staff, adjusted to their new working environment and to virtual communication in their daily work while finding new ways to communicate and share information. This was a particularly challenging environment because of unstable electricity networks and fluctuating internet services.

The national general elections halted progress on legislative reforms and government capacity-building activities, and overall implementation of the Programme as government partners have been focused on the elections. Movement restrictions on staff travel due to risk of election-related violence resulted in the postponement of some activities from Q2 to Q3. However, the delays have been mitigated by scheduling activities back-to-back and combining activities where possible in Q4.

There was a gap in the implementation of some activities as Phase I progressed into the commencement of Phase II activities. As a result of this, a continuation of activities in Phase II commenced in the last quarter of 2022, thus reducing the initial 18 months implementation period planned for the Program under Phase II. RUNOs have been urged to establish acceleration measures to ensure they catch up with the lost period and that they complete the programme by December 2023 as per the Phase II cut-off implementation. Nonetheless, some RUNO exhausted all funds from Phase one implementation and invested additional efforts to continue implementation as the Phase II funding reached the RUNOs in late December.

Enhancing political will and commitment remains a concern to improve programme implementation. Coordination with the government partners needs to be further enhanced, thereby creating a more conducive environment for better collaboration with a focus on achieving long term and sustainable programme goals. This will enable the program to achieve a higher impact. As a mitigating measure, PNG Spotlight Programme continues to engage government partners with a similar vision as an advocacy platform for further engagement with pertinent government partners.

The low absorptive capacity of CSO implementing partners, led to a slow delivery rate which was identified as a critical risk. To address capacity gaps and its consequences, activities were reprogrammed to re-allocate unspent programme resources through budget revisions. Coupled with this, there was a delay in the submission of CSO reports and limited ability in report writing. As a mitigation measure, some RUNOs conducted a specific session for CSOs partners on report writing, jointly reviewed their report, provided them with good report-writing tips and engaged them to ensure that the report met the requisite quality. In 2023 the

Finance and Administrative Officer will provide oversight and support to CSO partners in financial management, improving their financial accountability to receive future funding.

The inadequate EU visibility during the reporting period especially, in project communities was identified and seen as a challenge for a Programme that began since Programme Inception due to COVID 19 restrictions on movements with no field monitoring visits for interventions and also due to a lack of a dedicated Communications focal point. However, to mitigate this, for 2023 a dedicated Communications Specialist has been recruited and will develop a communication and visibility workplan and build capacities of Partners and RUNOs on Spotlight Communication and visibility requirements.

Some of the culturally sensitive issues supported by the Programme, such as the SARV and domestic violence, may cause some risks if not managed well. However, the Spotlight's continued galvanized efforts to work with community leaders at every level of implementation and through consultative dialogues to ensure that their voices and recommendations are considered is key to mitigating this risk.

The lack of baseline data on GBV and SARV remains a challenge since the programme inception. This was due to variation across different sets of data, both within and between regions and provinces. To mitigate this, Spotlight worked in collaboration with the National Statistical Office (NSO) to analyse the 2016-2018 Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) data on GBV and SRHR. The report will be complemented in 2023 by a literature review of existing studies and research to strengthen the interpretation of these findings and provide further contextual understanding to inform advocacy for the prevention and response to GBV.

Moreover, the paucity of child protection data was a hindrance to tracking children through the case management system with limited capacity of service providers as well the online related challenges of internet fluctuations and lack of internet data to populate and update data leading to delays in data reporting. To address this, the operationalization of PRIMERO Version 2 was initiated to add value to the case management system, addressing the challenges in data collection, analysis, and management. A facilitator Manual and a Case Management Competency Assessment and Learner Guide was also planned to be rolled out in the Highlands region in 2022, however due to the election-related violence in the region, posing security issues, the training was deferred and is now planned for the first quarter of 2023. Albeit the need to strengthen collection of administrative data by government partners and the child protection information management system (CPIMS) through PRIMERO a model data system on child case management remains.

Lessons learned and new opportunities

a) Lessons Learned

The law and policy reforms took time to implement as there was a valid need to create awareness and gain buy-in from the community members, leaders and lawmakers on these. Hence, it is important to build trust with partners through sensitive advocacy, before being able to move forward with concrete changes. Implementation of interventions on laws and policies during the reporting year in building trust was successful with critical law and policy reform partners such as DJAG, the CLRC and Members of Parliament.

The activities implemented during the reporting period have proven to have great relevance. For example, sustainable institutional change in PNG required coordinated engagement across multiple sectors with a range of different stakeholders, many of whom were themselves operating in problematic silos, without connecting with their own colleagues. Through the various coordination platforms such as the GBV Secretariat at local and national levels, gaps were addressed and risks mitigated for instance through building consensus and agreement with key stakeholders, including the Government, on key programme decisions: For building synergy and ownership, continuous discussions and engagement with national partners are necessary, enhancing programme delivery.

Community centred approach interventions are vital for any project's success. When communities are given a chance to get involved in implementing a project, they feel part of it and obligated to ensure its success. Based on their involvement, they will go to any lengths to ensure that the projects succeed. The support of stakeholders in the project locations was solicited, and they took the lead in the implementation process by mobilizing the communities to prevent any form of violence.

A programme that aims to empower women as advocates for policy reform and implementation to end violence such as the Women Human Rights Defenders. Most members of the CSO movement are primarily women and girls who are former victims or survivors of gender-based violence. Those women share solidarity and empathy based on their shared dreadful experiences. Women have scars of GBV due to the patriarchal system; coming to learn their rights and laws that protect their rights give them the vigor to claim their rights.

Investing in monitoring and regular spot-checks is key for Programme success: There is a need for constant monitoring and evaluation of project activities to measure results, identify challenges and adopt timely mitigating measures. Regular and systematic monitoring of the indicators is essential to inform programme management and stakeholders about the progress. It is also vital for all key Partners and Donor's visibility at the national and community level.

CSOs strategic plans were reviewed and revised capacity gaps were addressed through training and mentorship, and financial support was provided to implement activities within the CSOs' work plan. CSOs have enhanced skills and knowledge to deliver their services through a more coordinated and result-driven approach. The implementation of work plans is expected to impact the lives of women and girls and add value to the CSOs' work in the intervention communities.

b) New Opportunities

The CSOs forums, and advocacy dialogues held during global events such as the 16 Days of Activism, provided a great opportunity to sensitize government, communities, donors, and the private sector on how EAW affects the well-being of every individual affected, and its negative impact on the national development agenda. Another important opportunity these advocacy sessions provided was the amplification of voices that resulted in calls to action, and recommendations that were unanimously agreed on, including by the donors such as the EU, who had a representative in most of the deliberations. The technical products from these advocacy sessions have been supported in most CSOs workplans, while emerging ones now serve as common messaging for resource mobilization.

The Permanent Committee established by the Government to hear cases of GBV that precedes the Special Parliamentary Committee established in 2020 will continue to conduct public hearings and accept written submissions from stakeholders on the gaps and challenges that need to be addressed in order to effectively prevent and respond to VAWG. With this milestone, the elimination of VAWG and advancement of GEWE remains pertinent to the national political agenda and will sustain the gains made through the Spotlight on the prevention and response to GBV and SARV.

Innovative, Promising or Good Practices

The Spotlight Initiative's support to National Office Child and Family Services (NOCFS) was critical to establishing a CP SSW system leading to the development and implementation of the national SSW assessment study and developing a cost-effective roadmap and action plan. This is innovative in the sense that it provided the opportunity to package the minimum quality services required to respond to child protection issues with efficiency and effectiveness, bringing case management to another level of competency in the child protection space. Strengthening and institutionalizing a standard SSW system is a promising practice and an opportunity for strengthening the child protection system across sectors.

The National Cross-sectoral SBCC strategy is good practice for addressing VAWG in communities. The SBCC was developed in 2022, within the framework of the Spotlight

Initiative as the first evidence-based, cross-sectoral National Strategy for prevention of contributing social norms to VAC and VAWG. It was validated with the engagement of 80 key stakeholders such as National and subnational Government, and CSOs, FBOs, Spotlight CSO reference group, and UN. In addition, the SBCC strategy is integrated, as a key strategy for preventing VAC, in the NOCFS' first Corporate Strategy document. Furthermore, for the first time, NOCFS established parenting/SBCC positions in its HR organogram. Accordingly, NOCFS and provincial administrators of NCD, Morobe, Madang, Simbu, Southern, West and East highlands and Central provinces committed to addressing contributing social norms and harmful practices to VAWG and SARV with an action plan.

Please see attached Annex D for Promising and good practices.

Communications and Visibility

a) Overview

In 2022, the Spotlight Initiative in Papua New Guinea leveraged several opportunities to elevate the messages of the programme and advance progress to achieving zero violence against women and girls.

In February, 50 parents completed the Highlands Youth and Rehabilitation Centre's (HYRC) parenting programming, supported by the Spotlight Initiative to reduce instances of violence against children. This event welcomed approximately 100 graduates and guests to the HYRC in Banz, Jiwaka Province, and neighbouring provinces.

PNG Family Health Association hosted several school and community outreach activities on the topic of healthy relationships and sexual and reproductive health. These activities, focused on youth, were an opportunity for the Spotlight Initiative to promote the linkages between health, justice, and social services, to communities in Kokopo, East New Britain.

For most of 2023, live events and travel was disrupted by the National General Elections. The communications team took our promotions online, with the production of a series of impact stories and videos, in addition to regular social media content. By November 2022, the Spotlight Initiative was able to hit the streets once more and the campaign was brought to the Highlands for the 20 Days of Human Rights Activism.

11 stories were published in 2022, with four media mentions for the Comprehensive Sexuality Education programme in national newspapers.

Data on attitudes towards gender-based violence and awareness of the Initiative is not available at the time of reporting due to challenges in conducting representative surveys on

attitudes and behaviours in PNG. The next Demographic and Health Survey will be able to provide insights on changing attitudes towards gender-based violence and sexual violence in PNG.

b) Messages

1) Parents on Positive Parenting

Positive parenting is the foundation for all the problems that we have-We wouldn't have family violence if we have positive parenting training extended to all parents in the province.

2) Leaving no one behind (LNOB)- Person living with disabilities

It is not our disability. It's our access: A call for inclusive access and information for persons living with a disability in Papua New Guinea.

3) Human Rights Defenders

We know that human rights defenders play a key role in supporting victims of family and sexual violence access justice. They are involved in responding to sorcery accusations related violence. But oftentimes they're very vulnerable to retaliation.

4) Youth -Social behavioral change

We believe that it's very important to ensure that young people realize that violence against anyone, whether it's in a relationship or between any other young people, is not okay.

When peer educators speak to young people, it's like we're speaking the same language. We're in the same peer groups and we're better able to get that message across.

c) Media and visibility events

1) 16 Days of Activism

<https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/stories/news/2022/12/16-days-in-png-raising-the-voices-of-women-living-with-hiv>

During the 2022 16/30 Days of Activism in PNG, a web –story was developed and published at the regional office. This included interviews with key stakeholders like UNWOMEN, UNAIDS, The Network of the Women affected by HIV/AIDS, to better ascertain the implication of VAW on women affected by the virus, and other women within the key population groups. It was also a moment to demonstrate that 'Leaving no One Behind' is an essential element of the program deliverables, which included making visible issues that are

hard to talk about in the country he links to the story can be found here: [Raising the voices of women living with HIV Social Posts](#)

Media links produced during the reporting year:

- <https://papuanewguinea.un.org/en/171742-clrc-signs-agreement-eu-un-spotlight-initiative-step-towards-greater-protections-human>
- <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/stories/news/2022/12/16-days-in-png-raising-the-voices-of-women-living-with-hiv>
- <https://papuanewguinea.un.org/en/168977-eu-funded-spotlight-initiative-strengthens-protections-children-ncd-through-unicefs>
- <https://papuanewguinea.un.org/en/175341-parents-jiwaka-breaking-cycle-violence-highlands-youth-rehabilitation-and-training-college>
- <https://papuanewguinea.un.org/en/175343-peer-educators-lead-community-outreach-east-new-britain>
- <https://papuanewguinea.un.org/index.php/en/175344-community-outreach-combats-violence-against-children-western-highlands-province>
- <https://papuanewguinea.un.org/en/175339-provincial-gbv-focal-points-leading-community-level-implementation-national-gbv-strategy>
- <https://papuanewguinea.un.org/index.php/en/175337-highlands-human-rights-defenders-welcome-consultations-protection-bill>
- <https://png.unfpa.org/en/news/%E2%80%9Cwe-want-see-changes-behaviour-our-young-people%E2%80%9D-national-department-education-consults>
- <https://png.unfpa.org/en/news/%E2%80%9Ci-want-see-people-having-healthy-relationships%E2%80%9D-civil-society-welcomes-comprehensive-sexuality>
- <https://png.unfpa.org/en/news/step-forward-sexuality-education-new-learning-sessions>

d) Campaigns

I. 16 Days of Activism in PNG:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FqzdF52excemf1UxUq7DA88ok8i3q137/view?usp=drivesdk> See a Joint Press release published [here](#).

- ##### **II. The "Changing the Headlines" Campaign launched in the previous year to break the silence around VAWG and SARV, reached a cumulative 2,850,000 people (49% females) since the launch of the campaign in 2022 through programs broadcast through different channels and social/traditional media.**



III. Moreover, through the Sanap Wantaim Campaign, 53 Youth were reached on behavioral change campaigns and were able to advocate for the reduction of sexual harassment and other forms of violence, mental health promotion, gender inequality, in various project communities and established 12 community action groups in Spotlight Communities, represented by six (6) of the 12 CBOs. The youths were trained on the toolkit for GBV prevention and response within targeted communities in 2022. These are set to formally obtain registration certificates with the Investment Promotion Authority for their operations.



Impact Story

Impact Story-1:

CLRC Signs Agreement with EU-UN Spotlight Initiative in Step Towards Greater Protections for Human Rights Defenders

Date: 10 February 2022

Link: <https://papuanewguinea.un.org/en/171742-clrc-signs-agreement-eu-un-spotlight-initiative-step-towards-greater-protections-human>



Caption: UN Women Country Representative Themba Kalua and Constitutional Law and Reform Commission (CLRC) Secretary Dr. Mange Matui upon signing of a Memorandum of Understanding for stronger protections for women and men defending human rights in Papua New Guinea. Photo: © Rachel Donovan - Spotlight Initiative Communications Specialist

The Constitutional Law and Reform Commission has taken a significant step towards stronger protections for women and men defending human rights in Papua New Guinea. The Commission signed a Memorandum of Understanding with UN Women to conduct consultations on a Human Rights Defenders bill and to provide technical assistance in the drafting of the bill.

“I’m very happy, on behalf of the Constitutional and Law Reform Commission, to be working with the U.N,” said CLRC Secretary Dr. Mange Matui. “We’re heading towards 50 years of independence in 2025. Our society has gone through an evolution and the situations we faced in 1975 are not the same as today.” “As a law reform agency, we are looking at the situations and activities that the law does not yet address.”

Dr. Matui noted that protections for Human Rights Defenders is one area where the law can be developed to meet current needs. Human Rights Defenders are those who protect political rights, land and environmental rights, women and children’s rights, rights of survivors of gender-based violence, rights of people living with HIV and other marginalized population groups, including responding to those accused of sorcery and witchcraft and even intervene to prevent tribal warfare.

“Through our work in this area, supported by the EU under the Spotlight Initiative, human rights defenders had expressed a particular need around legislation that provides protections for the work that they do,” said UN Women Country Representative Themba Kalua. “We know that human rights defenders play a key role in supporting victims of family and sexual violence access justice. We also know that they are involved in responding to sorcery accusations related violence. But oftentimes they’re very vulnerable to retaliation.”

We see a lot of sorcery-related violence and people are scared to report it”, said Dr Matui. “The law does not currently provide for this.”

The UN is assisting CLRC to facilitate consultations that will inform the drafting of a Human Rights Defenders Protection Law. The process is led by a working committee comprising DJAG, DfCDR, and UN Women, led by CLRC.

Funded by the European Union under the Spotlight Initiative to end violence against women and children, these consultations took place over four sessions during February and March and ensured that draft legislation was informed by the experiences of the women and men working to defend human rights across all four regions. Once consultations were completed, the CLRC was working on the draft bill for presentation to the Parliament. Human Rights Defenders are already mobilized within their regions and engaged in this process which provided legal recognition and protection of their important work.

Impact Story-2: Highlands Human Rights Defenders Welcome Consultations on Protection Bill

Date: 7 March 2022

ink: <https://papuanewguinea.un.org/en/171742-clrc-signs-agreement-eu-un-spotlight-initiative-step-towards-greater-protections-human>



*Caption: Eriko Furerefa, Kafe Urban Settlers Women's Association, Goroka, Eastern Highlands Province.
Photo: © Rachel Donovan - Spotlight Initiative Communications Specialist*

“When we are trying to help others or when we go to court to take up someone’s case, we face threats and intimidation,” shares Highlands Human Rights Defenders.

Highlands Human Rights Defenders Network’s Mary Kini states, “I think it is very important that we have that protection bill because it’s going to protect our lives.”

Mary joined fellow human rights defenders Eriko Fuferefa, from Kafe Urban Settlers Women’s Association, and Angela Apa, from Kup Women for Peace, in Mt Hagen for a three-day consultation on the development of a Human Rights Defenders Protection bill. The consultation, held in partnership with the Spotlight Initiative and the Constitution and Law Reform Commission, was the first of four that are taking place in March across the country to progress legislation to better protect human rights defenders from retaliation or intimidation in the course of their work.

“We really need to be protected because for so many years we have not been protected and some human rights defenders have been killed along the way,” said Eriko. “Some of them are abused and tortured. We have so many bruises.”

Mary is also a co-chair of the Civil Society Reference Group (CSRG), a core part of implementation of the EU-funded Spotlight Initiative to end violence against women and girls in Papua New Guinea. The Spotlight Initiative has provided technical support to the Special Parliamentary Committee on Gender-Based Violence which completed a second public inquiry into gender-based violence in Papua New Guinea on March 4, 2022.

“As a CSRG co-chair and human rights defender, I would really like to acknowledge the Spotlight Initiative over these two years,” said Mary. “They created a platform where we can go and lobby and we can advocate at that level.”

“We are able to get into that space to talk about our issues down at the grassroots level and in the regions around the country.”

If successful, the draft bill will complement other human rights protections in Papua New Guinea.

Recent amendments to the Criminal Code have taken steps to address the role of *glasman* and *glasmeri*, and the role of the individuals or families who use them, in perpetuating sorcery accusation related violence in Papua New Guinea. The amendments to the Criminal Code make it illegal to use, or attempt to use, the services of a *glasman* or *glasmeri*. It is also a crime to threaten to use the services of a *glasman* or *glasmeri*. Penalties include up to 10 years in jail and fines up to 10,000 PGK.

Accusations of sorcery by a *glasman* or *glasmeri* have initiated the torture and murder of dozens of women across Papua New Guinea. Accurate numbers of those affected are difficult to collect as fear of retaliation means some cases go unreported. Prosecutions are rare.

“People have these norms, these beliefs,” said Mary. “When a *glasman* or *glasmeri* comes along and says something, people automatically react to what these *glasman* or *glasmeri* are saying. They are provocative.”

“So, I think this is very important and I am really pleased that this is passed as this is something we have been asking for a long, long time.”

Impact Story-3: Peer Educators Lead Community Outreach in East New Britain

Date: 14 March 2022

Link: <https://papuanewguinea.un.org/en/171742-clrc-signs-agreement-eu-un-spotlight-initiative-step-towards-greater-protections-human>



Caption: Peer Educators Lead Community Outreach in East New Britain. Photo: © Rachel Donovan - Spotlight Initiative Communications Specialist.

“I would say most, more than 60%, of the survivors of gender-based violence that we see in the clinic are young adults,” says Primrose, Youth Coordinator for the Family Health Association (FHA) in East New Britain.

Primrose leads a team of peer educators from the FHA to end this trend through community outreach to schools and communities across East New Britain. She has just stepped off stage after delivering a presentation to senior students at Kokopo Secondary School.

“We do clinical outreach, and we also do community outreach,” she says. “We focus on family planning and especially preventing unwanted pregnancies so young girls are able to complete their education.”

Primrose’s session emphasized that students can reach out to the FHA for help and that violence is never the survivor’s fault. Empowering youth to report instances of violence is crucial to the FHA’s outreach program.

“We believe that it’s very important to ensure that young people realize that violence against anyone, whether it’s in a relationship or between any other young people, it’s not okay,” said FHA Director Michael Salini. “We need to get that message across to them.”

“So that’s why we engage these young people to do it on behalf of the organization. Young people talking to young people is the most effective way of changing perceptions and values in communities.”

“When peer educators speak to young people, it’s like we’re speaking the same language,” says Primrose. “We’re in the same peer groups and we’re better able to get that message across.”

Emerging harms to young people’s health and wellbeing, alongside traditional threats of intimate partner violence and child abuse, demand innovative, peer-led solutions. Being proactive in these solutions is critical to breaking cycles of violence and modeling safe, healthy relationships for the next generation.

The program has significant support from students who confess information from adults often fails to recognize the experiences of today’s youth.

“I, personally, had gone through that kind of experience with cyber-harassment,” shared Margaret from Kokopo Secondary School. “I can testify that at that time there were no teachers that really understood that because they were older.”

“So, I think cyber-harassment is one of the issues that older people have a hard time understanding. If a young person stands up and speaks to young people in a way that they understand, people will pay attention.”

Following the school outreach session, the team from FHA moved to Kokopo markets where volunteers distributed pamphlets and condoms, part of their wider clinical outreach program to educate the public on sexual and reproductive health, and prevention of sexually transmitted infections.

The Spotlight Initiative is supporting the Family Health Association in East New Britain to conduct youth outreach activities that promote positive relationships and connect young people to sexual and reproductive health services.

Impact Story-4:

A former GBV Perpetrator is revived with changed behaviour



Illustration by Canva

Mr. Bana Mick from Muglwaku Kar tribe lives in Simbu Province, boarder of Simbu and Jiwaka. Simbu province is associated with high rates of intimate partner violence where, 68.4% women aged 15 to 49 years old reported to have ever experienced physical, sexual or emotional abuse from their partners (PNG DHS 2016). Mr. Mick was in the habit of perpetrating this form violence, exacerbated by his abuse of alcohol and drugs. Wife battering the was order of the day for in Mr. Mick household as he came home from his drinking spree. However, the Spotlight initiative helped to change Mr. Mick’s behaviour and attitude towards his wife and with a changed attitude and behavior, he started taking part in all community initiatives to end violence against women and girls.

Mr. Mick is subsistence farmer, married with two children. His mode of income is through selling garden produce and conducting petty jobs. Mr. Mick used to be an authoritarian man, taking his wife as an object, abusing her time and again. In his own words, Mr. Mick had this to say, “I used to be a violent man, beat my wife and children daily”. One of the community leaders said that the wife feared reporting the abusive husband to the police because she feared losing him and feared community wrath. UN Women Spotlight implementing partner Kup Women for Peace changed Mr. Bana Mick's behaviour and attitude towards his wife and children.

Kup for Women for Peace conducted awareness raising sessions in Chimbu, Kundiawa and Kerowagi villages, identified and trained community mobilizers on Family Sexual Violence, Human Rights. Ms. Betty Kunai, Mick's wife's sister, participated and attended Kup Women for Peace workshops. Ms. Kunai used to see her sister being abused by Mick but was afraid to report because of lack of knowledge of GBV Referral pathway and fear of reprisal from the community. After participating in a series of GBV prevention workshops and awareness raising sessions, Ms. Kunai decided to protect her sister from Mick. She reported the case to the police and Mick was arrested two days later. Ms. Betty Kunai said “My younger sister’s husband was the perpetrator; I took my sister to the Family Support Unit and they arrested her husband. Since then, he has become a better person.”

In police cells, Kup Women for Peace provided counselling services and awareness raising sessions to Mr. Mick and his Wife at home. The information improved Mr Mick’s knowledge levels on gender-based violence, gender equality and human rights. Mr. Mick decided to change his behaviour and attitude towards his wife. Mr. Mick is now respecting his wife, budgeting, and working with her on all family issues.

Moreover, Mr. Mick is now a male advocate, mobilizing other men to end violence against women and girls. Mr. Mick is now a family mediator helping to resolve family disputes.

“It is very difficult to deal with family violence, abuse and rape cases in our communities, especially in Pogera and Tari. We always try as much as possible to maintain peace and good order in our communities. Many times, we are threatened for the decisions we are about to make, or we make. It is common for most cases to be settled through compensation to resolve conflicts and escalating violence.” Tony Lembo-OMS Village Court Magistrate.

“Delayed processes with the police, community development or courts frustrates clients most of the time, many of the survivors give up, leave the safe-house and return to the perpetrator or their communities and continue to undergo abuse and violence”. Sharon Soto - Lasaroka Meri Seif Haus.

Impact Story-5: A Step Forward for Sexuality Education with New Learning Sessions

Date: 27 May 2022

ink: <https://papuanewguinea.un.org/en/171742-clrc-signs-agreement-eu-un-spotlight-initiative-step-towards-greater-protections-human>



Caption: Participants from the Department of Education and leading CSOs join the CSE information session in Port Moresby. “Students here in Papua New Guinea need help in making informed decisions when it comes to their sexual health,” shares PNG Family Health Association’s (FHA) Michelle Tovebae.

“FHA is one of several organizations rolling out Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) in Papua New Guinea. Michelle joined representatives from the National Department of Education and ChildFund for a learning session on CSE for key partners as part of UNFPA’s work in ending gender-based violence.

CSE is a curriculum that covers healthy and respectful relationships, rights and values, sexual and reproductive health, pregnancy, and parenting.

UNFPA, together with Family Planning NSW, delivered the two-day learning sessions with 16 attendees from the National Department of Education, National Department of Health, and civil society organizations. These groups include members of the CSE steering committee, a group intended to coordinate the national roll out of CSE in Papua New Guinea.

The goal is to extend CSE to both in- and out-of-school youths, contributing to reduced incidence of adolescent pregnancy, STIs, and HIV. Addressing stigma on sexuality education remains a critical challenge.

“Addressing sensitive issues in PNG is difficult with our culture,” said ChildFund project officer McLeen Pikacha. “Through CSE we hope to include better teaching approaches and open discussions in classrooms.”

“I’m looking forward to teaching my peer educators about what I’ve learned from this training,” said Michelle. “With this they can be well equipped to teach other youths in the communities.”

The national CSE roll out is part of implementing the Adolescent Health Policy. This current training is funded through the Spotlight Initiative to end violence against women and girls. Effective implementation of the Adolescent Health Policy contributes to preventing intimate partner violence.



Spotlight Initiative

An initiative of the United Nations funded by the European Union



Impact Story-6: 16 days in PNG: Raising the voices of women living with HIV

Date: 23 December 2022

ink: <https://papuanewguinea.un.org/en/171742-clrc-signs-agreement-eu-un-spotlight-initiative-step-towards-greater-protections-human>



Caption: "Look After Yourself from AIDS"- Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. Photo: courtesy of ZYMosende/PNG

“Papua New Guinea has one of the highest rates of violence against women globally, with 58% of women experiencing violence in their lifetime. But for women living with HIV, the risk of violence is even greater.

This year on December 8th, UN Women Papua New Guinea held an event to elevate the voices of women living with HIV, as part of the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence. Partnering with UNAIDS, the National AIDS Council Secretariat, and the Network of Women Living with HIV/AIDS, the event focussed on the links between violence against women and HIV prevention and response.

Caroline Nyamayemombe, Deputy Country Representative at UN Women Papua New Guinea, explained, “PNG has one of the highest rates of violence against women worldwide. We also know that there are high rates of financial abuse, sexual violence, and social isolation. All these increase the vulnerability of young women and girls to HIV infection. With the other layers of marginalization from culture and society, you can only imagine the situation of women in PNG.”

Rates of HIV infection in PNG have risen dramatically in the last ten years. UNAIDS reports a 45% increase in HIV infections from 2010 to 2021. Most of these cases are women. These findings mirror international statistics showing 870,000 new infections annually among women and girls worldwide. This is equivalent to three women becoming infected every four minutes.

For Cathy, a 39-year-old woman, living with HIV in Port Moresby, a gendered lack of empowerment and social isolation has compounded her hardships. She said, “I was diagnosed with HIV when I was 22. My husband died because he wouldn’t seek treatment. So, I moved in with my parents and my brother’s family. My brother chased me out of the house because of my HIV status and stigma.”

Without family or any support services, Cathy ended up homeless. “I went through a lot. I was so emotionally and psychologically down and so traumatized. I had no place to sleep or anywhere I could go for help.”

For women like Cathy, living with HIV negatively impacts nearly every aspect of their lives, from financial well-being and health to severe social stigmatization and discrimination and personal safety. Cathy said, “They (women) can be teenagers, adolescents, or adults. If they live with HIV, they have the same issues. Sometimes women will only eat one meal a day or nothing. Sometimes they won’t seek out treatment. And many women living with HIV are going through multiple forms of violence, even economic violence. You have no power; you are nothing.”

In PNG, violence against women is not only a consequence of living with HIV. There are clear and established links between gendered violence and rates of HIV transmission. Women and girls’ vulnerability to contracting HIV is increased by high rates of rape, sexual abuse, forced marriage, widow inheritance, and other harmful practices.

Zimmbodilion Mosende, Strategic Adviser at UNAIDS Papua New Guinea, explains, “If women, in general, are exposed to extreme violence, their capacity to protect themselves is less. Therefore, a high number of those women, especially those at high risk, will more and more be exposed to HIV. We must highlight this because we know that HIV can be prevented, and we have seen a steep decline worldwide in HIV cases. Still, it’s not the case here in Papua New Guinea or other countries where violence against women, stigma, and discrimination are high.”

After five years of living in exile from her family, Cathy remarried and joined a women's rights organisation called WABHA, 'Women Affected by HIV and AIDS'. Cathy now advocates for the rights of other women living with the illness. "I decided to come out and speak up. We know HIV is connected to violence against women, which can come from your partner, family, or community. We also know the risk of HIV transmission is very high now, and as the trauma increases, so does the transmission rate. And this is the real life of women here."

WABHA is one of the women's rights organisations that took the stage at the 16 days of activism dialogue event in Port Moresby. Such women's rights organisations have been essential to the success of the global movement to fight HIV.

Mosende said, "Successful programmes worldwide, including HIV treatment, were borne from activism, and because of the strong voices of people living with HIV being heard by the world and by the top leaders. There's no stronger message if this comes really from the people who are affected or living with the disease."

At this dialogue-based event women living with HIV held an open and direct conversation with government leaders, service providers and other actors. Together they sought ways to better address their needs and those of women at risk. This platform for women with lived experiences of life with HIV was at the heart of the event.

Nyamayemombe explained, "We have a patriarchal society where even discussions and decisions at the household level, at a community level, have little regard or no regard for women's opinion. So, when you look at the multiple and intersecting layers of discrimination that women living with HIV face, it becomes important to create a special space because outside, there is little chance that their voice will be heard. These women have got a story to tell, and it is a story that must be heard."

For Cathy, it was an opportunity to reassert her voice and rights and address the misinformation about life with the illness. "We must speak up. People living with HIV are normal. We can do the same things as people living without HIV. We can contribute to society. We can do what they do. We just live with treatment for the rest of our lives."

Many in attendance, including government representatives, USAID, and the EU-Spotlight Initiative, reinforced their commitment to ongoing support for women living with HIV. UN Women Papua New Guinea hopes to foster regional collaboration at a regional level to ensure that women living with HIV throughout the Pacific can live free from the threat of violence. Nyamayemombe said, "The world is very small in this part of the globe. We need each other to strengthen the support we can give to key populations. Pacific island countries should come together and become a voice to share their story with the world, increase our advocacy and accelerate government actions".

Testimonials

Testimony 1:

“When the government supports, we will see that it will help deliver the services that the people need and women and children, and those who are affected by gender-based violence, get the justice that they need.” Robin, Interim GBV Focal Point for Western Highlands province



Caption: In Jiwaka, GBV Focal Point Mary Tol in Pink Meri-Blouse with colleagues. Photo: © Rachel Donovan - Spotlight Initiative Communications Specialist Caption

Testimony 2:

“We want a future where our young generations have respectful relations and are respectful to the most vulnerable in our communities,” said Mr Pikachu. “I want to see people having healthy relationships and believe with the introduction of comprehensive sexuality education, we can tackle this issue.”



Caption: Civil society organisations and other stakeholders met with UNFPA to advance implementation of a CSE curriculum.

Testimony 3:

“When peer educators speak to young people, it’s like we’re speaking the same language. We’re in the same peer groups and we’re better able to get that message across”



*Caption: Peer Educators Lead Community Outreach in East New Britain
Photo: © Rachel Donovan - Spotlight Initiative Communications Specialist Caption*

Testimony 4:

“Positive parenting is the foundation for all the problems that we have-We wouldn’t have family violence if we had this positive parenting training and brought it to all parents in the province”.
Parents in Jiwaka



Parents in Jiwaka Breaking the Cycle of Violence as Highlands Youth Rehabilitation and Training College Celebrates New Positive Parenting Graduates. Photo: © Rachel Donovan - Spotlight Initiative Communications Specialist Caption

Testimony 5:

We just want to empower people. We feel that we have the potential and the power to do it once we are together and we have this network going on.” NK Association, a youth organization in North Kagua, Southern Highlands Province.



NK Association, a youth organisation in North Kagua, Southern Highlands, Papua New Guinea Photo: © Rachel Donovan - Spotlight Initiative Communications Specialist Caption

Photos:

Link: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1NIUIGYWMYNK5vh39BTkBEgIk6fjL_J-J?usp=sharing

Videos:

16 Days of Activism:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Fqzdf52excemf1UxUq7DA88ok8i3q137/view?usp=drivesdk>

Strengthening Protections for Human Rights Defenders:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QXCaHOEbOe0&list=PLWEnDvccRC1UaYMbaPyMHPsbtPGUpR8tt>

Enabling Provincial Responses to End Gender-Based Violence:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tVEwUkm9ZSE&list=PLWEnDvccRC1UaYMbaPyMHPsbtPGUpR8tt&index=3>

Peer Educators Leading Youth-Focused Solutions to Violence:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6tHA1OZPcKg&list=PLWEnDvccRC1UaYMbaPyMHPsbtPGUpR8tt&index=4>

Podcast: <https://anchor.fm/spotlightpng>

Sustainability

The Spotlight Initiative in PNG has not yet developed a sustainability strategy. However, one of the key aspects of the PNG sustaining intervention on VAWG is to capitalise on the government's commitment through the annual allocation of GBV funding to the National Budget VAWG and SARV. This is expected to enhance the sustainability of the Spotlight Initiative's investments across several sectors and institutions. This has revealed national/local ownership, political will, financing, advance the work being done under the Spotlight Initiative and continue to make progress on ending VAWG once Spotlight transitions.

Additional resources on ending GBV were realized during the reporting period and some commitments made. As earlier reported through the SARV project funded by Korea and the program on security and justice system capacity building. Commitments were made during the 16/20 Days of Activism advocacy sessions in PNG, donors such as USAID demonstrated interest to support some of the recommendations. Also, the Global fund held a series of conversations with the RUNOs on possibilities of aligning their support to the Spotlight programme, particularly on VAW/HIV, targeting women living with HIV/AIDS, Sex workers, LGBTIQ, and Women with disabilities. UBRF from UNAIDS also contributed to the Spotlight deliverables on engaging with women key populations, particularly those affected by HIV, sex workers and LGBTIQ.

The programme has a key focus on leaving no one behind and having the local CSOs lead as front liners in their respective communities. This is why a shift to engaging local CSOs is a priority now, to ensure continuity and sustainability. Having FSVAC/CIMC as the government CSOs coordinating body has also provided a greater opportunity to advocate with the government on prioritizing EAW in the national development agenda, and then UNDSF.

The programme has amplified CSOs engagement, and even interface with the government and donors. The CSOs have called on the government to prioritize VAW/G in the national development agenda and their commitment to fully fund the PNG's GBV Strategy. The women are consistently being organized towards a more systemic movement, evidence of which were eminent during the 16/20 Days of Activism.

Next Steps

Outcome 1:

- A Human rights defenders protection law enacted, and policy endorsed by December 2023
- There is a plan to support the Human rights defenders' protection law's enactment and implementation. For example, having an enhanced community knowledge and information on laws, policies, services and referral systems leading to increased reporting of cases will be prioritized.
- Support DfCDR and DJAG in the following areas: to draft the Act for the setup and operationalization of the National GBV Secretariat; to review the National GBV Strategy; DfCDR and DJAG's collaboration on the SARV National Action Plan and in the finalization and sustainable financing processes for 21 provincial GBV Strategies.

Outcome 2:

- Support DfCDR operationalize the National GBV Secretariat
- Support alignment and operationalization of provincial GBV Secretariats to provincial governments/ administrations.
- Continue support for the PNGCA to develop a user-friendly client database for survivors.
- Build capacity for CSO partners on child protection, PSEAH and GBV referral protocols.
- Provide technical support for National GBV Advisory Committee
- Provide technical support for the Permanent Parliamentary Committee on public inquiries to GBV and gender sensitization activities.
- Prioritize working at national and provincial levels with stakeholders in priority areas, namely, community development, child and family services, health and education.

Outcome 3:

- Positive social and gender norms amplified in community outreaches and policy dialogues for the prevention of VAWG by Dec 2023. At least 100 men and boys have enhanced knowledge on EAWG and gender equitable norms attitudes and behaviors and are able to participate in out of school programmes and at community levels as peer educators and change agents.
- Support development of advocacy material and knowledge products for sustainable financing.

Outcome 4:

- Amplification of multi-sectoral engagement and accountability is a key priority for the next steps. The results anticipated here to have a timely, quality and integrated GBV service delivery, with a clear referral pathway. Prevention of VAWG. This will include Evidence driven Integrated services that will include psychosocial support/counselling, protection shelters/safe homes and referral pathways strengthened and expanded.
- By December 2023, at least 10 PNG Counsellors are qualified, registered, practicing within the counselling code of practice, observing PNG cultural needs, recognizing and adopting international counselling practice standards.
- Critical importance will be given to creating an enabling environment through national institutional support and leadership in Comprehensive Sexuality Education on sexual and reproductive health and rights for buy-in and sustainability as a primary prevention intervention.

Outcome 5:

- By December 2023, establish a functional national GBV administrative system (based on VAWG incidence data) across provinces coordinated by the National GBV Secretariat (with the Department of Community Development and Religion (DFCDR) as Convenor) - data to inform policy making, planning, programming, and budgeting and strengthen the GBV case management system.
- Related to the above, strengthen capacities of government service providers, statistical officers, and women's rights advocates to regularly collect data on VAWG, including DPV/IV in line with international and regional standards to inform laws, policies and programmes.

- Functional VAW Register in Family Support Centers (Hospital-based) based on WHO Guidelines across all provinces of Papua New Guinea with the support of the National Department of Health and Provincial Health Authorities used to inform planning, programming and budgeting.
- A national child protection data management system using Primero established and has improved GBV case management.
- Improved GBV reporting among in-school and out of school youth and adolescents using U-Report.
- An information management system launched and improved family violence unit case management in partnership with the PNG police in selected provinces
- Multi-sector referral pathway Standard Operating Procedures and data sharing protocols among essential service providers established.

Outcome 6:

- By December 2023, at least 30 CSOs/Women's groups including those facing intersecting forms of violence are better coordinated with enhanced knowledge and skills to network, partner and jointly advocate for progress on EVAWG at local, national through annual CSO forum, regional and global levels.
- A Functional and vibrant national women's movement, guided by a clear advocacy strategy and operational plan that is implemented, reported and made visible. This will include using the advocacy papers (CSOs forum call to action, and the 10 points VAW/HIV recommendations) which will be marketed in different forms for all needed resources, including funding and human resources. Resource mobilization is a key result anticipated here. This will result in a coordinated CSOs/youth/women's movement (including the vulnerable groups) with enhanced knowledge and skills to tackle all forms of violence and made functional.
- Harmonization of messaging on EVAW across the country and positioning EVAW in the HDP Nexus. There plans for a more robust and empowered CSOs capacity development, and national movement building, a clear and common national advocacy and messaging will be instituted for CSOs.
- The CS-NRG capacities will be strengthened for them to enhance better knowledge and skills in executing their mandate and are better able to both advise and participate in decision-making on Spotlight implementation at the national, regional and global level. This will include strengthening the role of the CSRG, including having the shadow reports out in the next phase of the program. Monitoring and Accountability strengthened.
- Capacity Building and Coordination Support CSO partners with gender disaggregated data collection for their interventions.
- Support CSO partners with monitoring activities under small grants

Annexes

Annex A: Results Framework

Reporting against the Results Framework will be captured through SMART (the Spotlight Monitoring and Reporting Tool). Your programme will be responsible for formatting and attaching the data as an annexed table (Annex A) to your report.

Annex B: Risk Matrix

Please see the link to the annex [here](#) and also attached to the report (attached to the report).

Annex C: CSO Engagement Report

Already submitted through the online link provided.

Annex D: Innovative, Promising or Good Practices Reporting Template

Please fill in Annex D: Please see the link to the annex [here](#) (also attached to the report).

Annex E: Annual Work Plan

Please see 2022 Workplan [here](#) (also attached)