



# Spotlight Initiative

**ANNUAL NARRATIVE PROJECT REPORT**

**PROJECT TITLE: SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE GLOBAL PLATFORM**

**PROGRAMME START DATE: 1 APRIL 2021**

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<p><b>Programme Title &amp; Programme Number</b></p>	<p><b>Priority regions/areas/localities for the programme</b></p>
<p>Programme Title: Spotlight Initiative Global Platform MPTF Office Project Reference Number:<sup>1</sup> 00128649</p>	<p>Global</p>
<p><b>Recipient Organization(s)</b></p>	<p><b>Key Partners</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women</li> </ul>
<p><b>Programme Cost (US\$)</b></p> <p>          </p> <p><b>Total budget as per the Spotlight Initiative Global Platform Project Document: 767,337.00</b></p>	<p><b>Programme Start and End Dates</b></p> <p><b>Start Date:</b> 04.01.2021</p> <p><b>End Date:</b> 31.12.2022</p> <p>          </p> <p><b>Report Submitted By:</b></p> <p><b>31 March 2021</b></p>

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



## **Table of Contents**

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## **Acronym List**

COVID-19	Coronavirus disease 2019
COSI	Community of the Spotlight Initiative
CS-CRG	Civil Society Global Reference Group
CSO	Civil society organization
DCO	UN Development Coordination Office
DG INTPA	European Union Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA)
EU	European Union
EVAW	Ending violence against women
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
GBV	Gender-based violence
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
KM	Knowledge Management
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
RG	Reference Group
SDDirect	Social Development Direct



SVRI	Sexual Violence Research Initiative
TOR	Terms of Reference
UNODC	UN Development Coordination Office
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
UNHCR	United Nations Refugee Agency
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNTF	United Nations Fund on EVAW
UN RC	UN Resident Coordinator
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
VAW	Violence against women
VAWG	Violence against women and girls
VKC	Virtual Knowledge Centre
WHO	World Health Organization
WPHF	Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund



## Executive Summary

### 2021 Key Results - Spotlight Initiative Global Platform

- **Knowledge exchanges drew more than 760 participants from the UN, government, civil society, non-traditional partners, the EU, and other Spotlight Initiative stakeholders.** These knowledge exchanges were reflective of a participatory approach in alignment with the *leave no one behind* principle by embracing circular knowledge exchanges.
- **A partnership was formed with the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women to collaborate on SHINE,** the online hub of the Global Platform. This partnership enabled Spotlight Initiative to save approximately **one year** that would have been spent procuring and developing an online platform.
- A global knowledge exchange on coalition-building to advance women's rights and end violence against women and girls drew **more than 220 participants, from 120 CSOs in 33 countries.** This was held in collaboration with the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund.
- **Nine knowledge briefs** were developed in 2021. Four of the knowledge briefs were added to the Spotlight Initiative website, which received a total of **287 clicks.**
- The Spotlight Initiative Secretariat set up a coordination mechanism - the **HQ Knowledge Management Group on EVAWG** - which was pivotal in identifying opportunities for collaboration, has strengthened the technical quality of activities and expanded grassroots civil society engagement (and potential future engagement) through the Global Platform.





The Global Platform is a virtual exchange and convening ecosystem designed to offer the combined power of an online knowledge hub, a community of practice and an advocacy channel, founded in the practical experience of Spotlight Initiative's investments across more than 25 countries.

2021 was a foundational year in advancing development of the Global Platform. This took shape through a strong partnership with the European Union and extensive consultations across the UN system, with civil society, and with Spotlight Initiative programmes and partners. This has ensured that the Global Platform aligns with strategic objectives and is responsive to the needs of stakeholders at multiple levels working to end violence against women and girls. Useful lessons and opportunities arose from the consultations to ensure the Global Platform furthers the evidence-base on EVAWG, and meaningfully engages civil society and others in alignment with the *leave no one behind* principle. Following the overarching vision, concrete components of the Global Platform were created, including knowledge exchanges and convenings, knowledge production, and online engagement. Extending beyond a virtual/online platform, it is referred to as *Spotlight Initiative's global hub for knowledge, engagement and impact*. This foundational year for the Global Platform strengthened collaboration with UN agencies, funds and initiatives in alignment with the UN Reform through tailored coordination mechanisms on knowledge management and ending violence against women and girls.

Simultaneously, five knowledge exchanges were held and nine knowledge products were produced through the Global Platform in 2021. This strengthened a global Spotlight Initiative community and amplified results, lessons and promising practices from programmes and beyond. These knowledge exchanges were reflective of a participatory approach in alignment with the *leave no one behind* principle by embracing circular knowledge exchanges. These knowledge exchanges demonstrate how Spotlight Initiative values multi-stakeholder collaboration and ownership, regional and country-level expertise and practice-based knowledge.

Importantly, a partnership was formed with the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women and Girls to collaborate on the online hub of the Global Platform, called SHINE. There was a focus on fostering this partnership and coming together to design and prepare SHINE for public use in 2022.

The Global Platform received the first replenishment of funds on 16 September 2021 and was fully replenished on 12 November 2021.<sup>2</sup>

## **Background Context**

<sup>2</sup> As indicated by the start date on the Global Platform project factsheet on the Multi-Partner Trust Fund website [here](#).





Implementation of the Spotlight Initiative in over 25 countries across 5 regions and with a multiplicity of partners - from grassroots communities to governments at the highest levels – has generated a wealth of knowledge, lessons and good practices that are well positioned to be modelled widely and to drive global advocacy. With its partnership and access to decision-makers at the highest levels, as well as its wide reach across regions and actors, the Initiative is uniquely placed to advocate at the global level and advance efforts to facilitate change in the structures, attitudes, and behaviours that enable violence. It is also universally recognized that violence against women and girls exists in every region, country, and society. Therefore, as a model for comprehensive EVAWG programming, it will be particularly critical to share the wealth of knowledge and lessons generated from the Spotlight Initiative for increased global impact and sustainability.

Efforts to end violence against women and girls have been fragmented across entities, contexts, and individual actors. The issue has been further siloed into distinct sub-sectors targeting specific forms of violence - from women, peace and security and women’s political inclusion; to humanitarian deployment and conflict-related sexual violence; to counter-terrorism efforts and trafficking of women and girls; to prevention efforts associated with long-term development. There is a critical need to approach all forms of violence against women and girls as multi-dimensional and interconnected. The lack of a coherent, coordinated response to the increase in violence against women and girls during the COVID-19 pandemic starkly exposed these divisions. In early 2020, 146 Member States signed onto the Secretary-General’s global appeal for ‘peace in the home’ – a rare acknowledgment of the scope of the problem and an opportunity to mobilise needed political will to more emphatically address the issue. A system-wide Political Engagement Strategy on addressing gender-based violence in the context of COVID-19 offers a blueprint for wholistic action that maximises the opportunities presented to more robustly address the pervasive violence.

Additionally, the **UN Women-led Generation Equality Forum** that seeks to mobilize action to achieve the human rights of all women and girls took place in Mexico City in March 2021 and in Paris from 30 June – 2 July 2021. The Forum launched a 5-year action journey to achieve irreversible progress towards gender equality, founded on a series of concrete, ambitious and transformative actions, including \$40 Billion in financial commitments. Co-led by the European Union, the **Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Action Coalition** within Generation Equality identifies a set of actions that will define the development sector’s orientation to addressing gender-based violence. **The Spotlight Initiative Global Platform is a commitment by the EU to advance the work of the GBV Action Coalition** and coalesce learning from the Initiative’s years of programming to amplify lessons from its comprehensive approach at a global scale.



Furthermore, the Spotlight Initiative Secretariat identified a critical gap - mirroring the fragmented approach present in the global development system to end violence against women and girls, **the vast array of knowledge, resources, and platforms critical to ending violence against women and girls through a comprehensive approach are also disconnected.**

Designed as a model of coordination, comprehensive programme delivery and multi-stakeholder ownership, Spotlight Initiative is delivering results on one of the most egregious human rights and security challenges globally through comprehensive responses and a focus on prevention, sustainability, and transformative impacts at all levels. With these diverse factors contributing to an even greater and more urgent need to bring actors together from across the UN system, EVAWG ecosystem and global networks to address violence against women and girls through a comprehensive approach, **the Global Platform was conceptualized to seize this momentum and enhance the Initiative's convening power and knowledge exchange on EVAWG towards coordinated and collective action to end violence against women and girls.**

## **Project Governance and Coordination**

### **a) Spotlight Initiative Governance Structure**

The current governance structure for the Spotlight Initiative is used for the Global Platform. This ensures a streamlined and coherent approach to decision-making, accountability, coordination and oversight for the Global Platform as part of Spotlight Initiative's broader governance structure. Thus, the EU plays an important role in the coordination and governance of the Global Platform. The role of the EU in the design and governance of the Global Platform was discussed and agreed upon in a jointly organized workshop between the EU and the UN prior to the reporting period, on 23 February 2021.

### **b) Civil Society Global Reference Group**

The Civil Society Global Reference Group (CS-GRG) is a key part of the governance structure for Spotlight Initiative at the global level and has been an integral partner in the design, development and implementation of the Global Platform. The CS-GRG is an established institutional mechanism of 18 peer-selected women's rights activists who advise the Fund and hold the Spotlight Initiative accountable to its commitments to civil society, including through the Global Platform. Representation of the CS-GRG on the highest governance mechanisms embodies a new way of working with civil society and reflects the Spotlight Initiative's commitment to meaningfully engage civil society at all levels. Group members represent a diverse cross-section of civil society, balanced







by region and issue-orientation, and representing, or themselves facing, multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. This level of civil society oversight and accountability is important for the Global Platform to ensure it upholds the Initiative's values of inclusivity and increased decision-making for civil society, is continuously needs-driven and aligns with the *leave no one behind* principle.

The CS-GRG has disseminated information on knowledge exchanges and briefs with Spotlight Initiative's civil society networks. This has helped the Global Platform better reach national and grassroots civil society organizations to benefit from these activities. Furthermore, the CS-GRG has contributed to the co-creation of knowledge products and exchanges to increase accessibility and ensure they best meet the needs of local, grassroots organizations (more information on this is available in the *results* section).

### **c) Inter-agency coordination, technical committees and other governance mechanisms** **HQ Knowledge Management Group on EVAWG**

In 2021, the Spotlight Initiative Secretariat set up a coordination mechanism of KM focal points at the headquarters level to strengthen synergy on knowledge management among different funds and initiatives. This included the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF), the UN Trust Fund on Ending Violence Against Women (UNTF) and UN Women. This coordination mechanism has been used for consultative purposes on the Global Platform to ensure it builds on existing initiatives and avoids duplication to meaningfully benefit the UN system and EVAWG efforts. Specific meetings have been dedicated to discussing the Global Platform. The coordination mechanism has met bi-monthly and more frequently near the year's end to draw concrete synergies between the Global Platform and existing knowledge management initiatives for EVAWG in the UN system.

For example, there has been an open line of communication with UN Women to ensure the Global Platform fills a gap and brings value to support learning on EVAWG. There was uncertainty about whether the Global Platform would duplicate efforts with UN Women's Virtual Knowledge Centre (VKC). Through dialogue, there is now an understanding that the scope of SHINE and the Global Platform more broadly focuses on dynamic engagement while the VKC has a static repository with foundational resources for EVAWG.

Opportunities for joint work are regularly explored through this coordination mechanism. This resulted in a collaboration between Spotlight Initiative and WPHF through the Global Platform and WPHF's Global Community of Practice. A knowledge exchange was hosted on coalition-building,





and a knowledge brief under development is being tailored for use by local civil society organizations. (More information can be found in the *partnerships* and *results* sections). This mechanism is set to expand into a system-wide working group on knowledge management for EVAWG in 2022 to strengthen evidence-based programming and coordination on EVAWG efforts.

### **Inter-Agency Knowledge Management Group**

In September 2021, the Spotlight Initiative Secretariat joined the Inter-Agency Knowledge Management Group led by the UN Development Coordination Office (UNDCO). This coordination group meets monthly with representatives from across the UN system to identify opportunities for collaboration and further knowledge management efforts by building on what has been learned. Relevant tools, resources and experiences are shared to support knowledge management work being done within and across UN agencies. The Spotlight Initiative plans to share more information with the group on the Global Platform in 2022 to connect initiatives, expand its network and enhance learning on EVAWG. Additionally, the Secretariat invited UN agencies from the Inter-Agency KM Group to join Spotlight Initiative's HQ Knowledge Management Group on EVAWG. This is one example of how the Global Platform has supported alignment with UN Reform efforts for the Spotlight Initiative.

### **Spotlight Initiative Knowledge Management Focal Points Network**

The Spotlight Initiative Secretariat developed a Knowledge Management Focal Points Network in 2019, with over 50 members in 2021. This network includes at least one focal point from each Spotlight Initiative programme responsible for overseeing and ensuring robust knowledge management in that programme. In 2021, the Secretariat hosted regular meetings with the network where KM focal points were consulted on the design, development and implementation of the various components of the Global Platform. KM focal points provide critical insight into the needs at regional, country and local levels and have provided continuous feedback on the Global Platform. For example, various regional and national level platforms are either being created or tapped into through Spotlight Initiative. There has been agreement among focal points that it would be helpful to create connections between the Global Platform and these other initiatives to enhance national ownership of EVAWG efforts and leverage global networks to drive traffic both to these regional/national level platforms, and increase accessibility of the Global Platform for programme stakeholders. The network has also been useful for sharing information on knowledge exchanges and knowledge briefs, which KM focal points have then disseminated to programme colleagues and partners. This has also ensured that the Global Platform's activities are inclusive and embrace the *leave no one behind* principle.



## Project Partnerships

### a) Civil Society

The Civil Society Global Reference Group has been the main point of contact to support meaningful civil society engagement through the Global Platform. This has included through the co-creation knowledge products and providing feedback on plans for SHINE to ensure it is accessible and useful for civil society. Regular contact with the CS-GRG Coordinators has been helpful to receive continuous feedback and ensure the development of the Global Platform is responsive to the needs of civil society.

Closely engaging with the CS-GRG intends to advance the Global Platform's strategic objective of **strengthening a coalition of key stakeholders and connecting local, grassroots society with duty bearers for increased advocacy and impact**. Fostering this direct relationship with the CS-GRG Coordinators has been helpful to more deeply understand the advocacy objectives of the CS-GRG (developed in part through upstreaming needs from Regional and National Reference Groups) and to determine which objectives the Global Platform can advance in alignment with its own strategic objectives. For example, an activity that will be planned in collaboration with the CS-GRG is a convening that brings together grassroots civil society with Member States from the Group of Friends to End Violence Against Women and Girls for advocacy. This aligns with both the Global Platform's strategic objective and the CS-GRG's advocacy objective to **undertake collective and solidarity advocacy to key decision makers**. (More information on this can be found in the *next steps* section).

### b) European Union

The development of the Global Platform has been guided by the principles of full partnership between the EU and UN. Existing meetings with the EU on technical matters and for Communications have been used to provide regular updates on the progress of the Global Platform. Additional meetings and bilateral correspondence were had as needed. The EU works closely with the Secretariat on the Global Platform and side-meetings on critical decisions for the Global Platform are held.

A close partnership with the European Union Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA) has been fostered and their strategic guidance and feedback have been instrumental to the design, development and implementation of the Global Platform. In addition to overall governance and collaboration, this partnership has been particularly helpful for planning knowledge production





in 2021. A list of planned knowledge products to be developed through the Global Platform was created following consultation with the EU on its strategic objectives. Furthermore, information on upcoming knowledge exchanges and all knowledge products are shared with the EU, who disseminates this information with their networks and EU Delegations.

As development of the Global Platform progresses, the EU will work to bring its Member States on board to engage under the principle of universality. This will allow more countries to benefit from the wealth of knowledge, lessons and promising practices on EVAWG from Spotlight Initiative.

### c) Cooperation with other UN agencies and funds

#### UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women (UN Trust Fund)

In May 2020, the Spotlight Initiative and the EU agreed to allocate an additional USD \$9 million for immediate support to all 44 existing grantees of the UN Trust Fund in sub-Saharan Africa in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. In this proposal, USD \$0.5 million was allocated for knowledge management, including provision for of a multilingual, interactive, online collaboration tool (approx. USD \$150,000 over 2 years). This is for knowledge on EVAW to be shared and co-created among CSOs and partners working around the world, irrespective of language and location.

There are similarities between the visions for the Global Platform and the UN Trust Fund's online collaboration tool. For example, part of the vision for the UN Trust Fund's tool is to create a global community of EVAW practitioners and to generate and consolidate knowledge on EVAW through co-creation, similar to the Global Platform. It was agreed that collaboration should be explored to reduce the risk of duplication and to maximize resources. In recognition of the similar aims and functionalities of the envisioned platforms, the UN Trust Fund offered to collaborate with the Spotlight Initiative Secretariat on the online/digital space for mutual benefit. The UN Trust Fund held a demonstration of the online space being developed. After negotiations, a decision was taken for the Spotlight Initiative Secretariat to collaborate with the UN Trust Fund on the online space. A series of planning meetings subsequently took place between the two teams in October, November and December 2021. The results of these planning meetings are set out in an internal Terms of Reference to agree on working arrangements between the two teams.

This partnership is advancing the deliverable, *development and maintenance of knowledge hub* under Output 1. When the partnership was formed, the UN Trust Fund had already procured a vendor that developed the architecture of the website. In learning about the significant time this took, partnering with the UN Trust Fund on the online hub has **saved Spotlight Initiative about one year** to develop a virtual platform. This time can now be used to accelerate progress on the Global Platform's





deliverables through the online hub. This partnership also helps to ensure the sustainability of the online hub and knowledge generated from the Spotlight Initiative as it is now part of an existing UN structure. Furthermore, this partnership is helping Spotlight Initiative to better implement the *leave no one behind principle* and support feminist/cross-movement building by expanding opportunities for learning and network strengthening to a wider audience of civil society organisations and advocates through the UN Trust Fund's existing grantees and networks.

To ensure smooth implementation, there were extensive negotiations with the UN Trust Fund. Various elements that were negotiated include: working arrangements, messaging, institutional arrangements, management arrangements, financial and human resource arrangements, branding, visuals and logos on the platform, stakeholder engagement, and risk management, among other matters. This will allow for an effective and mutually beneficial partnership.

### **Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF)**

Through the HQ Knowledge Management Group on EVAWG, the Spotlight Initiative Secretariat and WPHF identified an opportunity to collaborate and strengthen its existing partnership. A Joint Peer Exchange (knowledge exchange event) was organized on 4 November 2021 through the Global Platform and WPHF's global community of practice. The exchange was titled, *Coalition Building on the Front Lines: Advocating for Women's Rights and Ending Violence Against Women and Girls*. Strengthening women's movements is a key principle and pillar of the Spotlight Initiative under Outcome 6 and is core to WPHF's mandate.

This partnership advanced the deliverable, *exchange, analysis and uptake of knowledge, promising/good practices, and lessons learned on EVAWG* under Output 1. The event facilitated in-depth exchange and analysis of the knowledge, promising/good practices and lessons learned on coalition building shared by grassroots civil society speakers during the event. A knowledge brief and accompanying infographic in development (to be released in 2022) will further coalesce the learnings from the exchange and support the co-creation of knowledge through civil society inputs and feedback. This partnership has directly supported implementation of the *leave no one behind principle* by elevating the experiences and participation of grassroots women's rights advocates from across regions. It has also directly supported feminist cross-movement building by providing a space for civil society partners to share their strategies, experiences, impact and lessons learned related to advocacy movements and coalition building to further Women, Peace & Security and Humanitarian Action efforts and end violence against women and girls, including in conflict and crisis-affected environments. The knowledge brief and infographic will further advance this deliverable by codifying the knowledge - this will support the uptake and sustainability of the learnings beyond the Global Platform's timeline. (More information on the Joint Peer Exchange is available in the *results* section).



## Results

### Laying the Foundations

2021 was a foundational year for the development of the Global Platform. To ensure the Global Platform builds on existing structures, furthers the evidence-base for EAWG and embraces a truly participatory approach, extensive consultations were held. These were had with a variety of stakeholders, including the EU, UN agencies, initiatives and funds, CS-RGs, and Spotlight Initiative programmes and partners.

As highlighted above in the *partnerships* section, regular meetings were held with the EU to embrace the Spotlight Initiative's principles of partnership and receive continuous input and feedback into the development of the Global Platform. These were critical to assess priorities and strengthen the technical quality of activities pursued through the Global Platform. For example, a list of planned knowledge products for 2021 - 2022 (Annex xxx) was put together in coordination with the EU. This provided a framework for the year ahead and ensured that knowledge produced through the Global Platform met the strategic priorities of the EU and UN. Importantly, developing this list of planned knowledge products also helped ensure that the Global Platform will amplify critical areas of work for Spotlight Initiative where there is a wealth of lessons and innovative, promising and good practices emerging from regional and country programmes.

Several consultations were also held with various parts of the house in the UN system. This included with the **HQ Knowledge Management Group on EAWG**, the **UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programmes to End Child Marriage and for the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation**, Spotlight Initiative **Agency Focal Points**, as well as individually with the core UN agencies (**UN Women, UNDP and UNFPA**).

The Secretariat provided regular updates on the Global Platform at meetings for the Spotlight Initiative **HQ Knowledge Management Group on EAWG**. This was particularly useful for receiving feedback on the direction of the Global Platform throughout the planning process. The design of the Global Platform was strengthened through incorporating lessons from members' experiences of implementing their own communities of practice and virtual platforms. For example, learning from UN Women's experience with the Virtual Knowledge Centre, it was confirmed that it would be important for the Global Platform's online presence to be incorporated into an existing UN structure that aligns with its objectives and has a sustainability plan. This would ensure the knowledge from Spotlight Initiative is retained and continuously engaged with through a dynamic platform. Consultations with members of the HQ Knowledge Management Group on EAWG were





also useful to identify how the work of the Global Platform can fill a gap in the EAWG ecosystem. Given there are multiple existing virtual platforms and communities on EAWG, this was important. Just as one of Spotlight Initiative's value-adds is through its comprehensive theory of change that brings together EAWG actors for transformative impact, the Global Platform will bring together the available knowledge, resources and tools required to learn how to implement a comprehensive approach to EAWG. This was a pivotal idea that arose through the consultative period, enabling the Global Platform to meaningfully contribute to the field of EAWG. In this way, the Global Platform will also continue Spotlight Initiative's work to align with UN Reform efforts by convening and harnessing the complementary expertise from across the UN system for increased impact on EAWG.

Focal points from the **UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programmes to End Child Marriage and for the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)** (hereto referred as the 'Joint Programmes') were also consulted. Positive feedback was received on plans for the Global Platform and it was expressed that this would be a very useful initiative for EAWG efforts and the UN system. The Secretariat consulted the Joint Programmes on a need to measure the uptake of knowledge products, which emerged both at the global level and from KM focal points. It was confirmed that this need exists for other EAWG actors as well. After further exploration on this, it was identified that the development of a tool to measure the uptake of knowledge products through the Global Platform would benefit EAWG work more broadly and could be adapted to suit different needs throughout the UN system and beyond. This tool will be critical to ensure the wealth of knowledge generated from across Spotlight Initiative programmes is not only codified in knowledge products, but also used to affect meaningful change. This could be by using what has been learned on EAWG, as captured in knowledge products, to influence future programming and policy at multiple levels. The Joint Programme on FGM also shared that a platform and community of practice on FGM is being developed. This was added to the platform mapping conducted by the Secretariat (more information on this is included below) and linkages will be made with the platform to support evidence-based programming and exchange on FGM as part of a comprehensive approach to EAWG. Finally, this consultation was particularly helpful as focal points connected the Secretariat with the Inter-Agency Knowledge Management Group led by DCO.

**Spotlight Initiative UN Agency Focal Points** were also consulted on the design and implementation of the Global Platform, and provided positive feedback. UN Agency Focal Points include UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, IOM, ILO, UNESCO, DCO, UNHCR, UNODC, OHCHR, WHO/PAHO, and OCHA. A key outcome that will support wide reach and access to resources on EAWG is to cross-post content and to create linkages between the Global Platform and UN agency platforms. There was also agreement that UN agencies would participate in and





collaborate on convenings, exchanges, and provide technical inputs for elements of knowledge production; engage as moderators for communities of practice; engage UN agency networks in initiatives as relevant; share upcoming initiatives to include in the Global Platform, and distribute knowledge products widely. These modes of engagement will be critical for strengthening the quality of knowledge activities and leveraging multiple networks to increase engagement through the Global Platform. Furthermore, there was interest to connect with relevant teams in-house, such as the knowledge management, communications and policy divisions/teams to facilitate the uptake of lessons and promising practices from Spotlight Initiative into policy and programming. This would contribute to Spotlight Initiative's alignment with the UN Reform process by facilitating for more coordinated and comprehensive learning and impact on EVAWG.

Multiple consultations with **UN Women** and **UNDP** were particularly useful to ensure the Global Platform builds on existing tools and avoids duplicating efforts. Many lessons from past experiences with virtual platforms and communities of practice were discussed to improve the development of the Global Platform from the start. For example, UN Women's Virtual Knowledge Centre serves as a foundational platform for practitioners and policymakers to access vetted resources across areas of work to EVAWG. To ensure this work is built upon, the Global Platform will have more of an emphasis on *dynamic engagement* and *practice-based knowledge*. The knowledge exchanges held and knowledge briefs produced in 2021 reflect this. This reaffirmed that it is important that the Global Platform primarily amplifies results, lessons and practices from Spotlight Initiative and creates direct links to existing EVAWG platforms and resources so that those engaging will truly have access to a comprehensive pool of tools and knowledge across the spectrum of EVAWG programming. Consultations with UN Women also included the importance of aligning efforts as part of Generation Equality's Gender-Based Violence Action Coalition, though concrete entry points will be made in 2022.

Consultations with **UNDP** were especially beneficial as the team shared extensive insights from developing and implementing UNDP's community of practice and virtual platform, SparkBlue. These conversations helped shape the design and rollout of the Global Platform, particularly with regards to introducing a new online community of practice. More information on this is included in the *lessons learned* section below. One area explored was to use SparkBlue for the Global Platform's online engagement. Several meetings and exchanges were held to learn more about the services that would be provided by SparkBlue and to identify how links could be made. Despite exploring various avenues to do so, EU funding restrictions between UN agencies made this option not feasible. More information on this is included in the *challenges and mitigating measures* section.







The consultation held with **UNFPA** was also very useful and positive feedback was received. UNFPA shared information on the Latin America community of practice focused on the Essential Services Package, which the Global Platform will guide relevant stakeholders towards. UNFPA also connected the Secretariat to the Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility (GBV AoR) focal point for the knowledge hub, which provides access to a wealth of useful tools and resources that will be immensely useful to integrate in the Global Platform.

Furthermore, Civil Society Reference Groups and Spotlight Initiative programmes and partners were consulted on the Global Platform at multiple points. The CS-GRG was engaged from the start in the design of the Global Platform. Internal consultations were held in early 2021 with the CS-GRG Coordinators to think through how the Global Platform could meaningfully respond to its objectives of elevating practice-based knowledge from civil society, support advocacy efforts and connect grassroots civil society with duty bearers for impact. For example, while Spotlight Initiative has established Reference Groups (RGs) that bring together women's rights activists and organisations at national, regional and global levels, a gap identified is that there is limited cross-communication and coordination between them. RG members at all levels have expressed a desire to interact more with other RGs. Above all, this is to advance collective advocacy and to support each other on RG activities such as shadow reporting and monitoring. To this end, the CS-GRG workplan includes an action to establish an effective 'all-RGs' coordination mechanism between the GRG and regional and national RGs. The Spotlight Initiative Secretariat proposed that the Global Platform's online hub, SHINE, be used to house this coordination mechanism. CS-GRG members could then manage and have ownership over this space, and make it private to the public to support one another in advocacy efforts. The CS-GRG Coordinators conducted a mapping of available tools and platforms that could be used for the coordination mechanism, and determined that the Global Platform would best meet the needs of RG members. There was interest to create the RG coordination mechanism on SHINE once the online hub is ready. This is an important example of how the Global Platform is needs-driven and has the potential to support civil society ownership and advocacy in efforts to end violence against women and girls.

Another way Civil Society Reference Groups were meaningfully engaged was by consulting members in the design and direction of the Global Platform through existing, internal forums. It was beneficial to use existing spaces where RG members were engaged to not overburden members, streamline processes and meet members where they are at in a space they are more familiar with.

The **Knowledge Management Focal Points Network** has been consulted throughout the year at various stages of the Global Platform's design and development. KM focal points expressed keen interest in the Global Platform and shared that it would be particularly useful to strengthen quality



programming and engage external stakeholders. A continuous request from KM focal points has been to make knowledge from Spotlight Initiative more accessible for civil society, governments and other stakeholders. KM focal points provided feedback that the Global Platform will now make this possible. In particular, there was agreement that it would be useful to connect regional and national level platforms to the online hub and that it will be useful to showcase regional/country level knowledge products. It was also noted that providing opportunities for regional/country programmes and partners to manage engagement spaces on SHINE can contribute to increased ownership and thus the sustainability of the online hub. Additionally, KM focal points have expressed a substantial need for a tool to measure the uptake of knowledge products in order to assess the impact of knowledge generation across Spotlight Initiative. The development of a tool to measure the uptake of knowledge products was incorporated into plans for the Global Platform in 2022. This is another way the Global Platform takes a participatory and needs-based approach.

Finally, inputs from programmes and partners were requested through feedback surveys following knowledge exchanges in 2021. The feedback received has been documented and incorporated into plans for the Global Platform, further ensuring the Global Platform is responsive to the needs of Spotlight Initiative stakeholders.

Another foundational process conducted was the development of a **Global Platform Project Document** (Annex xxx) as required by UN Women. Though a procedural requirement that took time, it provided another framework through which to more deeply think through various aspects of the Global Platform. For example, one concern for the Global Platform is that the target audience is very broad. The process of developing the Project Document helped the Secretariat determine that it will be important to identify specific entry points for different kinds of stakeholders across the various components of the Global Platform. This will be addressed through a Communications and Engagement Plan that will be developed in 2022.

Through thoughtful consideration of the Global Platform's strategic objectives and inputs provided from the various consultations held, the **various components of the Global Platform** were determined and turned into a visual. This visual clearly outlines the distinct components of the Global Platform: knowledge exchanges/convenings, knowledge production and online engagement (found in Annex xxx). These components will feed into one another through an iterative process - for example, a knowledge exchange can be held on a thematic area of work related to EVAWG. An online discussion can then be hosted afterwards for more critical and in-depth discussion on key topics that surfaced during the knowledge exchange. The learnings from both the knowledge exchange and online discussion can feed into the development and co-creation of a knowledge product, which could be referenced in a future convening for advocacy purposes. Overall,



connections to the EVAWG ecosystem are interwoven throughout these components. This milestone was a critical development as the Secretariat had previously received feedback that the Global Platform had an impressive vision though it was vague how this would be translate into practice. Subsequent responses were significantly more positive as confidence grew in understanding what the Global Platform would concretely implement, and it became clear how the Global Platform would meaningfully contribute to EVAWG efforts. Building on the strategic plan, a Technical Action Plan that details the next steps for all technical content related to the Global Platform is under development and will be finalised in early 2022.

## **Capturing Change against the Results Framework**

The Global Platform has three overarching deliverables under ***Output 1: Global, Regional and Country networks of key decision-makers, practitioners and local, grassroots actors are strengthened; lessons, good practices and solutions are made accessible and amplified; and uptake of knowledge across stakeholders supports comprehensive EVAWG programming.*** The three deliverables include, 1) Development and maintenance of Knowledge Hub; 2) Outreach, visibility, and engagement of Knowledge Hub; and 3) Exchange, analysis and uptake of knowledge, promising/good practices, and lessons learned on EVAWG.

### **Deliverable 1: Development and maintenance of Knowledge Hub**

As the Secretariat commenced the development and/or selection process for an online hub, a **mapping of existing platforms relevant for EVAWG** was conducted. This was researched in parallel with the consultative period. This was undertaken to ensure the Global Platform connects users to the wealth of knowledge and tools available for EVAWG. It also helped the Secretariat identify existing platforms where the Global Platform could potentially be housed. The mapping includes platforms at global, regional and national levels, is dynamic and will be continuously built upon. The platform mapping helped the Secretariat better understand the landscape of EVAWG platforms, tools and resources available. Further, this exercise enabled the Secretariat to identify a gap - there was no centralised hub that draws all EVAWG resources together for a comprehensive approach to learning on EVAWG. It is expected that the mapping will support the Global Platform develop into a hub through which users have increased accessibility to the breadth of knowledge on EVAWG, and can be directed to learn more through other relevant platforms dependent on their needs and interests. This will support the sustainability of knowledge amplified through the Global Platform as cross-linkages will be made across many of the platforms identified and content from the Global Platform can be featured on other existing UN and relevant EVAWG platforms. The platform mapping can be found in Annex xx.





Following the platform mapping and several consultations held, the Secretariat **formed a partnership with the UN Trust Fund to collaborate on an online hub for global knowledge exchange on ending violence against women and girls.** As highlighted above in the partnerships sections, many principles and objectives of the UN Trust Fund's planned online tool and the Global Platform aligned. It was determined that both Spotlight Initiative and UN Trust Fund could benefit from collaborating to maximise resources and impact. Critically, partnering with the UN Trust Fund **enabled Spotlight Initiative to save approximately one year** that would have been spent procuring and developing an online platform. This allowed for the design and branding of the online hub to move forward, along with time spent on activities that would increase knowledge and learning on EVAWG as the architecture of the online hub was already constructed.

The last quarter of 2021 consisted of in-depth planning and design of the online hub. This included determining the shared purpose and objectives and planning how to leverage the complementary expertise and scope of Spotlight Initiative and the UN Trust Fund for its success. Among other elements noted in the *partnerships* section and included in the joint TORs (Annex xxx), this included naming the online hub *SHINE* and developing key messaging:

***SHINE* is an online hub for global knowledge exchange on ending violence against women and girls.** It offers the combined power of a **virtual exchange hub, convening platform and multilingual tool to inform global policy, programming, and advocacy** on ending violence against women and girls. *SHINE* aims to connect a range of partners and changemakers including civil society and women's organizations, the United Nations, practitioners, academics and researchers, the private sector, donors, and other partners **to co-create, collaborate and amplify knowledge and learning together to end violence against women and girls.**

The neutral name and purpose-driven messaging contributes to the sustainability of the online hub by valuing the objectives of the online hub over its ownership. This can allow for changes in ownership if and as needed in the future.

Furthermore, a joint Content Action Plan is being developed which outlines the Spotlight Initiative's and the UN Trust Fund's planned activities on the online hub. The Content Action Plan aims to draw synergies and opportunities for collaboration through key activities on *SHINE*, such as through opening communities of practice across the six pillars of the Spotlight Initiative theory of change. This also works to ensure that key areas of work for EVAWG are addressed and that there will be continued engagement on the online hub. The Content Action Plan will be finalised in 2022.

Significant collaboration and negotiation went into developing the sitemap, design, branding and colour scheme of the online hub, which are now completed and will expedite use of the online hub in 2022. More information on these details can be found in the section below, *Deliverable 2:*





*Outreach, visibility and engagement of knowledge hub*, and previewed in Annexes xxx. At the heart of designing SHINE was to create an optimal user experience for Spotlight Initiative and UN Trust Fund stakeholders, ensuring accessibility particularly for local civil society organisations. Depending on the content followed, each user will have a tailored experience navigating the platform. This is intended to increase engagement and continuously meet the evolving needs of stakeholders that visit SHINE.

## **Deliverable 2: Outreach, visibility and engagement of Knowledge Hub**

At global, regional, and national levels, Spotlight Initiative's communication and visibility efforts contribute to the Global Platform by raising awareness on issues related to violence against women and girls and by promoting the Spotlight Initiative's impact and results for the communities it serves.

The nine knowledge products developed through the Global Platform in 2021 have been shared widely on the Spotlight Initiative website and through social media. Additionally, a script and a draft video introducing the Global Platform were prepared, however the video is still a work in progress and would be ready for a launch of the Global Platform in 2022.

Through the various communications channels utilised by Spotlight Initiative, the main focus for the Global Platform has been the Community of the Spotlight Initiative (COSI) email group, social media platforms including Twitter, Instagram and Youtube, MailChimp and the Spotlight Initiative global website. Communications and visibility efforts have been amplified through the COSI, reaching over 550 UN personnel working on the technical, day-to-day implementation of Spotlight Initiative. COSI members further disseminated materials with their partner networks.

The invitations for the Joint Peer Exchange held with WPHF were sent out through MailChimp, **reaching 1,134 targeted audiences**, from which 344 (30.8%) engaged with the email. Additionally, 4 of the 9 knowledge products have been promoted on the Spotlight Initiative's website in 2021, reaching a total of **287 clicks**. The knowledge products covered numerous topics including the International Day of the Girl Child (reaching 131 clicks), Engaging Men and Boys (reaching 75 clicks), Engaging Faith-Based and Religious Leaders (reaching 47 clicks), and the Adaptability of the Spotlight Initiative in Advancing the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus (reaching 34 clicks).

The main audience for SHINE includes civil society, along with key government, UN, donor, private sector, and other relevant partners across the Spotlight Initiative's 25+ countries and beyond. Targeted communications is executed in coordination with UNTF's Communications Unit. Additionally, the Knowledge Management Focal Points Network and the Civil Society-Global Reference Group have been key in sharing information on the Global Platform, including SHINE, amongst their networks.

## **Branding**





As the components of the Global Platform began to take shape, it became clear that its use extended beyond an online platform. To ensure its tagline reflected the multidimensional nature and scope of the Global Platform, it is now referred to as *Spotlight Initiative's global hub for knowledge, engagement and impact to end violence against women and girls*. The word 'hub' better describes how knowledge exchanges/convenings, knowledge production and online engagement come together as an integral part of the EVAWG ecosystem. This will help others more readily understand what the Global Platform is and draw more interest from a variety of stakeholders as it serves a greater purpose than solely online engagement. This also resonated in stakeholder consultations. Where often it was assumed to be just a website with the term 'platform', there has seemed to be a better understanding of the scope of the Global Platform through more precisely describing it as a dynamic hub.

Much thought has gone into the development of the name "SHINE" and its visual. Several brainstorming sessions were held with members of the Secretariat and with UNTF. The visual for SHINE extracts the common colour theme across the 16 Days Campaign, the UNTF logo and the Spotlight Initiative logo. The name SHINE was selected to reflect the shared mandates of Spotlight Initiative and UNTF, and is reflected in the agreed messaging:

*SHINE brings together partners under the Spotlight Initiative and beyond. It aims to SHINE a light on emerging evidence from the Spotlight Initiative and to spark action towards impactful global policy, programming and advocacy on ending violence against women and girls. This includes learning on how to comprehensively address violence against women and girls, and especially highlights civil society's essential practice-based knowledge.*

Therefore, Spotlight Initiative and UNTF have developed a [visual](#) (Annex xxx) to accompany the name for the platform.

Additionally, adaptation for different forms of learning was explored during the creation of SHINE. SHINE is a multilingual platform created to meet the various needs of a diverse audience. For example, the design of SHINE (Annex xxx) shows clear icons and short and simple sentences such as "Join" or "Share". The headings are readable and easy to follow and the design is consistent throughout the platform. Moreover, large fonts and high contrast colours were used in the overall design to be cognizant of users that may have visual impairments.

This helps the content on SHINE be accessible and reach more users with various needs. These efforts serve as building blocks for the future of the Global Platform communications and visibility plan in 2022. In order to extend raising awareness on ending violence against women and girls and its various manifestations, the Secretariat will continue to employ the communications tools including social media messaging and assets, advocacy campaigns and the amplification of the knowledge products and discussions on SHINE through video, stories and digital content. Furthermore, the communications and visibility plan for 2022 will build on assessing the most effective routes to facilitate outreach and engagement. The goal will be to connect diverse stakeholders, including grassroots actors with those at the highest levels and tailoring engagement





for diverse stakeholders. Depending on the audience, whether it be governments, civil society or practitioners, the communications and visibility plan will be customised to serve the needs of each audience to maximise reach and their engagement.

### **Deliverable 3: Exchange, analysis and uptake of knowledge, best practices, and lessons learned on EVAWG**

In 2021, **five knowledge exchanges** were held through the Global Platform. Based on a comprehensive needs assessment conducted by the Secretariat at the start of the year, which received feedback from across Spotlight Initiative programmes and partners, a series of global, cross-regional and regional knowledge exchanges were held. The thematic focuses included: embracing healthy masculinities and innovative coordination for Latin America and the Caribbean, addressing harmful practices and sexual and reproductive health and rights through effective stakeholder engagement for Asia and Africa, innovative adaptations through COVID-19 and other emergency contexts for the Pacific and fostering civil society engagement through participatory monitoring and evaluation for all regions.

Furthermore, in collaboration with WPHF, the Secretariat held a global knowledge exchange specifically for civil society on coalition- and movement-building for advocacy to end violence against women and girls and advance women's rights, including in conflict and crisis-affected environments. This session was held under the framework of the Global Platform and WPHF's global community of practice. This session drew **over 220 participants**, from over 120 CSOs in over 33 countries. **Overall, the knowledge exchanges drew over 760 participants from the UN, government, civil society, nontraditional partners, the EU, and other Spotlight Initiative stakeholders.** These knowledge exchanges were reflective of a participatory approach in alignment with the *leave no one behind* principle by embracing circular knowledge exchanges. These knowledge exchanges demonstrate how Spotlight Initiative values multi-stakeholder collaboration and ownership, regional and country-level expertise and practice-based knowledge. Grassroots, national and regional stakeholders joined as key speakers. For example, a leading expert on transforming harmful masculinities in Grenada shared their insights during the Latin America and Caribbean session, the Coordinator of the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage co-moderated the session for the Africa and Asia regions, and grassroots feminist advocates from Zimbabwe, Uganda, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Honduras, Liberia and Jordan led the discussion during the Joint Peer Exchange with WPHF. This level of engagement contributes to the sustainability of efforts because the exchanges demonstrate what works from direct experience and supports ownership of EVAWG efforts at multiple levels. To ensure these exchanges were inclusive,



simultaneous interpretation was provided in Spanish, French, Portuguese and Russian. Furthermore, feedback surveys have shown that these exchanges resulted in **enhanced knowledge** on the session's themes, helped to further ensure **quality and evidence-based programme implementation**, and **strengthened connections within and beyond the Spotlight Initiative global community in 2021**. This is encouraging feedback to understand that **knowledge exchange initiatives support the uptake of knowledge for improved programming on EVAWG**.

These knowledge exchanges were followed by robust knowledge products that distilled key results, lessons and promising practices shared during the sessions, and were widely disseminated with relevant stakeholders. These knowledge products include: [\*embracing healthy masculinities\*](#) and [\*innovative coordination in Latin America and the Caribbean, addressing harmful practices and sexual and reproductive health and rights in Africa and Asia, innovative adaptations for COVID-19 and other emergency contexts in the Pacific\*](#), and [\*participatory monitoring and evaluation\*](#), globally (Annex xxx). Knowledge products centred on coalition-building for advocacy to EVAWG are in development and will be finalised in 2022. These knowledge products were developed through co-creation by incorporating feedback from relevant stakeholders. For example, civil society partners have been consulted in the framing and design of the knowledge products on coalition-building, and their feedback will be incorporated into the final products. This led to a more impactful approach - the CS-GRG recommended that an accompanying infographic be developed to highlight the key steps to coalition building. This will be critical for distilling the most important information from the knowledge product into a brief, user-friendly format. This will increase accessibility for local, grassroots civil society partners. To reach wider audiences, all knowledge briefs have been translated into the common languages spoken where Spotlight Initiative works, including French, Spanish, Portuguese and Russian. The brief on coalition building will also be translated into these languages, as well as Arabic to meet the language needs of WPHF grantees.

Additionally, drawing on insights and analysis from a synthesis of over 98 reports from 2019 to 2021 across all Spotlight Initiative country and regional programmes, trust funds and global conversations, knowledge briefs on [\*International Day of the Girl Child, the adaptability of the Spotlight Initiative and its advancement of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, engaging Men and Boys\*](#) and [\*religious and faith-based leaders\*](#) (Annex xxx) were developed. These products have been used to further promote Spotlight Initiative's results, promising practices and lessons through the Global Platform. Select knowledge briefs also supported global campaigns on EVAWG, such as the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence and International Day of the Girl Child. Additionally, a **comprehensive inventory and tagging system** of results, good practices and lessons learned across all programmes has been developed with an accompanying





analysis. This inventory has supported accelerated knowledge production to amplify Spotlight Initiative’s results, lessons and practices, a key objective of the Global Platform.

### **Challenges and Mitigating Measures**

Previous to the partnership with UNTF, a main challenge encountered was the inability to use UNDP’s SparkBlue platform for online engagement. Multiple meetings and correspondence were held across teams to explore this option and plan out how SparkBlue would concretely link to the Global Platform. In the end, this opportunity could not be pursued due to EU funding restrictions between UN agencies through the Spotlight Initiative. Though significant time was invested in determining how to make this work, it was useful to explore creative options and to share regular updates through coordination mechanisms. This allowed for collective problem-solving and because the UN Trust Fund was aware of the challenges faced, this opened the opportunity for partnership on SHINE as no inter-agency fund transfers would be required.

Another challenge encountered was to support the CS-GRG coordination mechanism within the original timeline. The CS-GRG planned to roll out the coordination mechanism in September 2021, though the online hub of the Global Platform would not be ready by then. Alternatives were explored with the CS-GRG to connect with Regional and National Reference Groups in the meantime, and regular communication channels were employed in the interim. As SHINE was deemed the best avenue to set up the structure, the coordination mechanism is being planned for early 2022.

### **Lessons Learned and New Opportunities**

#### **a) Lessons Learned**

Key lessons emerged for engaging global communities of practice. The development of the Global Platform naturally follows the growth of the global Spotlight Initiative community, COSI, and many of the lessons learned from COSI have been integrated. For example, exchange through COSI was slow at first. It takes time for participants to become comfortable participating in a space with other members, particularly in a large community of practice, and it takes time to familiarise members with a new mode of engagement. A key lesson from knowledge exchanges through COSI was that it is important to actively engage select focal points beforehand to prepare questions or comments in advance. This way, in case there is a lull in the discussion, these focal points can step in to participate. After the first few questions or comments, others become more naturally inclined to engage as well. This was particularly useful for the knowledge exchanges held in 2021 as they drew a large number of participants from across regions and stakeholders. Knowledge Management



Focal Points and Coordinators who regularly engage in global-level KM activities were approached beforehand, and they were able to kick off conversation during the knowledge exchanges. This led to greater participation afterwards - several questions followed and contributed to creating exchanges with dynamic participation.

UNDP's SparkBlue team also shared several lessons learned that contributed to planning the rollout of the Global Platform. One important lesson is that it is important to open communities of practice slowly and have a long testing phase. If multiple spaces are opened or events are held at once, this can overwhelm participants and deter them from engaging. Having a testing phase and engaging participants slowly allows those managing the community of practice to determine what does and does not work and to solicit feedback throughout the process. This can then ensure that the community of practice is rolled out organically in a way that responds to actual needs of the intended audience. This lesson has been useful through engaging in extensive consultations and in working to incorporate inputs into the design and implementation of the Global Platform. Additionally, the SparkBlue team highly recommended having extra capacity to manage engagement in the communities of practice, such as by having a Community of Practice Facilitator. It takes a significant amount of time and effort to build engagement in communities of practice, which is also reflective of the Secretariat's experience with COSI. The Secretariat is exploring having dedicated support to manage the communities of practice on SHINE to ensure its successful rollout and implementation, given users' initial experiences with the online hub will determine if they return and continue engaging.

Another lesson learned is that tailored coordination mechanisms can be incredibly useful resources to tap into. In particular, the HQ Knowledge Management Group on EAWG for Spotlight Initiative has been helpful to share regular updates on the Global Platform and receive continuous feedback to improve its development from the start. This coordination mechanism was also pivotal in identifying opportunities for collaboration, as both the collaboration with WPHF and partnership with the UN Trust Fund emerged from engagement in the group. These opportunities have strengthened the technical quality of activities and expanded grassroots civil society engagement (and potential future engagement) through the Global Platform.

## **b) New Opportunities**

### **Social Development Direct**

Social Development Direct (SDDirect) is a leading provider of high-quality, innovative and expert social development assistance and research services and works to build inclusive societies. SDDirect is a technical firm that offers in-depth expertise and provides technical support across





thematic areas, including violence against women and girls. The firm has several notable clients, including many bilateral development agencies and government departments in Europe and beyond, UN agencies, international development finance institutions such as the World Bank and other international NGOs, foundations and organisations. The Secretariat has engaged in initial discussions with SDDirect to explore opportunities for collaboration and partnership. One opportunity includes sharing evidence from the first phase of the What Works to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls Programme with Spotlight Initiative regional and country programmes in accessible ways, including through more interactive sessions that interrogate how to put evidence into practice. SDDirect is also interested in sharing its resources on SHINE and making use of its engagement spaces once ready. Importantly, SDDirect has expressed interest in developing and/or contributing to the development of the comprehensive technical package on EVAWG programming. These opportunities for partnership will be further explored in 2022.

### **Sexual Violence Research Initiative Forum 2022**

While planning activities for the year ahead, an opportunity that emerged is to host a convening on the sidelines of the Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI) Forum being held in 2022. The SVRI Forum is the largest global, abstract-driven research and advocacy conference on violence against women and violence against children. It brings together researchers, funders, practitioners, policymakers, activists, and survivors every two years to connect, learn and share. The Forum is an opportunity to learn about the newest innovations for prevention and responding to gender-based violence in low- and middle-income countries and to meet some of the most influential researchers and practitioners in the fields of violence against women and violence against children. The Spotlight Initiative Secretariat sponsored the SVRI Forum in 2019 and plans to do so again in 2022. Additionally, the Spotlight Initiative Secretariat and programmes plan to submit abstracts for the Forum. Themes for this year's SVRI Forum that are relevant to Spotlight Initiative include, *What do we know works? What doesn't?; understanding the impact of COVID-19; Integration and intersectionality; promoting resilience and mental well-being, self/collective care and kindness; humanitarian crises, emergencies and the impact of VAW and VAC; decolonising and democratising research;* and, importantly, *adaptation, scaling up and costing - research and practice*. The convening may include a focus on the adaptation and scale-up of EVAWG programmes, in alignment with the last theme listed for the Forum. This could be a critical opportunity for Spotlight Initiative programmes and partners to learn from the latest evidence-base at SVRI and to engage in an in-person knowledge exchange for Spotlight Initiative, should health considerations allow safely due to the pandemic.

### **Next Steps**



## Planning - Rollout of the Global Platform

- A **Technical Action Plan** that details the next steps for all technical content related to the Global Platform will be developed
- **Linkages to other platforms relevant for EVAWG** will be made through SHINE
- A **launch of the Global Platform** may be planned in close cooperation with the European Union
- A **Communications and Engagement Plan** for the Global Platform will be developed
- An **M&E Plan** for the Global Platform will be developed

## Knowledge Exchanges/Convenings

- A knowledge exchange will be held in collaboration with Spotlight Initiative Zimbabwe on **engaging the private sector to end violence against women and girls**. This knowledge exchange aims to share experiences and lessons on how to ethically and effectively engage the private sector through Spotlight Initiative. An online discussion will be held for two weeks following the exchange on **SHINE for internal testing** and to continue the conversation on engaging the private sector for EVAWG. This will provide initial feedback into the user experience of SHINE so that any technological glitches can be fixed before it is rolled out publicly.
- An introduction to SHINE and joint knowledge exchange will be held with the UN Trust Fund on **Resiliency to Crises: Lessons from Civil Society Organizations in the Prevention of Violence Against Women and Girls**. This knowledge exchange will highlight civil society experiences and lessons for dealing with intersecting crises and emphasize the need to invest in the resiliency of civil society organizations. The event will also introduce SHINE publicly through an online discussion following the knowledge exchange.
- Initial planning is underway to connect the Global Platform with the Group of Friends to support civil society advocacy efforts. A convening is being planned in 2022 to **bring civil society advocates together with Member States from the Group of Friends**, possibly centred on implementation of the *leave no one behind* principle. The timing for this in 2022 is to be determined.
- A **convening on the sidelines of the SVRI Forum 2022** may be planned.

## Knowledge Production



- A knowledge brief on **engaging the private sector for EVAWG** following the knowledge exchange will be developed and shared widely.
- A Peer Exchange Brief and accompanying infographic on **coalition building for EVAWG** will be further developed and disseminated, following the Joint Peer Exchange with WPHF.
- A knowledge brief on Spotlight Initiative's results, lessons and promising practices on **Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)** is being planned for the International Day of Zero Tolerance to FGM.
- A knowledge brief on Spotlight Initiative's results, lessons and promising practices on **child marriage** will be developed and disseminated.
- A **technical/'how-to' package on comprehensive EVAWG programming** will be developed (set for end of 2022/beginning of 2023)
- A **compendium of good practices and lessons learned** from Spotlight Initiative will be developed (set for end of 2022/into 2023)

### Opportunities for Collaboration

- The Secretariat will work with UN Women to identify linkages for the Global Platform as a key outcome of the **Gender-Based Violence Action Coalition of Generation Equality**
- Opportunities for collaboration will be explored with **Social Development Direct**
- A **coordination/communication mechanism for CS-RGs will be created on SHINE**, should it continue to meet their needs

### ANNEXES

