



Spotlight Initiative

ANNUAL NARRATIVE PROGRAM REPORT

PROGRAM TITLE: SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE IN NIGERIA

PROGRAM START DATE: 1 JANUARY 2019

REPORTING PERIOD: 01 JANUARY 2021 – 31 DECEMBER 2021



<p>Program Title & Program Number</p> <p>Program Title: Spotlight Initiative in Nigeria</p> <p>MPTF Office Project Reference Number:¹ OO112286</p>	<p>Priority Regions/Areas/Localities for the Program</p> <p>Nigeria, Africa State Level: Focus states are Lagos, Sokoto, FCT, Ebonyi, Adamawa and Cross River</p>
<p>Recipient Organization(s)</p> <p>UN Women UNFPA UNDP UNICEF UNESCO</p>	<p>Key Partners</p> <p>Ministry of Budget and National Planning; Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Justice; Ministry of Finance; Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on the Sustainable Development Goals; Ministry of Education; National Orientation Agency, National Bureau of Statistics; and National Human Rights Commission at Federal and State levels. The Office of the Vice President for the Federal level.</p>
<p>Program Cost (US\$)</p> <p>Total Phase I budget, and (where OSC approved) Phase II budget as per the Spotlight CPD/RPD: 27,189,793 USDPhase I</p>	<p>Program Start and End Dates</p> <p>Start Date: (01.01.2019)</p> <p>End Date: 31.12.2022</p>

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



and (where OSC approved) Phase II
Spotlight funding:² 25,000,000 USD

Agency Contribution: 2,189,793 USD

**Spotlight Funding and Agency Contribution
by Agency:**

Name of RUNO	Spotlight Phase I (+ II, where OSC approved) (USD)	UN Agency Contributions (USD)
UNDP	6,159,156	160,122
UNWOMEN	7,202,026	312,686
UNFPA	6,314,321	408,314
UNICEF	3,498,828	754,215
UNESCO	1,825,668	554,456
TOTAL	25,000,000	2,189,793

TOTAL: 27,189,793 USD

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



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Acronyms

ACJA	Administration of Criminal Justice Act
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ANC	Ante-Natal Care
ASRH	Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
CEFM	Child Early and Forced Marriage
CHRI	Centre for Human Rights in Islam
COTLA	Council of Traditional and Religious Leaders in Africa
COVID-19	Corona Virus Disease 2019
CPIMS	Child Protection Information Management System
CRA	Child Rights Act
CRM	Case Response Management System
CSE	Comprehensive Sexuality Education
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CSRG	Civil Society Reference Groups
DISD	Disability-Inclusive Service Delivery
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic Acid
DQA	Data Quality Assurance
DSVRT	Domestic and Sexual Violence Response Team
EU	European Union
EUD	European Union Delegation
EVAW	Ending Violence Against Women
EVAWG	Ending Violence Against Women and Girls
FCT	Federal Capital Territory
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FME	Federal Ministry of Education
FMWASD	Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development
FP	Family Planning
FRED	Foundation for Resilient Empowerment and Development
GAP	Gender Action Plan
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GTG	Gender Theme Group
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HMS	Honorable Minister of State
HP	Harmful Practices
HTPs	Harmful Traditional Practices
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
IP	Implementing Partner
IPOB	Indigenous People of Biafra



JUSUN	Judiciary Staff Union of Nigeria
KFR	Kidnap for Ransom
KIN	KIN Production
LASODA	Lasos State Office for Disability Affairs
LGAs	Local Government Areas
LNOB	Leaving No One Behind
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPTF	Multi-Partner Trust Fund
MWASD	Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development
NAPTIP	National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons
NDHS	Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey
NGBVAF	National Gender-Based Violence Accountability Framework
NGBWG	Network against Gender-Based Violence Against Women and Girls
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NGWF	Nigeria Governors' Wives Forum
NHRC	National Human Rights Commission
NSC	National Steering Committee
NYSC	National Youth Service Corps
PLWHA	People Living with HIV/AIDS
PME	Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation
PMT	Program Management Team
PMU	Program Management Unit
PSEA	Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
PWDs	Persons with Disabilities
RC	Resident Coordinator
RoLAC	Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption
ROM	Result Oriented Monitoring
RUNOs	Recipient United Nations Organizations
SCE	Second Chance Education
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SDS	Social Development Secretariat
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
SGBVRT	FCT Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Response Team
SI	Spotlight Initiative
SKMTWG	Strategic Knowledge Management Technical Working Group on GBV
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SRGBV	School-Related Gender-Based Violence
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights



STEAM	SRHR information Technology skills for sales and marketing
Ending VAWG and HP information	Accounting and business management skills
Manufacturing and start-up support	
TOR	Terms of Reference
TV	Television
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Emergency Fund
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
UNSDPF	United Nations Sustainable Development Partnership Framework
URPRP	Unified Response Respose Protocol and Referral Pathway
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VAC	Violence Against Children
VAPP	Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act
VAW	Violence Against Women
VAWG	Violence against Women and Girls
WARDC	Women Advocates Research and Documentation Centre
WIFTI	Women in Film & Television International



Executive Summary

In 2021, the implementation of the Spotlight Initiative generated significant impacts and secured a strong basis for the program's sustainability through the buy-in of the government and critical stakeholders at all levels. Key results achieved during the year include the publication and launch of the 'Sheroes of Beijing', (a special legacy book publication following on from the Beijing+25 Intergenerational Mentoring Programme of 2020 which tells the stories of notable Nigerian gender activists who attended the 4th World Conference on Women in Beijing, China), This book serves as an inspiration, provides practical strategies to strengthen the engagement of Council of Traditional and Religious Leaders (COTLA) in the cause against sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), and harmful practices. Similarly, there has been an improved activity and advocacy of the community surveillance committee members in the six-focus states, which has led to more cases of GBV and violations being reported, tracked, handed to police, and to the court for prosecution. This shift is an important step in ensuring that survivors of violence against women and girls have access to justice and essential services. Additionally, the male engagement groups in the Spotlight Initiative communities received the strengthened capacity to deliver preventative messages to avert VAW in their localities, a significant achievement in ensuring broad community mobilization and local commitment to ending violence against women and girls.

The Spotlight program was implemented in Nigeria using a multi-pronged approach to eliminate violence against women and girls (VAWG) across six major pillars or outcomes: reforming legislative and policy frameworks, strengthening institutions, undertaking prevention and social norms change, ensuring access to services, expanding data availability, and supporting the women's movement. In line with the principle of "leaving no one behind", during the reporting period, the Spotlight Initiative significantly engaged persons with disabilities (PWDs), vulnerable women, and girls suffering intersecting forms of violence including marginalized groups in rural areas of Nigeria. Key achievements in the pursuit of ending VAWG included the provision of livelihood opportunities for survivors of gender-based violence as a step forward to reduce inequalities, as well as promoting the transformation of social norms, attitudes, and behaviors in support of gender equality. To be specific, the Initiative recorded the successful enrollment of over 15,000 SGBV survivors in various vocational skills acquisition and registered cooperative societies; renovation and set-up of a shelter for female gender-based violence (GBV) survivors in Sokoto State.

Significant progress was recorded around strengthening legislative and policy frameworks for eliminating violence against women and girls in Nigeria. All six Spotlight Initiative focus states have now adopted, passed and started implementing the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act (VAPP). This legislation prohibits all forms of violence against persons in private and public life and





provides protection and remedies for survivors as well as punishment for perpetrators. The passage of this Act has signaled a significant shift toward greater legal protection from violence against women and girls throughout the country. Indeed, there is a ripple effect from the passage of the VAPP Act from the six focus states, leading to additional passages of the VAPP Act in 26 other states in 2021. This is the fastest bill to be passed at the sub-national level in the history of the country, indicating increased political buy-in to the elimination of violence against women and girls. In addition, the Spotlight Initiative has worked with civil society organizations (CSOs) and women rights' advocates to enhance their advocacy capacities and elevate their leadership role in demanding accountability of institutions and political actors for ending SGBV. Relatedly, the Spotlight Initiative programme engaged CSOs and women advocates to help build capacity, especially regarding knowledge of SDGs and related monitoring skills, in order for civil society to play a role in assessing Nigeria's progress towards Institutional SDGs Benchmarks for SGBV, HP, and SRHR, thereby helping to hold the program accountable to its objectives. Furthermore, new synergies for joint advocacy, information, and experience-sharing were built through dialogue platforms among women-led organizations, in support of broader movement-building in Nigeria. Similarly, on the laws protecting adolescent girls, the draft Child Protection Bill in Sokoto was passed into law by the Sokoto State House of Assembly and signed by the Governor in December 2021 following a wide consultative process with state leaders and community sub-structures led by the SI Program. This is an unprecedented achievement, as efforts to domesticate the Child Rights Act in northern states have been ongoing for at least a decade without any success. This law provided a pathway and framework for other non-CRA states including Borno state. The focus in phase II will be to implement the law in Sokoto and strengthen advocacy for its passage in Adamawa State, which will be a critical step to support the humanitarian-development nexus and strengthen existing interventions into a harmonized child protection system, particularly for girls.

Mechanisms for access to essential services for survivors of gender-based violence were further improved during the period under review through the availability of one-stop centers. The Spotlight Initiative helped upscale the services offered by the Mirabel Center in Lagos State, the Nana Khadija Center in Sokoto State, and the forensic lab in Adamawa State amongst others to ensure high quality services. Moreover, the program worked to enhance the capacities of key state government personnels comprising medical doctors and shelter management staff to adopt key approaches to providing services to GBV survivors, which led to improved delivery of services in the two one-stop centers. Notably, despite the COVID-19 pandemic and other constraints, these one-stop centers remained fully functional with the support of the Spotlight Initiative, offering a comprehensive package of services to survivors of violence. For example, women living with obstetric fistula who were experiencing dehumanizing stigma and related mental health hazards were successfully assisted with the much-needed surgery. Similarly, there was improved access to





GBV services through the continued support for the GBV virtual referral and response service, which was established in 2020 as an innovative flagship by Spotlight Initiative to support survivor access to services and continued providing service in 2021. In addition, the Spotlight initiative continued to support the youth friendly and Young Moms' Clinic in Lagos to provide access to Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) services to adolescents and young unmarried mothers, who face particular challenges in accessing essential services.

The recommendations from the midterm assessment significantly influenced the program's implementation and the results achieved in 2021. In response to the non-harmonized national GBV indicators and the lack of a centralized GBV database, The Spotlight Initiative in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development inaugurated a high-level Strategic Knowledge Management Technical Working Group on Gender-Based Violence on April 13, 2021. The technical working group consultation meeting was initiated to harmonize the existing GBV reporting indicators, tools, database and structures to prevent duplication and bring clarity to the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders. Resultantly, the government adopted the harmonized national GBV reporting structure, indicators and tools and rolled it out beyond the initial six SI focus states, to cover the remaining 30 states. This has led to significant demand for and the use of routine GBV data in decision-making, which ultimately improved survivor-centered policies, services, and practices.

Efforts to sustain the initiative received a boost, with the tripartite strategic meeting of the UN, EU, and Government of Nigeria which held on June 4, 2020. Representatives of the Adamawa, FCT, and Lagos States committed to allocating a budget line to support and sustain the implementation of GBV programming at the sub-national level. Specifically, the dedicated budget will support the payment of staff working in the one-stop-centers and for procurement of essential medicines, amongst others. This funding is critical to securing long-term sustainability for efforts to eliminate violence against women and girls. Moreover, the sustained high-level advocacy to the Governor of Lagos State by the Spotlight Initiative led to the elevation of the status of the Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Response Team (DSVRT) into a full-fledged government agency by the state government. The establishment of a government agency dedicated to GBV response by Lagos State is the first of its kind in Nigeria and marks a major milestone in strengthening institutions and in the institutionalization of GBV response, and a promising step at ensuring sustainability and securing funding for GBV response. It is also noteworthy to mention that, in line with the key output of pillar six of the Spotlight program to strengthen women's movement for effective advocacy and demand for accountability from key stakeholders, over 400 Women groups were mobilized with a clear manifesto to advocate for legal and policy reform to eliminate violence against women and girls, and they successfully engaged government actors at the first-ever public hearing organized





by the senate president and senate committee on the 1999 constitution review. Critical issues, like the need to abide by the 35% affirmative action clause (which supports the dedication of 35% of government seats to women) and for the adoption and use of gender-responsive budgeting in the national budgeting process, were amongst the several issues successfully advocated for.

Throughout 2021, the European Union Delegation (EUD) remained an essential program partner, beyond the traditional donor-recipient relationship. The UN team and EUD counterparts coordinated on engagement with government actors, an important symbol of joint advocacy on the issue of violence against women and girls. The Spotlight Initiative has been benefiting from the EUD's experience in Nigeria, leveraging existing partnerships, and preventing duplication of efforts across development actors to ensure comprehensive programming. Most importantly, the EUD was actively involved in the joint field monitoring of the Spotlight implementation at the sub-national level and providing technical guidance for program improvement along with the Government of Nigeria, the UN, and the National Civil Society Reference Group.

Interagency coordination in the spirit of UN reform also remained critical to effective program management and operations and to streamlined delivery. The Recipient UN Organizations (RUNOs) continued to identify practices and mechanisms to adopt a new, more joined-up way of working. The Resident Coordinator has exercised the newly-empowered role to ensure leadership over these coordination efforts, which ultimately enable the programme to implement with greater agility and flexibility and achieve greater collective impact.

Notwithstanding the efforts of the Spotlight Initiative team to keep the program implementation on track, lingering effects of the global COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictions remained a challenge. Physical engagements, outreaches, and training remained largely limited and regulated in order to comply with COVID-19 protocols for social distancing and limitation of numbers per gathering. Innovative solutions and approaches towards meeting the set targets were adopted to face this challenge, including the use of short video clips and jingles through virtual and traditional media platforms and the creation of hotlines and dedicated web applications (apps) for easy access by survivors in need of immediate support and online psycho-social counseling support, as well as other critical services. Efforts to adapt to the COVID-19 context in 2020 laid the groundwork for the team to continue effectively responding to the pandemic and the rise in violence against women and girls in 2021.

Another notable challenge in 2021, is the impact of the continuous civil unrest in the eastern region of Nigeria, agitation from the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB). IPOB instituted frequent and targeted sit-at-home orders (curfew). This led to the postponement of some high-level events and



other planned activities in Ebonyi State as a result of imposed curfews and movement restrictions. This challenge was mitigated by continuing dialogues with stakeholders, rescheduling events, as well as reviewing the budget to cover extra costs caused by security challenges. Below is a summary, of major achievements in 2021:

Outcome 1 (Laws and Policy Framework)	3 laws were strengthened and, 3 received inputs from women groups and CSOs.	Outcome 4 (Quality Services)	16,403 women & girls have access to essential services.
	232 Government officials/ parliamentarians' capacity strengthened on effective responses to Sexual Violence and Gender-Based crimes against women and girls.		962 service providers had their capacities strengthened to deliver quality essential services including SRHR.
Outcome 2 (Institutions)	219 women groups/ 316 Government officials had strengthened capacity to develop plans to EVAWG.	Outcome 5 (Data)	281 Government/ Women's groups with strengthened capacity to collect data on VAWG.
	50 women groups have the capacity for gender-responsive budgeting.		5,684 cases reported, 742 brought to court, and 33 convictions.
Outcome 3 (Prevention and Norm Change)	19,427 girls/10,625 boys reached through in-school & out-of-school program, as part of efforts to advance social norms change amongst youths. 6,065,427 voices were amplified against GBV/HP in communities.	Outcome 6 (Women's Movement)	6 jointly agreed recommendations on ending VAWG produced by stakeholders. 303 Women's rights groups and relevant CSOs with strengthened capacity to demand accountability from government and other key stakeholders and advocate for passage/adoption of gender-sensitive legislation.

Contextual Shifts and Implementation Status

Nigeria is confronted by multiple security challenges, notably the resilient Boko Haram insurgency in the north-east, long-running discontent and militancy in the Niger Delta, increasing violence



between herders and farming communities spreading from the central belt southwards, and separatist Biafra agitation in the south-east. Violence, particularly by the Boko Haram insurgency, has displaced more than two million people, created a massive humanitarian crisis and prompted the rise of civilian vigilante self-defense groups that pose new policy dilemmas and possible security risks. In almost every region of the country in 2021, there are two major security issues: communal clashes/civil unrest and “kidnap-for-ransom” (KFR). Insurgency and conflicts have exacerbated the occurrence of VAWG as reflected in different reports of girls’ abductions, rapes of conflict-affected women, and other sexual abuse. The incidence of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is growing astronomical with the activities of the insurgency in the northeast. From forced and early marriages to physical, mental, or sexual assault on women, 36% of ever-married women aged 15-49 have experienced physical or sexual, or emotional violence committed by their husband/partner, while 20% of women aged 15-49 have been circumcised (NDHS,2018).

In 2021, Nigeria continued to experience new security challenges arising from the “sit-at-home” directive across south-east, Nigeria due to the continued incarceration of the leader of the Indigenous People of Biafra, a separatist organization for the secession of Eastern Nigeria from the rest of the country. As part of protest measures, the south-east states observe a sit-at-home order every Monday, shutting down all transportation and commercial activities. This impacted significantly on the project implementation in Ebonyi State located in the region. Due to the movement restrictions, women and girls were not able to access services as freely as they want to. However, the challenge of implementation in Adamawa State is different, as the context in there cuts across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. Adamawa State is transitioning from relief to development. Indeed, the resettlement of IDPs across the region is a dynamic, challenging situation requiring careful planning, the prioritization of safety and security in all resettlement locations, and strategic, sequenced deployment of interventions to ensure and support the safe, voluntary return and resettlement of all displaced populations.

Pockets of acts of insurgency persist, hindering and disrupting gatherings and access to services including planned activities. Notwithstanding, the program has adapted by leveraging on the existing structures of the protection cluster and the GBV sub-sector working group to ensure continued implementation and adaptation. More women and girls affected by GBV/VAW are now able to receive the much-needed services at designated health care centers along with the provision of humanitarian dignity kits for women and girls in hard-to-reach areas.

Despite the challenges experienced in the reporting year, the Spotlight Initiative remained on track in achieving its intended results. The program has so far created an increased recognition and open dialogue on SGBV and harmful practices issues along with experience-sharing sessions on moving beyond adoption to effective implementation of the VAPP and other gender-protection legislations.





The program also recorded an increase in the partnership of women's rights groups, networks, and relevant CSOs towards joint advocacy actions on ending VAWG at local and national levels. Furthermore, women's organizations' engagement in addressing different groups of women has improved due to capacity gaps addressed by the Spotlight program, as they are exposed to a variety of specialized training on policy influencing, gender-based responsive budgeting, SDG benchmarking, to mention a few.

The drive for sustainability took the center stage, as several high-level advocacies were directed towards the relevant government, religious, community, and civil society stakeholders who remain integral to the implementation of the program and the achievements of results. This is designed to ensure government/national ownership beyond the lifespan of the project while also opening new opportunities for deeper engagements towards ensuring the successful elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls in Nigeria. More specifically, the Spotlight Initiative in Nigeria in a targeted resource mobilization drive has been able to secure partnerships with donor groups like the USAID, World Bank, and the Canadian fund and have promised funding commitment in support of Pillar 5 (Data). This is to ensure the reporting of GBV data at all levels is sustained beyond the SI project.

Since March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic and its impediment on movement restrictions and social gathering have continued to impact implementation with several challenges. There has been a postponement of travel to project states and other activities, adjustments such as reduced number of participants at training activities to enable compliance with federal and state governments' directives, and restrictions on carrying out community engagements. Although lockdown has been lifted, there remains difficulty in communication with several government agencies that appear to have reduced capacities under the current circumstances.

These challenges were addressed through rescheduling some of the activities when many restrictions were eased. Other interventions have been reprogrammed to virtual means or other innovative approaches such as social media and call-in radio shows, which reached a large proportion of the population within and outside of the project states. Some of the project's physical engagements were re-programmed to a hybrid approach where we engaged stakeholders in small gatherings respecting social distancing, combined with virtual meetings which actively promoted interactions between participants. We have also continuously followed up with government agencies and identified key champions that have been able to support communication and commitments in order to maintain and strengthen our partnership, despite the challenging situation. These adaptations



have created opportunities for accelerated implementation, which has enabled us to meet our delivery targets. In other words, implementation is on track.

Spotlight Initiative - Outcome Areas	Implementation progress as of 31 Dec 2021,
Outcome 1: Legal and Policy Framework	71%
Outcome 2: Institutions	65%
Outcome 3: Prevention and Norm Change	69%
Outcome 4: Quality Services	65%
Outcome 5: Data	87%
Outcome 6: Women's Movement	71%
TOTAL	70%

Program Governance and Coordination

The following governance and coordination mechanisms enabled oversight, accountability, and streamlined decision-making in service of more efficient and effective implementation in 2021:

a) National Steering Committee

A national steering committee is set up to improve coordination and accountability in the three-way partnership framework (EU/UN/Government of Nigeria). The national steering committee is responsible for providing overall strategic policy guidance and political direction on the implementation of the Spotlight Initiative. In line with SI's global arrangement and principles, the national steering committee is comprised of the following core members:

- i. The Honourable Minister of Budget and National Planning (HMS) – Co-Chair
- ii. The UN Resident Coordinator (RC) – Co-Chair
- iii. EU Head of Delegation in Nigeria – Co-Chair
- iv. Minister of Women Affairs and Social Development – Member
- v. Two representatives of the Civil Society Reference Group – Members



In addition to the members, other stakeholders may also be invited to participate in the deliberations of the national steering committee to provide technical inputs, share information and experiences, and contribute to shaping the strategic direction of the program in a participatory manner. This includes representatives from the EU, UN, government, academia, civil society (including youth-led civil society), media, research institutions, local communities, and the private sector. Heads of Spotlight Agencies and any of the key ministers (Justice, Health, Police Affairs, or FCT) may also be invited to participate in the steering group meetings. The Honourable Minister for Budget and National Planning serves as the chair of the national steering committee. The Committee is co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator with the EU Head of Delegation in Nigeria as a critical observer.

The national steering committee meets twice a year to review progress on implementation. The bi-annual meetings are called by the Honourable Minister of Budget and National Planning (HMS) or by the UN Resident Coordinator. The Committee can also convene extraordinary meetings on specific issues. The Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Budget and National Planning serves as the secretary of the national steering committee with the program management unit providing secretarial support to the permanent secretary and assisting with organizing and following up on meetings.

The national steering committee oversees the implementation of the country program and has been active in ensuring that (i) proper communication and coordination at country level (ii) supporting the alignment of SI implementation with national, UN, and EU priorities (iii) approving reviewed annual work plans and results (iv) reviewing and approving the joint annual narrative reports (v) approving implementation arrangements guide and revisions (vi) managing stakeholder relationships at the country level (vii) reviewing risk management strategies and ensuring the program is proactively managing and mitigating risks. More specifically, the last meeting of the national steering committee which held on January 25, 2021 was well attended and generated the following action plans which were strategic in putting the project on track and resolving institutional challenges affecting the program:

- i. The implementation team should prioritize the production of a sustainability plan that will ensure that the immediate gains being recorded are maintained in the long-term and measures are put in place for sustainable GBV response that can meet the core objectives of SDG 5 and 16.
- ii. A National GBV barometer should be launched at the highest level. A presentation should be made to the Honorable Minister for Women Affairs and Social Development to



- champion the National GBV Barometer and to other relevant stakeholders for input and joint ownership.
- iii. A quarterly meeting of country heads of recipient UN agencies and a quarterly meeting of Heads of programs would also be institutionalized to enhance the complementarity of inter-agency activities in a way that avoids duplication of efforts as well as strengthening coherence and coordination at the management level.
 - iv. The program management unit would work on a new TOR for communications and program visibility with the support of colleagues from UNICEF and with input from the other RUNOs. The enhanced TOR would determine the role of the PMU communications officer in the 2nd phase of implementation. UNICEF would support the PMU to build the capacity of the SI communication team and the production of a new TOR for joint communications support.
 - v. The implementation team to consciously incorporate the inclusion of marginalized and vulnerable groups in the design of its phase 2 work plan. The team would also rely on the approved strategy for transformative change and high-level policy impact in the design of the new work plan.

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

National and state-level Civil Society Reference Groups (CSRG) support the realization of the objectives of the Initiative in Nigeria as advocates and partners. The groups provide strategic advice to the development of the Spotlight National Programme as it is being implemented.

The civil society reference groups were set up in line with the global guidance and with the guiding principle of leaving no one behind. The civil society reference group consists of 20 members, all eminently qualified persons with diverse experiences, expertise, and perspectives across the six pillars of work of the program. A diverse membership was considered during the selection of the CSRG, cutting across the network of persons with disabilities to people living with HIV, this was necessary to allow for a more comprehensive and inclusive decision making. Each of the five target states is represented by three CSOs reference group members, while five members represent the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) and are domiciled at the national level. For the state reference groups, all members are domiciled in the target states for maximum and effective participation in state-led activities. Members of the reference groups serve in a personal capacity with no paid remuneration.

In terms of the working arrangements, the civil society reference group is an integral part of the steering committee both at state and federal levels as well as the technical working group. For this reason, work plans for national and state reference groups are developed in line with the global



reference group guidelines to streamline the activities of members. Though the reference group initially agreed to meet a minimum of twice a year, (either virtually or physically), the exact frequency of meetings is determined by members as contained within the CSRG work plan. Program management unit staff may be part of the reference group meetings if invited, which can provide an important opportunity for coordination between the team and civil society as well as for civil society to make technical and strategic inputs for the team to consider and act in programming. Reports of CSOs reference group meetings are to be shared with the program management unit for documentation in the knowledge management repository.

The civil society reference groups have been able to carry out their core functions and responsibilities as designed: in 2021, they (i) provided advice on ongoing interventions, possibilities for scaling up the Spotlight Initiative country program (ii) partnered on high-level advocacy and communications as well as political dialogue, including by supporting visibility and promotion of the SI's goals at the national and local levels (iii) engaged in broader consultations with groups and networks, especially at the local and grassroots levels, at regular intervals to update them and solicit input on the performance of the SI's country program in Nigeria and for advocacy, research, learning, and action. Their engagement at the local level further advocated for the ending of all forms of VAWG along with traditional and religious leaders. (iv) supported efforts of disseminating messages of the Spotlight Initiative on eliminating VAWG and HP to the public, from the national to the community level, especially to marginalized groups, youths, and the media (v) served as an interactive space and open forum for dialogue between the Spotlight Initiative and women's rights organizations, groups, and networks working on eliminating VAWG and HP (vi) provided advice on the overall strategic direction of the Spotlight Initiative's country program in Nigeria and on cutting-edge national and local policy issues on eliminating VAWG and HP.

Despite the successes in the engagement of the CSOs reference group in 2021, there was no clearly dedicated budget for them to independently work with, under phase one of programming. Rather, funds from the PMU budget was used to facilitate their travels during the joint monitoring visits and some selected advocacy visit. The group raised this as a challenge, so the team has earmarked a dedicated budget of 1% to support their work plans going forward.

The CSOs reference groups were able to produce an independent scorecard that described how the project implementation fared in 2021. Similarly, they contributed to the development of the reports from the joint monitoring visit to the six SI focus states with corresponding recommendations for action. Most importantly, the reference groups were part of the team that developed the phase two workplan. They were actively engaged in the consultative meetings and had a session to develop their own work plan in details. They were critical in shaping some of the strategic directions



for phase two. For example, they advocated for a dedicated budget line to support the activities of the inter-ministerial and the Governor’s Forum, amongst others. The CSRG was vocal and actively involved along with the EUD Nigeria in conducting detailed analysis, review, and provided valuable recommendations that shaped the design of the phase two proposal and work plan development. They were part of the followed-up meetings to ensure the agreements of the national steering committee were adhered to before giving their final consent to the submission of the phase two budget and proposal. Indeed, the technical advisory team of the CSRG, EU were considered by the UN SI in Nigeria team which clearly speaks to the transparency and collaborative team spirit with which the initiative is been administered in Nigeria.

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

Program coordination sits in the office of the UN Resident Coordinator to bring all of the pieces of the program together. Technical coherence is provided by two UN agencies (UNFPA and UN Women) to ensure actions under each of the six pillars are aligned with and complement each other in service of comprehensive, transformative results. A joint community of practice provides communication, monitoring, evaluation, visibility, and knowledge management support to the country program across RUNOs, enabling the team to fulfill these important functions more efficiently. The PMU ensures consolidated reporting according to timelines and oversees implementation schedules, deliverables, and budgets as articulated in the country program document among other things. The PMU assumes this inter-agency coordination role both at the national and state levels, with its focus on a sustainable and transformative delivery of agreed results.

The program management unit is designed in line with the global program management principles. It follows two main streams: (i) program oversight and coordination (including technical coherence) and (ii) policy and technical advisory for the program implementation. Two technical coherence leads, hosted in the two implementing agencies report directly to the deputy representatives in their agencies under the general supervision of the country representative, support the programme coordinator under the general supervision of the UN Resident Coordinator, who exercises leadership and sets the tone for interagency collaboration throughout programming and operations. Their primary role involves forging synergies across specific pillar elements, as well as ensuring that all program work aligns to the theory of change and country results framework, and adheres to known best practices.

Technical staff within the RUNOs collectively form the technical team that met on a bi-monthly basis to ensure joint program execution and successful program implementation. The SI program management unit led two review meetings to assess mid-year and end-year achievements, which





served as a coordination platform for facilitating the exchange of information and for making joint decisions on the next steps and way forward.

The technical team together with state focal persons, met on a quarterly basis to evaluate short-term goals and to compare strategic directions. The community of practice met at least once a quarter, or as set up by the core task teams of subject area experts. The chair convened extraordinary meetings when required. Technical coherence meetings were held bi-monthly and chaired by the two coherence leads. Coherence meetings centered on fostering synergy around program pillars. The resident coordinator's office is the secretariat for the programme management unit. Spotlight Initiative heads of agencies met with the resident coordinator every quarter for the program and operational updates, as well as to discuss any challenges and opportunities.

The Nigeria Spotlight Initiative program has continued to improve its inter-agency collaboration in the delivery of interventions and in the governance mechanisms. The technical team strived to ensure the complementarity of interventions among recipient agencies. A good example is in the delivery of the GBV response one-stop center intervention. In line with its GBV area of responsibility, UNFPA developed a standard operating procedure for the GBV one-stop centers and has been adopted and shared with other agencies to standardize services across the supported GBV response centers. UNFPA/UNWomen as the leading RUNOs under pillar four (quality services), rallied other agencies to bring their comparative advantage to bear in GBV response service provision in the one-stop centers to ensure survivors get the individualized holistic package. UNESCO has set up a non-formal education center in the one-stop center. UNICEF supported the strengthening of the child protection systems across the one-stop centers, and its service delivery and entry point through building the capacity of service providers by training on child protection case management and information management system. UNWomen working with women rights' groups has linked survivors to long-term recovery initiatives and pro bono legal services. This cohesive coordination is an illustrative example of how implementing in the spirit of UN reform can enable programs to achieve more impactful results.

The Spotlight Initiative is recognized by the UN Gender Theme Group (GTG) established as part of the UN reform to enhance a coordinated action on gender equality and women empowerment comprising of different UN agencies with gender-related mandates. The SI Coordinator usually attends the quarterly technical group's meetings for wider technical consultation around programming on SDG 5, along with other cross-cutting gender-related projects. This engagement enables the Spotlight Initiative to leverage existing gender work, prevent duplication of efforts, and advance EVAWG work in collaboration with the broader UN system. In 2021, the Spotlight program managers from the five implementing RUNOs provided technical inputs into the recent development of the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) strategy. A critical recommendation and



agreement at the meeting were for all SI implementing partners/grantees to ensure all their staff took the online PSEA course if they were to continue receiving funding from the SI funds in Nigeria. Similarly, the Spotlight Initiative is part of the UN Program Management Team (PMT) that met monthly and reported directly to the UN country team. In view of the strategic nature of the initiative, the indicators of the SI project were well embedded into the new United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) being developed to be approved on or before June 2022. Similarly, the PMU was a part of the strategic prioritization retreat to ensure there is a good linkage and alignment in terms of indicators, reporting, and implementation modality with the new cooperation framework being developed (2022-2027).

d) Use of UN Reform inter-agency tools

The Spotlight Initiative in Nigeria is anchored in the United Nations Sustainable Development Partnership Framework (UNSDPF) 2018-2022 and is implemented by five UN agencies (UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF & UNESCO), the Government and CSOs, with the UN Resident Coordinator's Office coordinating. Specifically, the spotlight initiative contributes directly to two of the result group in the about to be phased out partnership framework. The result groups are: (i) good governance thematic group and the (ii) quality basic services thematic group. They are necessary as gender equality and women's empowerment continue to take center stage in the broader UN. The reporting indicators are aligned with the One UN Country Result Report and are in sync with the UNSDG data portal (UN Info) which is part of the UN reforms to foster reporting as one UN.

As a strategic joint project initiative, the SI contributes to the common services as agreed in the MoU and the business operation plan. Specifically, the initiative contributes to ICT cost recovery, common premises, and UN clinic cost recovery payments amongst others. These interagency tools and systems have enabled the implementation of the Spotlight Initiative to be cost-effective and aidedstreamlined delivery.

Programme Partnerships

The implementation of the joint EU-UN Spotlight Initiative program in 2021 was carried out in collaboration with the following strategic partners:

a) Government institutions

In the reporting year, the Spotlight Initiative helped secure from eight key government ministries at federal and state levels a high level of support to advocacy actions to prevent VAW and other harmful practices, with the establishment of high-level gender coordination mechanisms. Moreover,





the SI helped lay the foundation for evidence-based monitoring of SGBV, SRHR and HP cases through building the national and state capacities for relevant data collection processes. Partnerships with these government entities have created a strong basis for the program's sustainability and ownership by the government. It has also created an entry point for strengthening national capacities for developing guidelines and reporting tools for monitoring relevant GBV policies.

The government at the highest level is actively engaged in the Spotlight Initiative in Nigeria. This is evident with the participation of the President of Nigeria in routine presidential media parley on ending VAW/GBV. Similarly, the Honorable Minister for Budget and National Planning serves as the chair of the national steering committee of the Spotlight Initiative. The Nigerian Federal Ministry of Budget and National Planning have the responsibility of coordination across all the outcome areas involving line government ministries, CSOs, and the UN agencies. They are involved in coordination oversight, stakeholder engagement, joint monitoring visits, and technical meetings. The Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development in line with their oversight responsibility and mandate around gender and GBV in Nigeria is a strategic partner of the Spotlight Initiative. The Minister of FMWASD is a member of the national steering committee and co-chairs the inter-ministerial committee on GBV set up by the president, a platform of action that the Spotlight Initiative leverages. The Ministry is involved across all the pillars of the SI. Partnership with the Ministry of Health helps to advance mainly the services pillar SRHR and the health sector response for SGBV. The Ministry of Justice is a key partner for pillar 1 (laws and policy framework) of the SI. The National Bureau of Statistics has the responsibility of advancing pillar 5 (data). The wide range of ministries engaged by the Spotlight Initiative enables the program to work towards a whole-of-government approach to eliminating violence against women and girls.

The Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, being the lead agency and a primary partner for Spotlight Initiative with a gender equality and women empowerment mandate, drives gender-related changes in government policies and coordinates interventions with development partners intervening in eliminating violence against women and girls, as well as improving the welfare of vulnerable and marginalized persons in the society. Within this mandate, the ministry played an evident oversight and coordination role in the implementation of the SI activities in 2021. The Ministry also organized regular monthly meetings for SI program partners to exchange on the progress and issues of common concern, a critical step forward in ensuring accountability for government action on VAWG.

At the decentralized/sub-national level, the Spotlight Initiative is implemented in partnership with state ministries of women affairs in the six SI focus states (CrossRiver, Sokoto, Ebonyi, Lagos,



Adamawa States as well as the Social Development Secretariat (SDS) in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), and the Ministry for International Development Cooperation in Cross River State. These government institutions facilitated the coordination of the state-level program's partners in the six states, ensured the harmonization of the program's work plans, and continued to be fundamental key influencers of policy change. This high level of engagement is a positive sign for ongoing political buy-in and ownership over efforts to eliminate violence against women and girls.

Nonetheless, gaps in the coordination between government implementing partners and the supervising ministry led to the slow implementation of the program's activities and low financial delivery. The limited oversight and field tracking of implementation due to the emergence of the new COVID-19 Omicron Variant created further gaps for the coordination and led to duplication of efforts in other instances. In response, monthly coordination meetings between the project team, government, and implementing partners were institutionalized as a platform for discussing challenges and resolving them. Furthermore, the project management unit organized an in-house training that addressed different project management/reporting gaps identified during the joint monitoring visit. Some of the critical issues addressed were the challenges around poor referrals, and issues around documentation and disaggregation by sex, age, amongst others. In 2022, the Spotlight Initiative will continue working with government and implementing partners to help close gaps and accelerate implementation.

At the sub-national (state) level, the governors and their spouses are strategic partners of the initiative because of their influence, particularly as they are obligated or responsible to respect, promote and realize the rights of women & girls as duty bearers.

b) Civil Society

In the reporting year, women-led/women rights civil society organizations (international and national), and grassroots organizations (including 2 representing disability rights) were engaged as implementing partners and to help the Spotlight Initiative expand its reach to all women and girls. The Spotlight Initiative also awarded grants to faith-based organizations focused on the protection of religious adherents' rights and organizations representing youths like Youth Hub Africa, which supports and enhances the capacities of CSOs and coalitions working on VAW/SGBV/HP to promote SRHR with a view to Leaving No One Behind (LNOB). Similarly, Foundation for Resilient Empowerment and Development (FRED) is a CSO with national coverage and a strategic partner of the Spotlight Initiative responsible for providing technical support to Pillar five (Data) ensuring that GBV data is reported in a timely manner at all levels.

The diversity of these partners has accelerated the progress towards enhancing and growing the women's movement in Nigeria, engaging traditional and religious leaders/community gatekeepers





as agents of change, and engaging government stakeholders in conversation and partnership with civil society through different advocacy actions. The Spotlight Initiative's support to civil society advocates and engagement of these partners has contributed to the adoption and passage of the VAPP Act into laws in Adamawa and Sokoto States within the period. Over the reporting period, the Spotlight Initiative also worked with women's movement platforms to build their advocacy capacities. Since then, these platforms have engaged in actions to hold government stakeholders accountable for the implementation of EAW policies and GBV responses.

The program's partnership with local/grassroots organizations provided opportunities to strengthen their capacities for advocacy on VAWG, SGBV, HP, and SRHR issues. Through grants allocated to these organizations, at least two platforms of local/grassroots organizations were established in each state and included representatives of persons, especially women and girls with disabilities and suffering other intersecting forms of discrimination. These group of persons in CSOs are part of the sub-national level response team leadership that oversee the day-to-day implementation of the project. Through these platforms, at least 15,000 direct participants have benefited from second-chance education including livelihood support to minimize their vulnerabilities to SGBV, HP, and SRHR violations.

As reflected in annex C, CSOs form a significant proportion of the implementing partners that receive funding from the Spotlight Initiative programme. Partnerships have been formed and fostered with international, national, local/grassroots, women's rights, feminist CSOs, and CSOs representing specific groups. For each state, at least one grassroots CSO was engaged by Spotlight, in line with the leave-no-one behind principle. CSOs also formed a key aspect of implementing the COVID-19 response.

In order to expand access to funding and engagement with smaller and more local organizations, the Spotlight Initiative further explored the concept of sub-granting in 2021. By extension, this mechanism has helped to bring onboard active local CSOs who by virtue of their closeness are naturally positioned to reach and serve marginalized groups better. The local/grassroots NGOs were sub-granted to work directly with women and girls, schools, and communities in focus states. They helped to form coordinating mechanisms and effective monitoring of the intervention, thus ensuring ownership, local sustainability and most importantly, ensuring that the marginalized groups are not left behind.

c) European Union Delegation





Coordination between the EU and UN is essential for delivery of sustainable outcomes in eliminating violence against women and girls. To fulfil this potential, the Spotlight Initiative needs to leverage the comparative advantage of both organizations in strategic communication and public advocacy. The Technical Team within each of the RUNOs, led by the Spotlight Initiative Coordinator, meets with the EU desk officer for Spotlight Initiative matters monthly. The meeting discusses the program's strategic approach and activities defined in the work plan. It also serves as a platform to monitor progress towards agreed objectives. To foster strategic coordination, the UN Resident Coordinator and the EU Head of Delegation also meet on a biannual basis. The EU is structurally and timely involved in and updated about Spotlight activities. This includes participation in key SI activities at state level, but also leveraging on the expertise of the EU in strategic communication and political engagement.

As a member of the Spotlight Initiative national steering committee in Nigeria, the EU Ambassador and other EU delegation members contribute to high-level strategic decision-making and coordination. In 2021, the EU convened a strategic engagement with the UN during the 16 days of activism to strengthen the visibility and impact of Spotlight Initiative. In furtherance of this, joint national media statements on preventing VAWG were aired across the 36 states. At the technical level, the EU SI gender advisor participates in joint RUNO and another EU-funded project (RoLAC) coordination meetings of Spotlight Initiative program focal points on a bi-monthly basis. These meetings created room for close and periodic engagements with the donor to gauge the progress/impacts of the program implementation while ensuring that duplication of interventions across intersecting EU-funded projects was reduced.

The Spotlight Initiative in Nigeria directly contributes to the EU Gender Action Plan (GAP) II "Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020" which is reflected in the Spotlight Initiative's result framework, with each outcome aligned to specific EU Gender Action Plan priorities and linked to high-level impact indicators. This close interaction is evidence of the engrained partnership between the EU and UN through the Spotlight Initiative.

In addition to coordination with the EU Delegation, the Spotlight Initiative works closely coordinated with existing and new relevant EU-funded program. An example is the EU-funded Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Program (RoLAC) working on the set-up of sexual assault referral centers, the implementation of the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) (VAPP) Act, and the Child Rights Act (CRA). The Spotlight Initiative will also coordinate activities with other international donors and partners, including the call to action on protection from SGBV in emergencies which is a global initiative launched in 2013. Most importantly, the EU plays a review and monitoring role on the country program's implementation along with other key stakeholders. They are part of the technical



team that conducts joint monitoring to selected site and are involved in providing recommendations for action and improvement.

The EU/UN partnership was strengthened in 2021, with more encouraging feedback as the year went by. During the first national steering committee meeting in June 5, 2020, the EU raised concerns on the urgent need to identify and implement transformative flagship initiatives for the project; strengthen access to justice for GBV survivors; increase visibility for the project; the need to extrapolate from project micro level to high policy level delivery; and the need to enhance coherence and complementarity with on-going initiatives, strengthen interagency complementarity and promote linkages with other projects and initiatives because that is where synergy lies. The Spotlight Initiative has taken deliberate steps to address key recommendations from the EU, particularly with regards to visibility, access to justice, flagships, and complementing ongoing initiatives. By the following steering committee meeting held on January 25, 2021, the team was able to present actions taken in response to the EUD's valuable inputs, and during the meeting, the EUD signaled that it was supportive of the Spotlight Initiative and its strategic direction and was pleased with key ongoing initiatives, advocacy efforts, and visibility. The EUD also noted with satisfaction the engagements with the inter-ministerial committee on ending GBV; the governor's forum and the GBV state of emergency declaration; and the town hall meeting which had the president's participation. The EUD acknowledged government support and thanked the leadership of the government counterparts for the results achieved expressing that it took a collective effort. In fact, the EU Head of Delegation in Nigeria said, *"through the spotlight initiative we collectively demonstrated a multinational response for GBV in Nigeria"*.

d) Cooperation with other UN agencies (if applicable)

e) Other Partners and resource mobilization (if applicable)

In the year under review, the SI has initiated partnerships with platforms of traditional leaders and forums of high influence in gender equality to address issues of their limited advocacy capacities and build synergies for addressing traditional harmful practices and other forms of gender-based violence in the communities. Key partners engaged include the Council of Traditional and Religious Leaders in Africa (COTLA), Women in Film and Television International (WIFTI) and the Nigeria Governors' Wives Forum (NGWF). The capacity of WIFTI on GBV messaging was strengthened through training sessions with the Nigerian chapter launched during the 16 Days of Activism, further entrenching advocacy skills in an effort to foster long-term leadership by civil society over efforts to eliminate violence against women and girls.





The Spotlight Initiative in Nigeria program has partnered with the media, academic institutions – through the adaptation and deployment of the UN Women/UNESCO school-related gender-based violence (SRGBV) guidelines in higher institutions, and traditional and religious leaders. Sustained media engagement has been a core strategy and a key aspect of the communications and visibility plan, as media can play a critical role in supporting social norms change and public awareness regarding violence against women and girls. Engaging traditional and religious leaders was sustained throughout 2021. A key advocacy virtual event held August 6, 2021, organized jointly by the Spotlight Initiative recipient agencies – A round table with traditional and religious leaders on eliminating GBV and harmful practices against women and girls in Nigeria. The virtual event had good participation and brought key issues to the fore on addressing social norms that drive GBV and harmful practices.

Results

Capturing Broader Transformations Across Outcomes

The Spotlight Initiative is implemented in the context of the 2030 Agenda. For success to be sustainable it is crucial to ensure activities, services, and interventions that prevent and respond to VAWG/harmful practices are adequately established or strengthened and can be maintained. This involves ensuring that political commitment and prioritization of VAWG/harmful practices maintain or accelerate gains made, especially following political change and/or social disruption. In achieving this, other sectors often get involved either directly or indirectly to aid the sustainability plan or exit strategy to impact longer programs. The Spotlight Initiative has invested its program in empowering women and girls economically, which directly contributes to the fourth indicator of the first SDG in ensuring poor and vulnerable women have equal rights to economic resources as well as access to basic services through the establishment of the one-stop-centers, safe spaces, and access to cooperatives/ microfinance services. The investment ensured that these were primarily investigated in ensuring the program design of empowerment across all second chance education through ensuring a convenient environment to improve access. This has put the Spotlight Initiative in Nigeria in the middle of social development within the country as it engages with government partners in its program design, whilst assisting government forge a better understanding in its own design and implementation of its own programs.

The Spotlight Initiative secured a high-level political commitment from the Nigerian Government to end violence against adolescent girls at a national dialogue. The Vice-President made a seven-point commitment to increase the budget allocation, access to services, school safety, and legal frameworks for child protection. The national policy dialogue on ending violence against adolescent



girls in Nigeria brought together the Vice President of Nigeria, 4 Federal Ministers, senior policymakers, representatives of the various UN Agencies, civil society organizations, and children.

The Spotlight Initiative funding allowed to continue to reach out-of-school girls, especially at the community level, and support them with access to social, health, and legal services. Services for adolescent girls were strengthened. Monthly survivors mentorship meetings were held in Sokoto within the spotlight of 4 focal LGAs, with 520 survivors (main girls under 18) provided with psychosocial support, health and hygiene counseling services during the monthly survivor's mentorship, and interactive forum. Significant efforts went into identifying bottlenecks in the justice system for prosecuting sexual assault on children. Ninety eight (98) legal cases were reviewed in FCT and followed up with legal aid for speedy processing as part of the establishment of a “solution room”.

Reporting on the implementation of Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation (PME)

- **Which tools, methodology, and/or concrete strategies have you adopted to integrate PME?**

The methodology we have adopted is the ROM (Result Oriented Monitoring) and the fact that the monitoring exercise must be participatory & transparent, therefore the joint monitoring team now comprises the EU/Government of Nigeria and the Civil Society Reference Group. We have developed two in-house tools (i) “the **Joint Monitoring Visit Reporting Tool**” which has a corrective action plan component and the (ii) “**Barometer Analysis Tracker**” an analysis that shows the progress been made as per the performance indicator versus the target. Part of our strategies for integrating PME is the identification of the focal M&E colleagues from the five RUNOs coupled with the adoption of a joint work plan which has allowed us to pull together our collective synergies and capacities. We now have a slot to present some of the findings of our monitoring visit to the program management team meetings which consists of deputy representatives of UN Agencies. This has helped to keep RUNOs more accountable in delivering the expected results.

- ***What are the main results achieved in the implementation of participatory monitoring and evaluation in your program?***

The early result we are experiencing is the availability of credible and timely evidence for decision-making. We now jointly produced reports on the status of implementation of activities at the (national/sub-national). Unlike before, the tool we have adopted has assisted in providing personalized corrective actions or follow-up actions for the implementing CSOs visited. The active engagement of the Government of Nigeria, the civil society reference group, and the EUD in our joint monitoring visits attest to the transparency and objectivity of the process which is fostering greater ownership of the process by the government. Increasingly, we see the government’s readiness and commitment to solve issues beyond what the Spotlight Initiative fund can do.



- **What lessons have you learned in implementing PME?**

- (i) We have learned that PME is a process that should not be hurried, but should be allowed to evolve due to the complexity and interests of the different stakeholders. It is important that everyone is on board and on the same page. It is more beneficial to conduct in-house preparatory meetings to clarify what needs to be monitored, what indicators need to be tracked, and what the team composition should be, amongst others.
- (ii) In developing a corrective action plan/follow-up recommendation after conducting the monitoring visit, it is more useful and beneficial for the implementing partner visited to be part of the process of itemizing what needs to improve, going forward. A top to bottom approach is not effective.

- **Have you rolled out any innovative, promising, or good practices related to participatory?**

This will come in the 2022 reporting cycle, we are finalizing the write-up and trying to standardize our PME tools/templates.

- **Please include 1 or 2 significant quotes**

- (i) *We are very pleased with the Nigerian PME process through the joint monitoring being implemented. I congratulate the UN team because the process is truly transparent and credible... with the reports coming in on time, we wish the government staff can have more slots in the exercise. Keep it up! **SI Desk Officer, Ministry of Budget & National Planning.***
- (ii) *PME is a core role for the CSO Reference Group in Nigeria. I am happy we are fully involved in the process including the report writing. Yes, the joint monitoring is very objective. I am happy that implementing CSOs are receiving the much-needed technical advice for implementation improvement. I think the frequency of the joint monitoring should be quarterly, for it to be more effective..... **Sokoto CSO Reference Group Team Lead.***

Capturing Change at Outcome Levelr



Outcome 1: Legal and Policy Framework

Strengthened Legal Framework at all levels (Advancing Gender Policy / Securing a Victim Support Fund)

In the period under review, an increased political will to adopt or amend policies and laws that address GBV and VAW was recorded. In this line, the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act was passed by the government of Sokoto and Adamawa States. The adoption of the VAPP Act in Sokoto was a result of a pivotal 3-day retreat held by the Spotlight Initiative program with members of the Sokoto State House of Assembly Committee on Judiciary and Human Rights to deliberate on and eventually push for the adoption and passage of the bill by the state government. The retreat has culminated in a speedy legislative process for the passage of the Bill by the State House of Assembly and the subsequent assent by the State Governor despite the challenge of a protracted nationwide strike by the Judiciary Staff Union of Nigeria (JUSUN). Similarly, consistent advocacy and monitoring by the project led the Adamawa State legislature to pass the VAPP Bill into law in March 2021. The law was further assented to by the Governor in September 2021. The significance of the VAPP law is that the legislation prohibits and criminalizes various acts like rape, physical injury on a person, female genital mutilation, emotional, verbal, and psychological abuse, and political violence.

A review of the 2006 National Gender Policy was conducted by the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development in 2021. The updated version of the policy reflects additional strategies in addressing gender inequalities in Nigeria including the adoption of the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) (VAPP) Act passed into law at the Federal level in 2015. Situation analysis and validation of the new policy priorities were initially supported through funding by the program as part of the policy review process in June 2021. The National Gender Policy provides broad objectives and policy commitments as well as a detailed institutional framework for the operationalization of the government's commitments to achieving gender equality and women's empowerment in its national vision of investing in people for better social and economic growth. The SI program will therefore continue to provide relevant technical and financial support towards the final validation and adoption of the revised National Gender Policy.

Building on the successful passage of the Violence Against Persons (VAPP Act), the Spotlight Initiative proposed amendments and the provision for the establishment of a victim support fund to provide financial support for victims of gender-based violence in Nigeria. The amendment will provide adequate compensation for victims. Before this, there is only one mention of compensation in the Act. Though the Administration of Criminal Justice Act (ACJA) proffers situations for compensation, it has become pertinent that the Act stipulates clearly on offences when victims should be awarded compensation. The draft amendment will be sponsored as part of an existing Bill



and advocacy will be designed towards ensuring its passage before the end of the 9th Assembly in 2023. The significance of victim compensation is that it protects the victim by providing financial compensation for the violence experienced. These victims are usually the less-privileged and underserved persons who are usually taken advantage of because of their status.

Strengthened capacity of government agencies on gender classification and benchmarking for appropriate SGBV response: The project led an initiative that strengthened the capacity of clerks of national assembly and finance officers of some Ministries, Departments & Agencies(MDAs) on gender budgeting, classification, and benchmark for appropriating for SGBV response and access to justice. The Spotlight Initiative trained finance officers of MDAs to identify and resolve gaps in the budget of their MDAs and proposals in order to address issues of poor allocations for response to SGBV and ultimately improve funding and legislation on SGBV going forward. Through this intervention, the capacity of 92 (43 female and 49 male) staff of the legal committee have been strengthened on the provisions of the VAPP and budget lines in the budget of their MDAs that can be reviewed to address SGBV. The participants were a cross-section of MDAs from the Budget Office of the Federation, Ministry of Finance, Human Rights Commission, and the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Dvelopment in the spotlight states amongst others.

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for VAWG/SGBV/HP integrated service provision and strengthened referral pathways for Persons with Disabilities in Lagos State. This is a major feat in support of Persons With Disabilities (PWDs) which ensures that the right and access of PWDs are protected for all women and girls. The SOP will be rolled out for implementation in the rest of the Spotlight Initiative focus states. This approach is influencing the practice at the sub-national level, and the laws combined with the capacity building are translating into better uptake of quality services for persons with disabilities.

Strengthened GBV/VAW Response through the National GBV Accountability Framework and the Solution Room: As part of activities to commemorate the 16 days of activism against sexual and gender-based violence, the Spotlight Initiative in Nigeria with the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Dvelopment organized the unveiling of the National Gender-Based Violence Accountability Framework. The GBV Accountability Framework was developed in collaboration with civil society groups and the roadmap is providing guidance for partners from the national and sub-national levels on the needed guidance for a more coherent response to VAW/GBV.

For example, the establishment of a solution room for child survivors of sexual violence in FCT was an innovative approach and a bold opportunity for key stakeholders (Ministry of Justice, police, judiciary, Legal Aid Council, and FCT social welfare department) to sit together and review fifty



cases of sexual abuse on girls and boys in FCT over a period of three days. The result was to identify legal challenges that are hindering the prosecution of the cases and develop mechanisms to fast-track the justice response to children and their families. As a result of the deepened coordination, 98 cases were assigned to legal aid service providers to facilitate prosecution and ensure justice for survivors on a pro bono basis.

Outcome 2: Institutions

Improved capacities of key government institutions and CSOs to prevent and respond to VAWG, SGBV/HP and promote SRHR. Throughout the reporting period, 102 (32F/70M) parliamentarians have increased their capacities to develop new and strengthen existing legislation and policies on ending VAWG and gender equality through different trainings conducted in the FCT, Sokoto, Adamawa, Ebonyi, and Cross River states. Training sessions also provided an opportunity to raise the awareness of key government officials on human rights standards and obligations. These parliamentarians and key government officials are now better equipped to develop evidence-based national/sub-national action plans on ending VAWG/SGBV/HP in line with international human rights standards with M&E frameworks, increase financing and allocate appropriate budgets for their implementation, including for specific activities targeting those groups facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination. In addition, they have committed to advocating for the development and passage of gender-responsive budgets in 2022 with a view to advancing the sustainability of efforts.

Furthermore, 180 women's and girls' rights' advocates from the Spotlight Initiative program's target states acquired enhanced legislative process and advocacy skills in VAWG, GBV and SRHR issues through several trainings. With the acquired knowledge, participants are now engaging with their lawmakers at the federal level and in the targeted states on legislative processes, and to make strategic inputs towards draft legislation on EAWG, GBV, and SRHR, in line with relevant international, regional, and national normative frameworks. Similarly, selected members of the civil society and women's and girls' advocates from the six SI focus states, reported heightened awareness and ability to identify and navigate resistance to the gender equality agenda, more awareness on the human rights obligations of government and non-state actors to women and children, and strategic engagement with women to improve reportage on treaties' body monitoring and shadow reporting as a human (women) rights concern. This was achieved because of the training of 100 civil society members and women's and girls' advocates on shadow reporting and following up on obligations in relation to human rights monitoring and reporting mechanisms on VAWG/SGBV/HP and women's and girls' access to SRHR.



Strengthened institutions for GBV Response. The sustained high-level advocacy in Lagos State through the joint effort of the RUNOs has led to the elevation of the status of the Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Response Team (DSVRT) into a full-fledged Government Agency by the State Government. The Government appointed the erstwhile head of the response team as its pioneer coordinator. The establishment of a government agency dedicated to GBV response by Lagos state is the first of its kind in Nigeria and marks a major milestone in strengthening institutions and in the institutionalization of GBV response. This is a promising step in ensuring sustainability and securing funds for GBV response. Similar advocacies are being conducted to ensure other SI focus states emulate such feats.

Strengthened capacity of front-line workers on GBV. In 2021, a total number of 20 NHRC Staff trained and on continuous mentoring, and monitoring on managing the CRM system. Capacity building interventions to the Police and Gender desks officers were set up in Police Stations to investigate cases of VAWG. A total number of 128 State Law Officers, staff of human rights institutions, justice sector, and police Prosecutor's capacity were strengthened on effective responses to Sexual Violence and Gender-Based crimes against women and girls. In line with Leave No One Behind principle, the project developed a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for VAWG/SGBV/HP integrated service provision and strengthened referral pathways in Lagos State - Specifically for mainstreaming PWDS into the GBV response in Lagos state in collaboration with the Lagos State Office for Disability Affairs (LASODA). In this way, the Spotlight Initiative has helped advance progress in ensuring the justice system serves all survivors of violence against women and girls equally.

Improved GBV data reporting and awareness creation of the use of SGBV Toll-free Line. The National Human Rights Commission in collaboration with other partners facilitate awareness campaigns across four states of the federation about the National Human Rights Commission GBV Toll-free number. Increased visibility of this number contributed to an increase in reportage of violation cases. Indeed, increase in reportage reveals that the culture of silence is gradually been dispelled and people are now more empowered to report without experiencing any backlash or treats. The awareness activities brought together the participation of 425 stakeholders (239 females and 186 males). Monthly monitoring visits were conducted to strengthen the capacity of the NHRC staff to ensure optimum functionality of the system, data retrieval, and analysis to guide on programing. Need for review and update the CRM application and dashboard was identified to include multiple variables that will strengthen data reporting and analysis. Furthermore, Spotlight Initiative has also worked with Ministries of Women Affairs in Ebonyi and Cross River States to develop a new five-year strategic plan aimed at ending violence against women and girls in line with the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Develeopment mandate of protecting the interest





of women and girls. Long-term, this will contribute to the achievement of the Spotlight Initiative vision and mission of ending violence against women and girls and to the achievement of SDGs goal 5 in Nigeria.

Institutionalizing VAWG Prevention and Response Protocols/Programs in Universities. The Spotlight Initiative partnered with selected tertiary institutions to systematize violence against women and girls prevention and response protocols and programs. This led to the development of a guide manual on ‘Eliminating Sexual and Gender-Based Violence & Harmful Practices-Enhancing Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights’ to be adopted as a resource for use in universities and tertiary institutions in Nigeria. The launch of ‘Eliminating Sexual and Gender-Based Violence & Harmful Practices- A Guide Manual for the Institutionalization of VAWG Prevention and Response Protocols in Nigeria Tertiary Institutions’ took place on the June 7, 2021 at Hawthorne Suites Abuja. The following universities benefited from the initial roll-out of protocol: the University of Lagos, University of Abuja, and Sokoto State University respectively. This is noteworthy, because the manual provides the much needed guidance backed by the law for tertiary institutions as tertiary institutions now record high cases of GBV due to the “sex-for-mark” scandal uncovered.

Outcome 3: Prevention and Norm Change

Strengthened Advocacies of Champions against Harmful Practices

During the period under review, significant changes instilled by the Spotlight Initiative program in attitudes and practices around VAWG, GBV, and HP issues were recorded. These included the commitment of the Executive Governor of Cross River State to become a champion for gender equality and his pledge to ensure an increased appointment of more qualified women into decision-making positions as a step towards achieving gender equality in the state. The pledge was made during a HeForShe campaign launched by the SI program in Cross River on May 25, 2021. At the launch, the paramount Ruler of the Obaniliku community - HRM Amb. (Dr.) Uchua Amos Uyimulam Item (JP) – was also duly recognized and decorated following the successful elimination of the ‘money marriage’ in Obanliku LGA of Cross River State in 2020 with the support of the Spotlight Initiative. The ‘money marriage’ is a harmful traditional practice where young, underage girls were offered as ‘wives’ by their debtor-parents/guardians to creditors, usually older men, as repayment of loans in some parts of Nigeria. By recognizing this work to end money marriage, the Spotlight Initiative hopes to advance social norms change in favor of girls’ human rights and against such harmful practices.

Through the advocacy of the Spotlight Initiative at the community level, female genital mutilation was pronounced abolished in Ndiebor Amadi, a community in Abakaliki Local Government Area



of Ebonyi State by the traditional leaders. Similarly, the traditional ruler of Kurudu has passed an order, stipulating that anybody found guilty of wife battery, rape, and any other form of violence against women and girls shall be prosecuted in accordance with the native laws and customs and handed over to the police for civil prosecution.

Enhanced prevention drive through second-chance education for women & girls

In the reporting period, at least 15,500 young women and girls furthest behind, at risk of or in child early and forced marriage (CEFM), benefitted from second-chance education programs, including life-skills activities, vocational training, financial literacy, and business management engagements implemented in Sokoto, Cross River, Adamawa, and Ebonyi States. These participants received vocational skills, basic literacy lessons, psycho-social support, and counseling. In Ebonyi and Cross River States, 7,558 beneficiaries (including SGBV survivors, persons with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA), and survivors of child early and forced marriage (CEFM) acquired various skills such as poultry farming, *Alumaco* (aluminum roofing sheets) fabrication, tailoring, confectionary, hairdressing, beading, and hygienic products making (soap, cream, shampoo, disinfectant, air freshener). Beneficiaries of second-chance education programs were also registered with 48 cooperatives (30 in Cross River and 18 in Ebonyi) established to support further linkages to finance through a partnership with the private sector such as microfinance banks. In Sokoto and Adamawa States, 8000 beneficiaries enrolled in the second chance education program through a collaborative effort with the State Ministries of Women and Children's Affairs have shown significant improvement along with their learning progress chart from their enrollment to date. Most of them have gained basic literacy and numeracy skills and are now able to write their names, converse in basic English and recite the alphabets. They have also positively gained from expressive therapy through sporting, arts, and recreational activities and are progressively healing through expression. The second chance education provided beneficiaries with viable economic skills and support to exercise their sexual and reproductive health rights as well as access to essential services.

Enhanced capacity of higher institutions (including virtual platforms) to prevent VAW/GBV.

In Lagos and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), six higher institutions of learning identified for increasing the awareness and prevention of sexual and gender-based violence on campuses and reducing its prevalence are involved in promoting the adoption of policies and strategies or strengthening of these policies where they already exist. The School-Related Gender-Based Violence (SRGBV) protocol modeled after the UNESCO/UN Women SRGBV guidelines has been launched by the Spotlight Program in April 2021 and piloted in the six selected schools. Copies of the protocol have currently been distributed to at least 30 higher learning institutions. The guidelines are providing key information to governments, policymakers, teachers, practitioners,



and civil society on concrete actions to take against school-related gender-based violence.

A virtual training program with about 3600 students enrolled was implemented in 2021 using a combination of physical classes (3092 students reached), an online learning platform (461 participants), and group communication over WhatsApp. Arising from the training, 512 GBV champions³ and advocates⁴ were graduated having achieved the key objectives of the training course aimed at equipping participants with knowledge on addressing school related gender-based violence on campuses and providing them with information on GBV/VAW reporting prevention, and existing laws against sexual violence. An innovative inclusion of the first-ever Facebook Messenger platform in West Africa to support online classroom sessions was also designed for use and helped to reach out to additional 51 participants in this time when COVID-19 preventive measures are still limiting the number of participants to physical public events. This ensured that despite physical restrictions, most targeted persons were reached with knowledge of the SRGBV guidelines and how to prevent/address SGBV incidences in higher institutions.

Expanded access to community-based programs that promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes, and behaviors.

In 2021, a total of 90,384 women, men, girls, and boys were reached with GBV and harmful practices prevention messages through community programs to promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes, and behaviors, including in relation to women's and girls' sexuality and reproduction. Community-based programs included traditional summits, community sensitization, and outreaches, radio programs, sustained campaigns, media engagement, and virtual events including targeting young people. The Ripple Project: a peer-to-peer education program on VAWG/GBV/HP and promotion of SRHR knowledge and services, has seen an expanded outreach of essential information and referrals made by peers, with an expansion aided by the information platform developed for and by the youths. This program has illustrated how centering youth and rights holders to advance efforts to protect their own rights can result in more successful prevention efforts.

The Spotlight initiative in Nigeria broadened its advocacy to reach the societal and community gatekeepers through its summits for both north and south of the traditional and religious leaders. These summits saw in-depth discussions with leaderships across beliefs and cultures, reaching 258 traditional and religious leaders/stakeholders across the SI regions. An additional 545 religious

³ A Champion is a student that has been shortlisted to take the programme modules (virtual or physical sessions). Such individual has also shown interest in speaking up and acting against sexual violence

⁴ An Advocate is the custodian of a dedicated WhatsApp group of 20 Champions. He/ She acts as the class representative and serves as the link between the allocated Champions and Facilitators. The criterion in choosing an Advocate is based on the documented leadership antecedents proven by the applicant during the application process



leaders have been reached to advocate through sermons using scripturally annotated messages, which proved persuasive in convincing religious leaders of their moral responsibility to speak out against violence against women and girls. As a result of these high-level advocacies and others across the country, an increasing number of states have passed the VAPP Act.

Similarly, 272 community advocacy platforms in Sokoto, Ebonyi, FCT, Cross River, and Lagos, have directly reached 60,000 people through community mobilization activities (44,000 women and girls with ending FGM and other harmful practices messages) as well as, 223 religious/traditional leaders, opinion leaders and 1300 women groups. This advocacy led to increased knowledge and awareness on issues of harmful social norms and violence against girls.

The capacities of the representatives on the community advocacy platforms have been built on understanding the implications of VAWG, how to identify and prevent VAWG, international and national laws and policies, as well as services and hotlines to refer cases of violence to. Following the success of the previously established community platforms, an additional 10 were established for far-reaching impact and results in 2021. As a result of this capacity, communities like Abakaliki in Ebonyi, Kurudu in Abuja and Obanliku in Cross River have openly denounced harmful practices against women in their communities.

In total, 3,212 (1,712 Females, 1,500 males), have been reached through community programs to promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes, and behaviors, including in relation to women and girls sexuality and reproduction. An additional 1,377 persons with sensitization activities and awareness messages, campaigns, and interventions transforming negative social norms and gender stereotyping that promote VAWG/HP/SGBV.

Expanded prevention drive through Social Media Platforms.

Furthermore, in 2021, the Spotlight Initiative has also leveraged on social media platforms, TV shows and radio call-in shows to spread awareness on all forms of violence against women to communities when the opportunities for physical presence have been limited. For example, we have supported the production of radio jingles in different local languages, in total, an estimated 4,000,000 have been indirectly reached through the radio jingles. Cumulatively, 4,004,589 people are estimated to have been indirectly reached by campaigns and interventions transforming negative social norms and gender stereotyping that promotes VAWG/HP/SGBV. In addition, over 3000 young people were mobilized to speak up against the culture of silence surrounding violence against girls through the collaboration with faith-based organizations, NYSC. One million voices were amplified through U-report, a social messaging tool and data collection system developed.



Increased participants' knowledge on Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) / VAWG/HP at both in-school and out-of-school levels.

The capacity of 14 youth networks was strengthened to do peer-to-peer education and refer young people to access CSE and SRHR services. Comprehensive sexuality education is now equipping children and young people with the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values that will empower them to realize their health, well-being, and dignity and develop respectful social and sexual relationships. Similarly, a new collaboration evolved which is the collaboration between schools and health facilities. Participating schools have now been linked to relevant health services on VAWG/SGBV, CSE, and SRH (basic and secondary) in Adamawa, FCT, Ebonyi, Sokoto. A total of 20,921 women and girls, including men and boys, were reached with information on VAWG/SGBV, CSE, and SRH.

Outcome 4: Quality Services

Enhanced access to quality essential services at one-stop centers/ GBV DNA Forensic Laboratory. Under this outcome, quality essential services for SGBV survivors were maintained despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and even scaled in the second year of operations of the Nana Khadija one-stop center in Sokoto State and expansion of services rendered by the already existing Mirabel Center in Lagos State to include shelter services and increased capacity for psycho-social support for survivors. Within the reporting period, 849 persons accessed services at the Mirabel Center (813 females and 36 males). Further disaggregation by age shows that there were 704 survivors under the age of 18 and 145 adults while 9 survivors were persons with disabilities. The availability of one-stop centers is critical to ensuring access to services for survivors of violence against women and girls, as they make it easier for survivors to receive support or referrals across the spectrum of essential services (i.e. healthcare, police, justice).

For the Nana Khadija center, a total of 433 persons accessed services within the period with the breakdown as follows: males – 138; females – 295; children (0-18 years) – 372 and adults – 61. These statistics indicate a clear pattern of females being more vulnerable to varying forms of SGBV and requiring more essential services, especially underage female children. An increase in the number of clients who walked into the Centers to access post-incident services (psychosocial support, essential medical services, livelihood referrals) was observed from the month of March because of information materials disseminated to schools, education districts offices, etc. The Spotlight Initiative continues to support Nigeria's first GBV DNA forensic laboratory situated in Modibbo Adama Federal University of Technology, Yola, North-East, Nigeria. The Laboratory is an unprecedented milestone in the efforts to end impunity around GBV and continues to expand access



to forensic services for survivors and GBV prevention because when perpetrators are effectively and timely prosecuted, it will serve as a deterrent to others.

Enhanced capacity for service provision for Government medical staff

The capacity of service providers, including 20 medical practitioners and 16 shelter management personnel (comprising 5 males and 11 females) were enhanced on different skills including forensic medical examination and legal support for survivors of sexual abuse (for the first group), and basic shelter management skills (for the second group). Participants gained a common understanding of what is shelter, key shelter challenges, and the process of sheltering from relevant training organized by the project. They also acquired an understanding of relevant standards best practices, the role of shelter staff, and the responsibilities of a shelter user (resident). They have improved on documentation of cases and routine administration of shelters to ultimately provide higher quality essential services to survivors of violence against women and girls.

Enhanced access to services through social media platforms

Public awareness on sexual and gender-based violence issues and services offered through the Spotlight Initiative program has also increased during the reporting period and targeted the key audiences from various social media platforms. Within the reporting period, two short documentary videos on SGBV survivors and community surveillance team members in Lagos and Sokoto States were produced and circulated through social media platforms. The documentaries consist of an *exposé* on the successes of the Spotlight Initiative Project where survivors shared their stories of how they were supported by the teams, who equally shared their experience on how their capacities to respond to SGBV were built and the challenges they faced. The videos feature the stories of ten (10) SGBV survivors from Lagos and Sokoto (five from each state) and seven (7) members of the surveillance team (four from Sokoto, three from Lagos). The documentaries were also aired on television stations in the two states between August and October 2021, reaching out to over 568,433 persons in Lagos and 360,000 in Sokoto. In Lagos, 5000 persons (3000 women and 2000 men), including 100 persons with disabilities (46 males, 54 females) and 500 young persons (males 180 and 320 females) enhanced their knowledge of SGBV as a result of the monthly meetings and outreach sessions/visits carried out by the project, while in Sokoto, 1800 persons (700 women and 600 men), including 500 young people (220 males, 280 females) and 50 (18 males, 32 females) PWDs were reached. All these participants attended meetings organized by the project which helped team members to review reported cases of sexual & gender-based violence cases, enlightened participants on the available support services, and how to create public awareness about advocacy efforts to end violence against women under the Spotlight Initiative.



Enhanced access to services through Unified Response Protocol and Referral Pathway (URPRP). Through funding and technical support from the Spotlight Initiative, the final version of the Unified Response Protocol and Referral Pathway (URPRP) was validated by stakeholders which include civil society organizations, the Lagos State Ministry of Justice, representatives of the Lagos State Judiciary - in the last quarter of 2021. A Unified Response Protocol and Referral Pathway (URPRP) and a corresponding mobile digital app were first developed in 2020 by the Lagos State Domestic Violence Response Team (DSVRT) to guide the operations of all stakeholders providing domestic violence response services in Lagos State. The URPRP sets minimum standards for the provision of quality and efficient services to survivors of domestic and sexual violence through a multi-disciplinary approach and outlines a state-wide, consistent, predictable, and holistic response mechanism to incidents of domestic violence from access to healthcare, legal support, law enforcement, and other services. The DSVRT currently runs as a live application with the domain <http://lagosdsvcms.org/> and helps survivors and service providers/responders to efficiently report/respond to cases of SGBV within Lagos State. The mobile application developed along with the URPRP is expected to be launched on various mobile app stores early in 2022.

Enhanced access to services through Young Moms' Clinics/Safe-spaces interventions.

The Spotlight Initiative in 2021 made significant contributions to expanding access to girls' and women's empowerment and safe space initiatives. 3659 adolescent girls were enrolled in safe spaces across Sokoto, Adamawa, and Ebonyi State where they are being equipped with knowledge and information on gender-based violence, adolescent sexual and reproductive health, and other critical life skills including communication and negotiation skills and an increased potential to engage in economic and political activities in adulthood. These skills are expected to equip girls with the knowledge and capacity to exercise and advocate for their own human rights even in the face of violence. In the same vein, the SI supported the establishment of the maternity waiting home in Sokoto State where additional 500 women and girls received lifesaving obstetric care. This is primarily to curb maternal mortality owing to the protracted delays experienced by pregnant women and girls when leaving their communities to access services at health facilities. Most women in the communities first patronize untrained traditional birth attendants before they seek professional help at health facilities. .

Similarly, the Spotlight initiative, in collaboration with the Lagos State Government, scaled up with an additional young moms' clinics in Ikorodu to integrate GBV response and SRH services and continued to support service provision in the 5 existing Hello Lagos youth-friendly centers and young moms' clinics. Young moms' clinics are specialized clinics for pregnant adolescent girls aimed at improving their utilization of antenatal care services, increasing their access to post-partum family planning, and linking them to social support services through which they can continue their



education or acquire vocational skills. In 2021, across the supported youth-friendly and young moms clinics, 6710 young people were reached with ASRH information and services including FP and HIV testing; 5936 pregnant adolescent girls received ANC and obstetric care at birth. Another result in SRHR is improved access to fistula repairs by women and girls across supported states. As violence impacts girls in specific ways, and young survivors have specific needs in terms of addressing and preventing violence, these achievements by the Spotlight Initiative are significant in ensuring that the rights and wellbeing of adolescent girls are appropriately and adequately protected.

Enhanced access to livelihood support as part of longer-term recovery services

A key focus of the Spotlight Initiative is women's empowerment through livelihood capacity building, as a core part of longer-term recovery services for survivors. The project supports livelihood diversification of vulnerable women and girls to be better able to deal with economic challenges that increase their susceptibility to GBV, as poverty exacerbates the vulnerability status of women and girls, thus economically empowering women remains a viable strategy to enabling them to better protect themselves from GBV, especially from intimate partner violence.

The Spotlight Initiative primarily undertook livelihood capacity building through the provision of a holistic one-stop-shop intervention approach of capacity building on livelihood skills. This pathway program is all-inclusive, from financial literacy and training on digital marketing to seed grants to help transition rights holders into small business owners and establish entrepreneurship, as well as support with linkages, to business opportunities, including business registration and access to business accounting and available markets.

Leveraging on actors such as the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), Federal and State Ministries of Women Affairs, NAPTIP, DSVRT, and Network of Female Sex Workers, a total of 237 women and girls enrolled and graduated from different vocational pieces of training like culinary arts, fashion design, make up, event planning and decoration, and baking. The beneficiaries include women who are living with disabilities and female sex workers, to ensure the inclusion of marginalized groups facing intersecting forms of discrimination. Also a total of 260 out-of-school girls and young women including those living with disabilities, fistula survivors, and in hard to reach areas in Lagos, Sokoto, Ebonyi, and Cross River States were empowered with income-generating vocational skills, life skills, and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) information and start-up kits at graduation.

Enhanced access to justice services through SGBV Panel & Toll-free lines

In 2021, the Spotlight Initiative worked to ensure that women and girls who experienced VAWG/SGBV/HP had access to justice and used available, accessible, acceptable, and quality





essential services including for long term recovery from violence, and the established GBV CRM toll-free line at the National Human Rights Commission which provides quick access to counseling and legal support for victims of human rights abuses including on sexual and gender-based violence. In 2021, the CRM recorded a total of 3,925 calls from January to December 2021 on SGBV (note: many callers received a resolution to cases during a call). The Commission has received a combination of over 139,780 complaints on SBGV and other forms of human rights abuses through the CRM, walk-ins, and the special SGBV Panel, indicating a substantive need and demand for this service.

Access to justice for women to redress violations of their rights is hampered by long delays in the adjudicatory process, adjournments of proceedings, corruption, congestion in courts, and a culture of impunity and silence. To mitigate these challenges, the Spotlight Initiative partnered with the NHRC and established the presidential special investigation panel on sexual and gender-based violence. The establishment of the SGBV panel has led to increased pressure on law enforcement agencies and justice sector partners to thoroughly investigate and prosecute the cases heard before the panel, and to enforce the rights of women and girls. The public hearings have furthermore become a significant opportunity to sensitize both violators and survivors on their rights and responsibilities, as some of them did not possess this knowledge before.

Outcome 5: Data

Scale-up of GBV Reportage from Six SI states to 36 states of the federation

In collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, the Spotlight Initiative supported the establishment of a GBV data situation room across the 36 states of the federation to scale up GBV data reportage. This intervention has aided the national coordination and response to violence against women and girls as timely data is now available at all levels for decision-making. In 2021, 5,684 cases were reported on the platform, 172 fatal cases, 254 closed cases, 1,113 open cases, and 33 convicted perpetrators. GBV data flows from the 36 states to the GBV data hub at the FMWASD, enabling a central mechanism to ensure coherent and comprehensive information across the country. In addition, over 104 national statistical officers, government personnel, including service providers, from different sectors have their enhanced capacities to collect prevalence and/or incidence data, including qualitative data, on VAWG including SGBV/HP in line with international and regional standards. 20 NHRC staff were trained, on continuous mentoring, and monitored on managing the CRM system. There is increased visibility of National Human Rights Commission GBV Toll-free number in four Spotlight State leading to



increase in reportage of violation cases. This attests to the fact that the culture of silence is been rolled back and more women and girls are empowered to report GBV incidence in their communities

GBV Case information Management System and Child Protection Management Information (CPIMS) System Enhanced

The Spotlight Initiative in Nigeria has rallied key stakeholders in the development, validation, printing, and dissemination of the national data tool – the GBV case information management systems led by the government’s National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). Capacity-building interventions have been held for GBV service providers and managers from the NBS to ensure collective and wide-ranging capacity to utilize this data. Further support has been provided to the NBS in acquiring data kits, computers, and server support to ensure data management with the government. Similarly, the established CPIMS system for children data collection in focus states was strengthened as 137 service providers were trained, including the police, community surveillance teams, and social services workforce on case management and referral pathway using CPIMS processes to further strengthen partners' capacity for information management. This resulted in an increase in the reportage of the incidence of violence. A total of 5,388 cases of violence against girls were reported and referred to other services. Indeed, reporting of GBV cases is the first trigger to any meaningful response to the situation in Nigeria.

Functional Strategic Knowledge Management Technical Working Group on SGBV: To enhance the success of the National GBV situation room, and in close collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, the Initiative inaugurated the Strategic Knowledge Management Technical Working Group on GBV (SKMTWG) for a coordinated national GBV response and programming to ensure harmonized, aligned and accessibility of quality GBV data. The SKMTWG now advises the FMWASD in the multi-sectoral SGBV national response and brings together technical expertise from different sectors, donors, development partners, and civil society organizations. The SKMTWG now provides the highest level of coordination of monitoring and evaluation of programs and surveys on SGBV in Nigeria with the objective of ensuring that programs are responsive to the national indicators. It is a novel intervention for the Government of Nigeria and the first of its kind in the country. This has been followed with the indicator harmonization workshop which held quarterly and brought together technical experts from different sectors, donors, development partners, and civil society organizations.

Enhanced capacity in measuring the success of government’s commitment on GBV through the Barometer

The national GBV barometer developed by the Spotlight Initiative now measures the success of government commitments on GBV response at the local, state, and national levels. The goal of the



barometer is to serve as a digital tool that provides regular digital updates on the state of GBV in the country, that is updated regularly through the collection of data on GBV milestones across the 36 states on actions and progress towards meeting states' target of becoming a gender-sensitive state. Through the accountability tracking barometer, states with similar challenges now share lessons learned or identify areas for collaboration. The comparative analysis that has been generated with other states now serves as a validation of progress and is stimulating a competitive spirit between communities that is expected to foster higher quality data and data-driven decision-making. Donors and development partners now use the data provided in the accountability tracking barometer to track the impact of their work and identify new partnerships. The tool makes it easy for GBV actors across sectors to engage in a national drive toward building back better post Covid-19.

Outcome 6: Women's Movement

Enhanced Capacities of Women Groups on SDGs Benchmarks/Social Accountability & Advocacy for the Monitoring and Implementation of the VAPP Act

In 2021, the Spotlight Initiative helped strengthen the capacities of 120 grassroots, Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) on various topics including monitoring and assessing SDGs benchmarks on VAWG/SGBV/HP/SRHR; coordination mechanisms and social accountability; and designing, implementing, and managing interventions to end VAWG and promote SRHR for women and girls in all SI states. Following the mapping of CBOs conducted in all SI states, beneficiaries of the program reported having enhanced capacities through training conducted by the 20 CBOs selected from the mapping exercise. Through pre-and post-training questionnaires, over 75% of participants reported increased knowledge and understanding of the SDG benchmarks, designing and implementing interventions to end VAWG. All the capacity-building sessions were designed to address identified training needs which included low knowledge of the SDG benchmarks on VAWG/SGBV/HP/SRHR, low capacity for designing, implementing, and managing interventions to end VAWG and promote SRHR for women and girls. Beneficiaries have now successfully undertaken/participated in advocacy visits to traditional leaders and key stakeholders for demanding action in the protection of GBV survivors and the punishment of perpetrators. These interventions included high-level advocacy visits to key stakeholders in the SI program target states, eliciting commitments and actions towards adopting gender-sensitive approaches to governance, the adoption of the VAPP law in the states where the law is pending adoption; and providing capacity strengthening sessions for CSOs and coalitions to demand accountability. The women's movement in Lagos and the FCT also engaged with law enforcement agencies to support responses to sexually related offenses. Representatives of the law enforcement agencies were enlightened on suitable approaches to GBV responses to ensure redress for survivors.



Enhanced Advocacy on the Aspirations of the Nigerian Women in Nigeria's Constitution

The reporting period was marked by an increase in advocacy for gender-responsive reforms of the Nigerian Constitution (1999) currently under review. In Lagos, the Spotlight Initiative (through WARDC as an implementing partner) pioneered the release of a pre-public press statement that was co-signed by 183 CSOs in Nigeria demanding for a constitution that speaks to the aspirations of the Nigerian people, particularly women, who have suffered historical marginalization and exclusion under the theme "The Constitution that Nigerian Women Want." The press statement was followed by a formal presentation of a 10 (ten) point agenda memorandum in Lagos State to the Senate Committee of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on the review of the 1999 Constitution. The press statement enumerated 10 points for consideration in the constitution review; the need for gender-sensitive language, conscious provisioning towards the attainment of gender equity and equal opportunities, socio-economic rights, citizenship, human dignity, right to private life and family life, non-discrimination, twining in government (in such a way that must promote women's political participation and gender equality in a manner that where there is a male and a female in elective and appointive position at all levels), special measure in all elective and appointive positions in government at all levels, and special seats for women in parliament. The collective statement is expected to influence government actors to adopt a gender-transformative constitution that better serves gender equality, the elimination of violence against women and girls, and leaving no one behind.

Enhanced Advocacy for Gender Equality, Gender-Sensitive Budgetary Allocations

Within the period, small grants recipients under the Spotlight Initiative program (consisting of CSOs representatives of persons with disability, young persons, and faith-based organizations) played key roles towards building the capacities of young persons and persons with disabilities or facing intersecting forms of discrimination to advocate for gender equality. With the capacities acquired, these groups have advocated for equitable gender representation at decision-making levels and contributed to advocacy for the passage of the VAPP law in Adamawa State. They have also engaged with key government officials and legislators for demanding accountability on gender equality, gender-sensitive budgetary allocations, and equitable representation of qualified women and persons with disabilities at decision-making positions also in Adamawa state and the FCT.

Increased Awareness on the Need for Protecting Women's Rights

In Sokoto State, the Spotlight Initiative Program through the Centre for Human Rights in Islam (CHRI) – a grant recipient - resulted in increased awareness on the need for protecting women's rights; increased willingness to set up independent initiatives; increased skills/capacities of project participants and the general public to strengthen initiatives addressing SGBV, HP, VAWG, and FGM. To ensure sustainability, the Sokoto State Government also supported the activities of the organization through the establishment of an outreach office in the state. A coalition of CSOs was also created - Network Against Gender-Based Violence Against Women and Girls (NGBWG) - to advocate for and continually sensitize members of the society on the ills of SGBV. The coalition



is now involved in strengthening and amplifying the voice of women's movements towards addressing SGBV. In addition, a quarterly Journal of Human Rights in Islam for the promotion of universal principles of human rights including women's and child's rights was developed to address issues of harmful practices such as child marriage and its justification by some Islamic scholars. Emerging results show that Islamic scholars are speaking against harmful practices in their small group teachings through this journal, a positive sign for longer-term efforts to prevent violence against women and girls through community and civil society mobilization.

Capacity to Provide Quality Disability-Inclusive Service Delivery (DISD) enhanced

24 first responders, GBV service providers from health, justice sectors, and CSOS in the FCT, including the FCT Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Response Team (FCT-SGBVRT), were guided by a disability rights-focused group on how to provide quality Disability-Inclusive Service Delivery (DISD). Through this exercise, service providers also enhanced their knowledge on psychosocial counseling and trauma support for survivors of SGBV. This was a result of in-depth training of service providers' on effectively engaging with SGBV survivors conducted at the Custodian Hotel in Abuja on March 15, 2021. Following this training, first responders have started to account for specific needs of persons with disabilities in GBV service delivery, an important achievement in line with the principle of leaving no one behind.

Amplifying the voices of women on EVAWG

As part of the 16 Days of Activism campaign against GBV conducted from November 25 – December 10, 2021, the Women in Film & Television International (WIFTI) – Nigeria Chapter was launched on November 26, 2021 to amplify the voices of women on EVAWG, expand the women's movement and strengthen the capacity of existing platforms of actors in the Nigerian entertainment sector to speak out/take actions towards ending VAWG. Women in Film & Television International (WIFTI) is a global network of non-profit membership chapters dedicated to advancing professional development and achievement for women working in all areas of film, video, and other screen-based media. The WIFTI platform provides an opportunity for leading women in the creative arts industry to collectively express solidarity with efforts aimed at eliminating gender-based violence in Nigeria.

Reporting on SRHR:

The Spotlight Initiative in Nigeria continues to make the case that addressing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and ending gender-based violence is critical for achieving the sustainable development goals - ensuring that no one is left behind and that targets within health, education, gender equality and addressing inequalities are reached. Spotlight Initiative in Nigeria is serving as a model for other SRHR initiatives as it continues to demonstrate that sexual gender-based violence, harmful practices, and sexual and reproductive health are intrinsically related and should be addressed from a holistic perspective and that gender equality cannot be achieved without women and girls full access to sexual and reproductive health and rights.



Nigeria is among the countries in Africa with significant earmarking of funds for SRHR intended to strengthen efforts for SRHR broadly. Nigeria has chosen to prioritize ending obstetric fistula as one key element. The Spotlight Initiative program addresses the two most prevalent harmful practices – child marriage and female genital mutilation and both are directly related to obstetric fistula. An estimated 20,000 new cases of obstetric fistula occur in Nigeria every year and in communities where child marriage and FGM are common, the numbers of obstetric fistula are high. To highlight the need to prioritize the issue, Nigeria chooses to allocate the SI seed funding to obstetric fistula repair to enable women and girls living with fistula have access to repair.

Key results have been achieved in advancing SRHR thanks to the Spotlight Initiative funding. SI program in Nigeria has continued to leverage additional funding for advancing SRHR including obstetric fistula prevention, treatment, and reintegration for its survivors; access to obstetric care especially for adolescent mothers and first-time young mothers; meeting the SRHR needs for survivors of GBV, FGM; expanding access to youth-friendly SRHR information and services for young people including those with disabilities, and in pioneering promising practices in ending maternal deaths like the Maternity Waiting for Homes, a center developed to accommodate pregnant women prior to going into labour to avoid delays that often result in maternal deaths.

Through increased advocacy and investment by the Spotlight Initiative, more resources are being leveraged for fistula repair from other programs, such as the Canada funds, and the government's contribution of man-power. In 2021, an additional 278 women and girls in Adamawa and Sokoto States had their dignity restored with the successful repair of their obstetric fistula. In Lagos State, South-West, Nigeria, young moms' clinics have been scaled up to the two high burden and heard to reach LGAs- Ikorodu & Mushin to expand access to SRHR services for pregnant adolescent girls. The Spotlight Initiative also supported service provision in the five existing youth-friendly SRH centers and young moms' clinics. In the previous year, across the supported youth-friendly and young moms' clinic, 3,798 young people were reached with ASRH information and services including FP and HIV testing; 196 pregnant adolescent girls received ANC, and 31 received obstetric care at birth. In 2021, one of the SRHR interventions was to provide a maternity waiting home in Sokoto, North-West, Nigeria to address the delays in accessing critical healthcare that contribute to preventable maternal deaths.

A total of 15,558 learners enrolled for the SCE program (3558 in Ebonyi, 4000 in Cross Rivers 4000 in Adamawa, and 4000 in Sokoto) and benefitted from a curriculum for post-literacy classes of the SCE program designed by the SI program which has incorporated different SRHR aspects.



These include teenage pregnancy, contraception, sexually transmitted infections/HIV/AIDS, Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), Harmful Traditional Practices (HTPs), female genital mutilation, child marriage, sexual abuse/rape, and legal instruments available for the protection of the rights of girls and women. The curriculum is implemented in Cross River, Ebonyi, Sokoto, and Adamawa States. The second chance program has led to beneficiaries having a clear understanding of their SRHR and support to access essential services as required.

SRHR services are also incorporated into the operations of the one-stop centers supported in Lagos (Mirabel Centre) and Sokoto (Nana Khadija Centre). 1280 SGBV survivors who visited the 2 centers were provided with SRHR awareness information and services in addition to psychosocial support and counseling. This has resulted in survivors being better informed on their rights in addition to other services accessed in the one-stop centers. In this way, the Spotlight Initiative has helped increase the number of survivors who access SRHR services.

Rights Holders (“Beneficiaries”)

Indicative numbers	Direct for 2021	Indirect for 2021	Comments / Explanations
Women (18 yrs. and above)	61,434	4,535,000	Second Chance Education Beneficiaries - 15,500 One-Stop Centre GBV Survivors – 210 GBV Services Awareness Campaigns – 3700 SRGBV Guidelines Pilot Training – 2550 COTLA convenings – 2 22,484 women reached with messages on harmful practices including FGM 500,000 reached through documentary video
Girls (5-17)	60,017	653,000	One-Stop Centre GBV Survivors – 1100 GBV Services Awareness Campaigns – 250 41,916 Girls who received support to access services and messages on SRHR
Men (18 yrs. and above)	63,145	4,457,000	One-Stop Centre GBV Survivors – 22 SRGBV Guidelines Pilot Training – 580 GBV Services Awareness Campaigns – 3700



			668 Men who attended the community. Awareness programs on violence against girls. 500,000 reached through documentary video
Boys (5-17 yrs.)	12,674	50,500	One-Stop Centre GBV Survivors – 126
TOTAL	197,270	9,695,500	

Challenges and Mitigating Measures

A major challenge encountered during implementation in the reporting year stemmed from the escalating security challenges arising from the sit-at-home directive across South-East, Nigeria due to the continued incarceration of the leader of the Indigenous People of Biafra, a separatist organization for the secession of Eastern Nigeria from the rest of the country. As part of protest measures, the South-East States observe a sit-at-home order on every Monday, shutting down all transportation and commercial activities. This impacted significantly on implementation in Ebonyi State located within the region. Measures were put in place to ensure that planned results were achieved during the period which include travel/work on Saturdays and engagement with security agencies. Security agencies provided periodic security situation reports which enabled partners continue implementation in relative safety.

Challenges resulting from inter-government complexities have affected implementation due to administrative bureaucracy resulting in some activities being suspended due to delays in funds disbursement. Spotlight Initiative will continue to work systematically to address these complexities while implementing solutions ranging from establishing a dedicated knowledge space for inter-agency information-sharing and reportage to setting committees with the explicit mandate to improve coordination through government capacity development, both within the Spotlight Initiative team and with external partners.

Poor access to justice and law enforcement (case response and investigation): It has become evident that the VAWG/SGBV response within policy, access to justice, and law enforcement has not been allocated enough funds to allow policy-focused interventions and conduct thorough response and investigations of cases. The lack of funds leads to victims, CSOs involved in the case, or law enforcement officers themselves making out-of-pocket payments for transportation, medical examinations, legal fees, and other associated costs, evidence of a lack of equal access to services.



Members of the Nigeria Police Force have also been indicted by several reports on violence, for perpetuating violence, including sexual violence. This further discouraged survivors to report cases. These challenges are being addressed through interventions on gender-responsive budgeting to secure sustainable funding for cases of VAWG/SGBV, training of law enforcement officers on human rights-based prevention and response to VAWG/SGBV, and high-level advocacy to ensure that the leadership of relevant institutions are on board in addressing internal challenges and fostering a community of positive social norms regarding VAWG.

GBV data quality issues result from poor coordination and weak reporting structure data at the sub-national level. To address this, the Spotlight Initiative has helped initiate discussions with the federal and state Ministries of Women Affairs and Social Development (MWASD), because of their leadership role in the setup of the data dashboard for national GBV Data. State-level advocacy, capacity building, and monitoring visits have been conducted to facilitate a better understanding of the need to conduct routine Data Quality Assessments (DQA) to improve the quality of reported data. More specifically, the DQA approach will help to reduce or eliminate transcription error and double-counting issues.

Some of the CSOs that are not supported by the Spotlight Initiative want to be incentivized financially to report data on the national GBV dashboard. This poses a challenge for the success and sustainability of the project. Currently, many CSOs and service providers only share data on GBV with their donors and do not share it with the state government. To resolve this, advocacy efforts will be intensified to all stakeholders/donors for the CSOs they support to share their GBV data through the harmonized system of GBV data reporting as approved by the Minister of FMWASD.

Cooperation and collaboration issue among partners (traditional and government at the sub-national level): Spotlight Initiative implementing partners have experienced some delays in engaging with traditional leaders due to bureaucratic procedures and changes in leadership, and have encountered some difficulties in accessing information such as gender-disaggregated data at the state-level from government agencies. In some instances, some government officials have demonstrated a lack of interest in the Spotlight Initiative by leaving training sessions early or by being reluctant to attend at all. These challenges have been resolved by continuous dialogue and follow-up with government partners and traditional leaders to enhance their commitment and identify key champions to promote the Spotlight Initiative within these organizations, as well as the use of alternative sources to access data.



The COVID-19 pandemic has affected and led to the postponement of several interventions, such as physical training, community awareness, and advocacy visits, which have not been able to carry out during lockdown and due to other restrictive government guidelines. The lockdown has also made it more difficult to communicate with several government agencies that appear to have reduced capacities under the current circumstances. Additionally, some partners have expressed a preference for physical meetings due to poor internet connectivity and limited engagement during virtual meetings. We have tried to mitigate this by adopting a hybrid approach where we engaged stakeholders in small gatherings respecting social distancing, combined with virtual meetings which actively promoted interactions between participants. We have also continuously followed up with government agencies and identified key champions that have been able to support communication and commitments to maintain and strengthen our partnership, despite the challenging situations.

Lessons Learned and New Opportunities

a) Lessons Learned

- **Traditional leaders who strongly affirm their position to work with communities** are pivotal in addressing negative cultural gender norms that perpetuate GBV and harmful practices directed to women and girls. This was evident in the successful passage of the VAPP Laws in 2021, particularly in Sokoto and Adamawa States where they played critical roles towards ensuring that religious tenets were properly accommodated with full regard for the rights of vulnerable persons which the law seeks to protect. Traditional and religious leaders remain key to the successful implementation of the male engagement component of the Spotlight Initiative program as community gatekeepers and custodians of traditional and religious norms.
- **Working with women movements and solidarity groups alongside male championships proved to lead to a stronger and unified voice in creating opportunities** for women and girls to exercise their social, economic, and political rights. These groups were engaged at different stages of implementation in 2021 and highly contributed to the changes in policies, norms, and improvement in the delivery of services to GBV survivors. Further implementation of the program and other future programs need to consider this collaboration for achieving successful results. Engagement with male champions further reinforced the message that VAWG is not just a “woman’s issue” but requires all people within communities to stand up for justice.
- **Leveraging governance structures to adjust program design processes** has contributed to the development of high-quality programs on eliminating violence against



women and girls, in line with both the Spotlight Initiative's key principles and the UN reform. This supports the principle of building on existing structures.

- **Early and persistent engagements with key stakeholders**, Government officials and traditional and religious leaders, are key to achieving effective implementation and avoiding delays. We have learned that it is important for meeting notice to be sent not more than four weeks to secure the participation of religious and traditional leaders., This should be supported by persistent follow-up reminders.
- **The importance of disaggregating data especially by responders of SGBV** to include persons with disabilities (PWDs) provides a holistic and inclusive approach to addressing the epidemic of abuse. Disaggregated data has further enhanced our internal capacity to identify and resolve the gaps why certain groups of persons are not being served as they should. Simply put, accountability has been enhanced.
- **Adapting our interventions and modalities based on the local context is critical.** It is important to respect local values and norms. For example, the use of culturally appropriate language, and local spokespersons for advocacies is more effective than external person that are not familiar with the terrain. This is particularly relevant in predominantly Islamic environments like Adamawa and Sokoto States.

b) New Opportunities

- The Ministry of Finance, Budget, and National Planning has Included a gender responsive budgeting component in the 2022 budget call circular. The budget cycle presents therefore a key opportunity to institutionalize gender-responsive budgeting principles for Spotlight Initiative target states and advocate for a budget to address GBV. The program will also leverage this opportunity to pave the ground for ensuring sustainable GBV planning budget cycles through strengthening the capacities of relevant government officers in key line ministries.
- The wide partnerships that SI established with professional organizations have broadened its opportunity for advocacy towards the elimination of violence against women and girls. The renewed commitment of professional bodies equally opened the wider opportunity for improving services while advocating improvement in access for survivors. This has granted Spotlight Initiative the opportunity to first use the professional medical bodies to spread information and raise awareness amongst the circle and also reach patients. Secondly, Spotlight Initiative used this built relationship in improving the capacity and techniques of



health professionals in identifying abused survivors who present as patients in clinic and offer GBV services in a confidential manner.

- In line with VAW priorities in Nigeria, the trend in the adoption of the VAPP Act and the need for effective implementation of existing gender protection legislation provides a unique opportunity for the Spotlight Initiative program to scale up and support funded implementation modalities of the VAPP law in the various states towards ensuring adequate protection of GBV survivors and punishment of perpetrators.
- **Joint UN/EU media briefing on the 16 days of activism to end gender-based violence.** We will continue to explore the opportunity for joint statement on GBV issues in Nigeria, with the EU as concerted efforts have proven to be a more effective way of speaking the truth to power. The opportunity of a joint town hall meeting with the EUD will be explored to discuss and resolve issues affecting women and girls.

Innovative, Promising or Good Practices

- **Leveraging/Expanding Existing Platforms to Promote Women’s Movement – Launch of Women in Film and Television International (WIFTI – Nigeria Chapter)** has proved to be a promising practise that is expected to work and expand to other media platforms due to the important role and influence the media and entertainment industry play in shaping attitudes, norms and culture within society. The industry provides an important organizing platform for women in film and television to respond to gender-related priorities within their industry, whilst also facilitating their efforts to champion gender equality and women’s empowerment more broadly in Nigeria.
- **Lesson sharing sessions on the implementation of the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) (VAPP) Act/Law in Nigeria.** The VAPP lesson sharing session is a promising practice that demonstrated a high degree of success and the possibility of replication in the same setting is guaranteed within Phase II implementation of the Spotlight Initiative especially as it incorporates a process of continuous learning and improvement.
- **The National *Barometer for Gender-Based Violence Accountability tracking*** is a good practice for tracking progress, policy, and commitments of all stakeholders, it serves as a national GBV Information hub. The key objective of the digital barometer is to evaluate progress on multi-sectoral efforts, emphasize their relative urgency, and share insights into the priorities within their own organizations and sectors. It will also highlight



which specific protection output is being addressed and focused on within the assessed period.

- **Ripple Project: The Peer Education Program for Youths** has proven to be an innovation. It is a model which seeks to increase awareness around issues of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), Harmful Practices (HP), and Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) among young people in the Cross River State, Nigeria.
- **The STEAM Flagship Project for Women and Girls** is an innovation using an integrated approach to life skills and 21st century entrepreneurship training for vulnerable women and girls and survivors of gender-based violence, harmful practices, and obstetric fistula. Beneficiaries are enrolled in a free six-month program in bag manufacturing academy. The flagship is being implemented as part of the Spotlight Initiative long-term recovery intervention for survivors of gender-based violence and harmful practices.
- **Solution Room – A Prosecution Hub to promote Access to Justice for VAC Survivors** In a promising practice, seeking to promote access to legal aid to ensure access to justice for girl-survivors of sexual violence. The solution room wants to break the barriers constraining access to justice for child survivors of sexual violence, particularly girl survivors. The initiative promotes cross-sectoral information exchanges. Plans are underway to scale up this practice to the six SI states.

Communications and Visibility

a) Overview

In the reporting year, a good number of media hits were achieved through media articles and reports on Spotlight Initiative interventions. Visibility also increased significantly across our social media platforms on Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube. High-level events both national and international media have produced over one hundred reports, social media posts reached over 10 million impressions via social media platforms and across communities in the states.

An estimated 4 million people have been reached through radio jingles. The increased visibility resulted in increased awareness among the public about the Spotlight Initiative and prevention of violence against women and girls, as well as referral pathways and response mechanisms for cases of VAWG. To ensure public awareness of the program, the visibility of the program and the donor, and avail well-packaged information, the Program produced videos, ensured media coverage at



high-level events, published success stories, developed human interest stories, and produced focused radio and TV spot messages, events, social media campaigns (HeForShe at home campaign), visibility items, multimedia campaigns, and press briefings.

Key events in the media included the international women's month commemorated in March 2021 through the Spotlight Initiative. The event was attended by traditional and religious leaders and the Council of Traditional Leaders for Africa (COTLA) renewed their commitment towards ending violence against women and girls. Another notable event in 2021 was the launch of the Women in Film and Television (WIFTI) Nigerian Chapter attended by diplomats, government representatives and veteran filmmakers in the TV industry, with the goal of working with these celebrities to send out messages on EVAW through the entertainment industry. This official launch garnered wide visibility on social media as well as traditional TV media. The collaboration is premised on the grounds that working with women in the film and TV industry would lead to a positive reporting on stories of women, positive portraying of women in media, and an increased broadcast of key messages on ending violence against women girls through storytelling and routine work of women in media. The campaign is expected to address the gaps in media reporting on SGBV, including incorrect captioning of the Spotlight Initiative program, ethical issues around survivor identities and usage of GBV terminologies.

b) Messages.

c) Media and visibility events

Launch of the Women in Film and Television International Network (WIFTI) Nigeria Chapter

The Joint EU-UN Spotlight Initiative in collaboration with leading women from the creative arts industry has launched the Nigerian Chapter of the Forum for Women in Film and Television International (WIFTI). WIFTI is a global network dedicated to advancing professional development and achievement for women working in all areas of film, video, and other screen-based media. Members of this network are able to deploy their platforms and wide influence to further espouse key GBV messaging and shape the discourse of EVAWG through film and other forms of entertainment.

Religious and Traditional Leaders add Voices to Ending GBV during SI Nigeria Summit in Abuja

With the theme *Moving from Awareness to Taking Action*, the summit featured insights and discussions on the root causes and solutions to ending GBV during presentations from the panelists drawn from women groups, traditional leaders, NGOs, and members of the academia.



Novelty Football Match:

Spotlight Initiative organized a novelty match to raise awareness on gender-based violence issues, prevention, and response in the country. The match brought together key stakeholders including government partners and members of the wider development community programming around GBV in the country. Through this activity, awareness was raised, and people were educated on the dangers of GBV, prevention, and referral services available for survivors.

Development and Unveiling of National GBV Accountability Framework:

As part of activities to commemorate the 16 days of activism against sexual and gender-based violence, the program in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development organized the unveiling of the national gender-based violence accountability framework, to provide a roadmap for all partners from the national and sub-national level to act for a sustained, strengthened, and coordinated national GBV response.

Inauguration of the Strategic Knowledge Management Technical Working Group on SGBV:

To enhance the success of the National GBV situation room, and in close collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, the initiative inaugurated the Strategic Knowledge Management Technical Working Group (SKMTWG) on GBV for a coordinated national GBV response and programming to ensure harmonized, aligned, and accessibility of quality GBV data. The SKMTWG is structured to advise the FMWASD in the multi-sectoral SGBV national response and brings together technical expertise from different sectors, donors, development partners, and civil society organizations.

Launch of He-for-She in Calabar

The HeForShe initiative aims to engage men to be advocates for gender equality. It was launched in Cross River State in 2021 with the governor and traditional leaders pledging support to the campaign.

d) Campaigns

Nigerian hit TV series 'Papa Ajasco' collaborates with Spotlight Initiative

Spotlight Initiative, collaborating with Wale Adenuga Productions and KIN Production created and aired 13 episodes that shed light on violence against women and girls. These episodes explored issues such as rape, battery, child abuse, early marriage, female genital mutilation, HIV, and the



culture of silence around violence with the aim of promoting discussion and bringing about positive change.

e) **Human interest stories:**

*[Journalists breaking boundaries to end violence against women and girls:](#) This story highlights a recent media dialogue on ethical and gender-sensitive reporting, advocacy, and solutions journalism supported by Spotlight Initiative which has further strengthened the skills of journalists like Udeme.

*[Emergency shelter in Calabar helps survivors of violence against women and girls:](#) This story revealed the response to over 100 cases a year, but during the COVID-19 lockdown, the team supported more than 250 vulnerable children by providing them with food, handwashing materials, and face masks while offering remote support and supplies to about 30 women.

*[103 women and girls living with obstetric fistula receive surgical repairs in Nigeria:](#) This story examined how 103 Women and Girls Living with Obstetric Fistula in Sokoto, North-West, Nigeria had their dignity restored following the successful repair of their obstetric fistula with funding provided by the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative.

*[The community watchdogs working to end violence against women and girls in Nigeria:](#) This story showcased the good work of Ms. Akamgbe who is often the first person, women and girls turn to when they experience violence. She reports these cases to NGOs and works with them to ensure that women do not endure further abuse.

*[2,000 women and girls take to the streets to demand an end to gender-based violence in Nigeria:](#)

This story highlighted the resolve of 2,000 women and girls who took to the streets as part of the freedom run, a sports activity to raise public awareness on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) in Ebonyi, South-East, Nigeria.

f) **Testimonials:**

*“We appreciate the immense support from Spotlight Initiative on the push to begin the Nigerian Network of this chapter (WIFTI). Working with you has brought us together to work in collaboration on issues that affect women and girls, we know we (creatives) have the power to shape minds, now we are going to learn together and work together for the good of womankind, for the good of humankind and for the good of Nigeria”. - **Joke Silva-Nigerian Actress (Convener, WIFTI)***

“Although public sector media have limitations in what they report, there is a whole world of things we can do to end violence against women and girls. We must give the girl child voice through



intentional monitoring of court cases involving survivors of violence and collaborate with like minds to create powerful and targeted content for Radio programs”

- Dr. Saleh Ibrahim (Chairman Sokoto Broadcasting Corporation)

“ The concept behind the six-pillars mutually reinforcing pillars of the Spotlight Initiative is an excellent concept, very comprehensive. I have adapted it for use in managing quite a number of UNICEF’s ongoing programs. - Peter Hawkins (UNICEF Representative in Nigeria).

“The Spotlight Initiative in Nigeria ventilates the programs and activities of the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development. We are more than grateful for this partnership ! - Olusa Joseph Dada-Director PRS Federal Ministry of Women Affairs.

g) **Photos:** [PHOTO SUBMISSION PLATFORM](#).

h) **Videos** [VIDEO SUBMISSION PLATFORM](#)

Next Steps

Technical perspective:

The next phase of the Spotlight Initiative program implementation includes entrenching sustainability of results achieved in Phase I.

- In 2022, a focus will be on ensuring women survivors of GBV are not just considered beneficiaries but also as agents of change through enhancing their capacity to advocate for EAW, demand accountability of key government officials, promote and maintain awareness of GBV and its ill effects across all strata of society.
- The Spotlight Initiative program will also support the development of multi-sectoral state plans for ending VAW, in the six-focus states leveraging on the Bauchi State plans. In phase II, this model will be replicated across all SI states to entrench a sustainable implementation process towards full ownership and funding by respective state governments.
- In addition, essential services for GBV survivors will be scaled up to expand the scope of existing one-stop centres in Lagos and Sokoto States while another center will be established in Ebonyi State. The Ebonyi State Government is expected to demonstrate commitment, including by providing a suitable facility and staff to avoid full reliance of the centre on external donor funding. The ones in Cross River, Adamawa & FCT State will be further supported to be more functional in 2022.



- This program will strengthen our collaboration with parliamentarians, both at the federal and state levels. Based on previous assessments of the legal and policy environment, we will work with the legislative arm to review pending bills to make sure they are women and girl-friendly, in terms of strengthening their rights. We will furthermore review opportunities for new legislation on Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Harmful Practices (HP), and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), to jointly advocate for their adoption. This will include enhancing the capacities of parliamentarians to advocate for, draft new legislation, strengthen existing legislation and policies in VAWG/GBV/HP/SRHR. We expect this to ensure that Nigeria has legislative and policy frameworks in place that are translated into plans. Similarly, we will also scale up the capacity building on gender-responsive budgeting with both key government officials and parliamentarians.
- The project will continue to strengthen the knowledge and capacity of service providers to deliver quality and coordinated services to survivors of VAWG/GBV/HP. One of our key interventions is the Case Response Management System (CRM) and toll-free line to systematically capture the reporting, documentation, and analysis of sexual and gender-based violence as well as human rights violations in Nigeria. In 2022, the capacity of the CRM will be expanded to handle more complaints, given the significant demand where over 4,000 cases were reported only in the last quarter of 2021. We will also continue to enhance the referral mechanism to quality and multi-sectoral services, including legal and livelihood support.
- To further improve access to justice for survivors of VAWG/GBV/HP, we will leverage the presidential special investigation panel on sexual and gender-based violence, which the Spotlight Initiative has supported the National Human Rights Commission to establish. We will assess the opportunities for regular hearings, enhanced presence in different states, and strengthen the capacity of the panel to follow up on pending court cases.
- The initiative will continue to strengthen the data component by assessing the impact of current interventions, to ensure that the collation of data on VAWG/GBV/HP/SRHR remains standardized and certified in a coherent manner. To increase the coverage, more stakeholders will be brought on board.
- To guarantee the success of these interventions, we will continue to work with and identify key champions within relevant institutions that can effectively support the implementation of Spotlight Initiative programs and facilitate communication with and commitments from national stakeholders. We will furthermore, continue to ensure early engagements and dialogue, to promote local ownership and sustainability. In all our capacity-building sessions



we apply a participatory approach as well, to be able to leverage feedback from partners and encourage ownership.

- To fully bring the National CSRG on board, a one-day meeting will be organized to review and finalize their 2022 work plan, for implementation to commence.

Operational/Programmatic perspective:

- The Spotlight Initiative project will continue to act and implement the recommendations from the mid-term report and ensure operational efficiency by adhering to the UN Reform principles of working as one UN. This is to avoid duplication and wastage of scarce resources. RUNOs commit to being more open in sharing and reviewing their work plans jointly and to ensure a joint implementation is achieved especially at the sub-national level. This is to reduce waste in time, effort, and materials as much as possible, while still producing high-quality services, etc.
- More focus will be given to internal analysis and consultation to ensure the project's performance indicators that are underperforming are prioritized and mitigation measures are put in place to accelerate the achievement of these indicators.
- To achieve better operational efficiency, the project will continue to support the joint monitoring approach that demands that all stakeholders (CRSG/UN/EU/Government) jointly participate in the monitoring process and in resolving the issues identified in a participatory manner.
- In terms of the sustainability of the initiative, the resource mobilization plan (joint basket funding) will be finalized and rolled out. More high-level advocacy visits will be carried out by the EU/UN to all the six focus states to ensure the government at the sub-national level dedicate budget lines to sustain GBV related activities.

