



# Joint Programme 2021 Annual Progress Report

## SDG Financing Portfolio - Component 1

### Cover page

**UNCT/MCO:** Bolivia

**Reporting Period:** 1 January - 31 December 2021

**JP title:** Funding Guidelines for the Response to Violence Against Women and Children

**PUNOs:** UNICEF, UNFPA

**Government partner:** Ministry of Planning for Development

**Target SDGs:** SDGs 3, 5, 16

**Gender Marker:** 3

**Approved budget:** USD 837,407

**Co-funding:** USD 614,044

**Total Disbursement by 2021:** USD 400,585

**Total estimated expenditures:** USD 314,410.9 (est. Delivery rate: 78.5%)

**Total estimated commitments** (including expenditures): USD 354,163.7 (est. Committed rate: 88.4%)

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### Executive Summary

Increased public demand and evidence generation for the reform of Law 348 “Comprehensive Law to Guarantee Women a Life Free of Violence” • Provided technical support to government entities in charge of law reform. The process built a strong demand from society to decision-makers to identify bottlenecks and propose modifications, bringing forward the needs of the most vulnerable groups. The proposal includes an evidence-based plan to increase the budget and to develop networks of services in municipalities. • Contributed to evidence generation, provided much-needed inputs to the Ministry of Justice and the inter-ministerial commission, to formulate a proposal for the reform process. Based on the evidence generated, a proposal for Law 348 was developed to improve the financing of the state’s entities in charge of the fight against gender violence and attention services to victims. Strengthened the local protection system for women and children affected by violence • In partnership with the Ministry of Justice, an institutional technical roundtable was established to strengthen the protection system at the subnational level. This roundtable is a space to discuss alternatives to eliminate bottlenecks in the regulatory, budgetary, and planning components of the protection system. Furthermore, through technical support to the Ministry of Justice, a National Sub-Council was created to address the institutional weaknesses at the local level

in dealing with cases of violence against children. • In alliance with the Ministry of Justice and the Association of Bolivian Women Councilors (ACOBOL), working groups were created to strengthen the proposal of management models for the effective functioning of protection services against violence. As a result, five innovative models were proposed through a study supported by the JP, that will improve the access and efficiency of the intersectoral service to women and children affected by violence, especially those who live in rural municipalities with low population density.

## Annual Progress

### Overall JP self-assessment of 2021 progress:

Satisfactory (majority of expected results achieved; 1 to 3 months delay in implementation)

**Comments on self-assessment:** The JP has achieved significant advocacy results at the national level. The incidence in the reform process of Law 348, and the establishment of roundtables to address the institutional weaknesses in addressing violence at the local level are two of the most relevant ones. However, the complicated national context in terms of weak public funding hampered by the Covid-19 pandemic and the global economic crisis has created a complex scenario for influencing budget allocation to address the issue of violence. Moreover, the political instability over the last two years, marked by the changes of the national government on two occasions, has led to political polarization and a complex political climate, which caused a major challenge for the UN to carry out its advocacy actions with the government within the JP. The multiple changes in the government's authorities have also generated delays in the programme implementation, setting an extremely tight timeline for completing planned activities.

### Overall progress and key developments to date (3 key JP milestones)

- a) Governance and coordination. Through the JP, UN agencies provided technical support and advocacy to the government to create and operationalize different structures/spaces (i.e., technical committee and national sub-council) for reflection and discussion of the gaps in regulatory, budgetary and management issues faced by the violence protection system nationwide. Representatives from the national level (ministries) and the municipal level participated in these established groups in coordination with municipal-level associations.
- b) Research, assessments, and feasibility studies on SDG financing. A set of evidence was produced on the existing State's budget allocation gaps for implementing actions against gender-based violence. The studies provided critical inputs for advocacy towards improved financing of the violence protection system. In addition, several other studies have been carried to identify weaknesses in the management mechanism of the institutions that constitute the protection system, proposing more efficient models or modalities. The information generated in the studies informed the ongoing reform process of Law 348.
- c) Financial policy development and financial advocacy activities. Although the programme has not yet managed to implement concrete strategies to improve the funding of the national protection system, the JP partnered with the FAM Bolivia for developing a financing strategy. In addition, five municipalities have been prioritized to design investment plans for improving access to quality attention to victims of violence.
- d) Monitoring and review of financial and other resources. The studies that assessed current investment levels by the government for prevention of, and response to violence against children and women at the national level will contribute to monitoring budget allocations related to this area. Also, with the evidence generated, a proposal for a national monitoring mechanism for the execution of subnational budgets allocated to the fight against GBV has been submitted to the Ministry of Justice. This proposal has been included in the project of the reform of Law 348.
- e) Capacity building for key stakeholders on SDG financing. Municipal government authorities and technical staff strengthened their capacity for budgeting. As a result, they are now playing an active role in technical discussions around the lack of adequate funding for the protection system from violence against children and

women. Municipal-level associations (FAM and ACOBOL) have also strengthened their capacities to articulate the demands of municipalities in the technical discussion and identification of alternatives to challenges in the protection system’s functioning at the local level.

- f) Mobilization of new partnerships (e.g. parliamentarians, civil society, IFIs, bilateral/multilateral actor; private sector) and/or additional financial resources (co funding and co-financing). Through the partnership established with the municipal associative system (ACOBOL and FAM), it has been possible to improve the coordination between the municipalities and the national government for analyzing the lack of financing of the protection system.

As a result of advocacy actions, the 2022 Operating Plan of the Gender Committee of the Judicial Branch and the Constitutional Court has included the socialization of evidence generated from all the studies carried out within this project. The session to present these studies will have the presence of the main authorities of the Magistrates Council, the Supreme Court of Justice, the Plurinational Constitutional Court, and the Public Prosecutor’s Office. The session will in turn jump-start a discussion to further promote an increased budget allocation for justice operators and institutions to improve access to quality services and case management of gender-based violence.

**Changes made to JP:**

**Main Challenges:** As explained above, the political situation of the last two years, marked by national government authorities turnovers, generated a complex political context, which has been the greatest challenge faced by the UN System in implementing the programme’s advocacy actions with the government. Due to this situation, the programme identified or creatively came up with new partnerships and political dialogues with additional public actors in addition to those initially defined. Additionally, the pandemic made advocacy with the Ministry of Economy even more complex than the programme initially envisaged. This entity manages the difficult financial situation of the state has as its main priority the economic recovery from the pandemic. Given this scenario, the Ministry of Justice was identified as the primary governmental counterpart or focal point for the programme’s implementation for this first year.

## Updates on SDG financing framework

Inception phase	Assessment Diagnostics	Financing Strategy	Monitoring Review	Governance Coordination
N/A	Advancing (50-99%)	Emerging (1-49%)	N/A	N/A

## Descriptions on progress by INFF building blocks

**Inception Phase:** N/A

**Assessment & Diagnostics:** 1. Estimated investment required to achieve the goals of the SDG related to the prevention and care of violence against children, adolescents, and women. This study estimates the current investment on the SDGs’ targets related to violence against children, adolescents, and women (SDGs 3, 5 and 16). Based on its findings, it is expected to propose effective interventions to accelerate the achievement of the SDG targets, identify the gaps for each target and propose financing mechanisms to prevent and care for violence against children, adolescents, and women.

- 2. Estimated investment of the Protection System against violence directed against children and women. This study estimated the investment needed for the protection system against violence against children, adolescents, and women and determined the financing and execution of funds for the institutional and functional networks of the protection system against violence directed against children and women in Bolivia. Based on the findings and a similar costing exercise, the JP generated critical evidence around gaps in the state budget allocations to different entities of the child protection system.

3. Diagnosis and quality analysis of the operation of the protection system against violence directed against children and women. This study included two sub-studies: i) Institutional network related to the protection against violence directed against children and women and ii) Diagnosis and analysis of the quality of the functioning of the protection system against violence directed against children and women. The first sought to determine the network of relationships, roles and institutional functions linked to prevention, care, and access to justice in cases of violence directed against children and women. The second was an analysis of the quality of the functioning of the protection system against violence directed against children and women.

**Financing Strategy:** Rationale of the financial strategy.

The financial strategy will be implemented through the Federation of Municipal Associations of Bolivia. It suggested developing a proposal of guidelines for the formulation of budgets for violence prevention and response, which contribute to guaranteeing the financing for the operation of the protection system against violence directed against children and women in Bolivia. In addition, these guidelines will consider the scope, limits, and possibilities of the legal instruments currently in force for the budget regulations related to the protection system for children and women. The proposal would allow the development of a financing mechanism proposal for the protection system and will consider the budgetary restrictions and the competence framework of the entities involved. Furthermore, the proposal will include an advocacy strategy to incorporate the budget guidelines into the regulatory provisions, which will ensure their implementation as of the 2022 administration.

Implementation of the Financial Strategy.

FAM Bolivia argued that, in the face of declining resource transfers, in addition to the marginal generation of own income for the protection sector, a national “Protection for Children and Women” fund should be created. This fund will enable municipal governments to finance activities to combat violence against children and women. Given the country’s current economic situation, FAM proposal recommends reallocating the resources that the central level of the state will not execute to finance the fund with 300 million USD, which will allow municipalities to respond to the needs of this vulnerable population. Additionally, in alliance with FAM Bolivia, the JP is developing a proposal for the municipal level to estimate sufficient minimum budget allocations linked to parameters and indicators of violence against children and women to improve the functioning of the protection system. The proposal for minimum budgets provides guidelines for the formulation of the budget based on the expected results at the local level in prevention and care, as well as the analysis of the situation of violence and the response based on its capacity of competence. This strategy seeks to enable municipal governments to generate consensus on the proposal for minimum budget allocations through the coordination of FAM Bolivia. From this process, it is expected that the aforementioned proposal can be submitted to the national government for its inclusion in specific budget regulations.

The full implementation of this advocacy strategy is still pending. The change of priorities in the administration of the FAM Bolivia has led to postponing this activity momentarily.

**Monitoring & Review:** N/A

**Governance & Coordination:** N/A

## Priority Cross-cutting Issues

### How did the JP adapt to the COVID-19 context

The pandemic dominated the government’s agenda and demanded additional resources for the health sector. In addition, the slowdown in the economy eroded fiscal finances, making it more difficult to advocate for greater budget allocations.

The way to face this situation has been to deepen the work and alliances with other state actors, such as FAM Bolivia, the SEPMUD and the Ministry of Justice. At the same time, the opportunity presented by the reform of Law 348 has been used to generate an impact on budget allocations to the protection system through this Law.

## **How did the JP apply the Gender Marker**

The programme's activities focused on generating strategic and operational guidelines regarding gender-sensitive budget management and institutional management models so that the state can strengthen the financing framework and the management of the system of protection against violence directed against children and women and its various components.

The programme provided extensive technical assistance to the reform process of Law 348. This assistance includes:

- Socialization and validation of the proposal to modify the Law.
- A proposal for normative reform to improve the funding of the instances in charge of the care and fight against gender-based violence.
- Collection of inputs from grassroots organizations, for the modification of the law; more than 1,000 proposals were included.
- Validation of the proposal and support in the reformulation of the regulations.
- Generation of evidence to propose 5 models of essential services to reach rural and dispersed areas in a joint process.

*Estimated % of overall disbursed funds spend on gender: 100%*

## **Alignment with cross-cutting UN issues (e.g. human rights, decent work, inclusion, LNOB)**

Through advocacy in the reform process of Law 348, the JP is aligned with the support and accompaniment that the UN has been giving and will continue to give to the Government in the Justice Reform, which is one of the main contributions of the UN system to the country.

Additionally, the actions of the JP reinforce the support that the UN has been giving to the government in relation to the problem of violence through the performance and actions of the different UN agencies in Bolivia. The evidence found in the studies will help ensure that no one is left behind by identifying gaps and bottlenecks in reaching the most vulnerable populations. Also, partnering with municipalities to develop management models will allow them to increase budget allocation, but also to devise innovative models across municipalities to reach the most remote populations.

## **How did the JP work to build ownership and buy-in of key stakeholders**

The involvement of actors such as FAM Bolivia and ACOBOL has allowed these actors to build ownership in relation to the issue of violence directed against children and women. Through the programme, ACOBOL has been able to become a relevant actor in the process of reform of Law 348.

Likewise, through its involvement in the programme, FAM Bolivia has been able to lead a process of generating departmental agreements for the prioritization of the issue of violence in municipalities. As a result, the issue of violence has become an important part of the agenda that FAM currently develops.

## **Annual Reporting on Results**

### **Results achieved in promoting the priority thematic SDG agendas**

SDG 5 Gender Equality SDG 16 Peace, Security and Strong Institutions SDG 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

### **JP contributions to the Joint SDG Fund's global results (especially around Outcome 2 & Output 4)**

Outcome 2: Additional financing leveraged to accelerate SDG achievement At the national level, the technical support to the Ministry of Justice in the reform of Law 348 has included the development of a proposal of regulatory reform to improve the financing of the instances in charge of the attention and care in the fight against gender-based violence. In addition, the JP contributed to the establishment of formal coordination instances (sub-council

on violence and technical roundtable on subnational strengthening), where national and subnational governments discuss the lack of budget allocation as a barrier to the better functioning of services for care and response to violence against children and women. Although there is still no evidence of its impact at the subnational level, advocacy work with FAM Bolivia has influenced subnational governments to improve their budget allocation to respond to violence against children and women.

Output 4: Integrated financing strategies for accelerating SDG progress implemented Although the programme has not yet managed to implement a financing strategy that allows improved resource allocation for the institutions that work in the protection system, progress has been made in the formulation of a financing strategy proposal at the local level, within the framework of the alliance with FAM Bolivia.

### **Progress against JP-specific outcomes**

Outcome: By 2022, state institutions will respond adequately to the magnitude and extent of the problem of violence against women and children, based on the allocation of sufficient budgets to the institutions that make up the care and response network and the application of efficient management models.

Technical support has been provided to the Ministry of Justice in the processes of socialization and validation of the proposal to amend Law 348. This project contemplates a motion to increase the budget for the care and prevention of violence against women and children, as well as to have a network of services in the different municipalities of Bolivia.

Within the framework of the strategic alliance with FAM Bolivia, the generation of financing agreements in favor of the protection system has been consolidated.

Five models have been generated to provide care services in cases of violence against women and children who live in low-population municipalities with different characteristics and institutional arrangements. This process has been validated by the VIO and the SEA.

### **Progress against JP-specific outputs**

Output 1: All victims of violence have essential violence care services focused on women and children.

Through the JP, the Ministry of Justice was provided with a concrete and evidence-based proposal for a regulatory reform to improve the funding of the entities responsible for the care and fight against gender-based violence. The proposal is under consideration by the Ministry to be included in the preliminary document to amend Law 348.

Within the framework of the alliance with FAM, a draft of a financing strategy has been developed to improve the budget allocations of the municipalities to respond to violence. In alliance with the Gender Committee of the Judicial Branch and the Constitutional Court, technical support actions were agreed upon with the Public Ministry and the Judicial Branch, so they can improve their budget on this matter.

Output 2: Institutions of the system of protection of violence against children and women improve their performance and scope.

Joint work with the Ministry of Justice led to the implementation of the Subnational Roundtable for Strengthening the Protection System against Violence directed against Children and Women.

Through an alliance with the Ministry of Justice and ACOBOL, working groups were created to discuss and analyze the strengthening of the proposed management models for the system of protection against gender-based violence. These models aim to improve the functioning of the protection services against violence.

### **JP contributions to strengthening UN coherence, partnerships and reducing duplications of efforts**

The programme has allowed the UN Country Team (led by three agencies in the JP) in Bolivia to implement a coordinated and strategic approach to tackle the problem of violence against children and women. Especially the

three agencies that are implementing the JP were able to strengthen the synergy between individual agency's mandates to address this issue.

The joint work between the three agencies, coordinated with the RCO with support from the RC, has leveraged the agencies' advocacy actions with the government to advance this agenda.

At the same time, the programme has managed to bring together, different actors from the national and sub-national levels, from the public sector and the civil society, consolidating a broader partnership of multiple stakeholders and actors to address violence against children, adolescents and women.

## Strategic Partnerships, Documents and Communications

### How did the JP facilitate collaboration with diverse stakeholders in the SDG financing space

Government.

We acknowledge that the programme has had little impact on the public administration instances in charge of public finances (Ministry of Economy). However, through the programme, technical instances (Ministry of Justice, SEPMUD) that had paid little attention to budgetary and financing aspects, have joined the discussion around these aspects and their role in the quality of the response services provided by the state to the problem of violence against children and women.

Municipal associative system (FAM and ACOBOL).

These two instances of representation of the municipal governments have a constant dialogue with the financial areas of the central public administration on the budgets that the municipal governments receive annually. Through the programme, the municipal associative system (FAM and ACOBOL) has also participated in dialogue processes with technical instances of the Ministry of Justice, the State Service of Autonomies, and SEPMUD in technical discussions on the lack of funding to respond to violence against children and women.

Communication.

A communication strategy was developed to set all communication actions of the JP throughout the implementation period. This strategy aimed to contribute to the generation of a favorable position in public opinion and among decision-makers about the need for adequate financing to prevent and address violence against women and children. Activities implemented to date include: development of a documentary video about the programme, production of three informative videos with interviews with actors from the System for Protection Against Violence (SPCV), production of the radio soap opera "La ruta de la injusticia", organization of a concert for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women "De Mujer a Mujer", elaboration of digital press releases, informative material, publication of two informative bulletins about the progress of the programme and several posts for social networks. This material can be found on: <https://www.jointsdgifund.org/programme/funding-guidelines-response-violence-against-women-and-children>

### Did the JP secured additional financing (co-funding/co-financing) from the following stakeholders:

Government	Donors & IFIs	Private Sector	PUNOs	Other Partners
Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes

**Comments on additional financing secured:** Government.

We acknowledge that the programme has had little impact on the public administration instances in charge of public finances (Ministry of Economy). However, through the programme, technical instances (Ministry of Justice, SEPMUD) that had paid little attention to budgetary and financing aspects, have joined the discussion around these

aspects and their role in the quality of the response services provided by the state to the problem of violence against children and women.

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### **JP organized events in 2021**

JP Launch Event	Annual Donor Event	Partners Event
Yes in 2021	No	No

*Number of strategic documents produced by the JP: 12*

*Number of strategic documents contributed by the JP: 5*

*Number of communication materials produced: 16*

## **2022 Plans & Way Forward**

### **JP priority activities & expected results for 2022**

- Complete the set of studies that serve to complement the evidence needed to plan advocacy actions. These studies include estimating the cost of non-intervention in violence against women, adolescents, and children.
- Advance the advocacy strategy with FAM Bolivia for the creation of a national fund to finance municipalities in the attention and response to cases of violence.
- Define investment plans in five prioritized municipalities to include gender-responsive approaches in their budgets, and to increase the financial allocation to eradicate violence against children and women.
- Conclude the process of technical accompaniment to the reform of Law 348, emphasizing the incorporation of a legal framework to improve the allocation of national and local budgets to the protection system for the fight against violence directed against children and women.
- Generate a process of dialogue between national and sub-national actors to discuss and analyze the bottlenecks related to funding the fight against violence directed against children and women.
- Advance the implementation of local management models developed with ACOBOL within the framework of the assistance provided by the Ministry of Justice.

**3 major transformative results that will be achieved by the end of the JP**

- The system of protection from violence against children and women has been strengthened through an overall improved management and a more effective functioning.
- The country has evidence of problems and weaknesses regarding funding to combat violence against children and women, and five municipalities have taken up the investment plan for increased funding to address violence eradication. The normative framework for the fight against violence directed against women has been strengthened and has provisions to improve the budgets received by state entities and institutions that make up the protection system, with a monitoring strategy in place to ensure adequate investment in the eradication of violence against women and children.

**Estimated rate of completion for each result as of 31 Dec 2021**

Result.1	Result.2	Result.3
Advancing (50-99%)	Advancing (50-99%)	Emerging (1-49%)