



**Spotlight
Initiative**
*To eliminate violence
against women and girls*

Annex C

Methodology of Civil Society Funding Analysis

01 January 2021 – 31 December 2021

Initiated by the European Union and the United Nations



Civil society is a key partner of the Spotlight Initiative and is centered in all aspects of each programme, from governance structures to activity implementation. As described in [Chapter 5](#), the Initiative has committed to allocating a significant amount of funding to civil society organizations (CSOs), as programme partners, grantees and vendors across all outcome areas and under the regional grant giving mechanism. Every year, the Initiative reports against these funding commitments, and this Annex outlines the methodology applied for the analysis. The CSO funding analysis can be found in [Chapter 5](#) of the Global Annual Report.

Methodology

The analysis is based on two types of data: as stated in approved programme budgets and self-reported by programmes. All data are as of 31 December 2021. Data referred to as “**allocated**” are funds budgeted and planned for civil society partners in a particular Spotlight Initiative programme. Funds referred to as “**awarded**” or “**delivered**” to civil society are any financial grant, contract or partnership agreement legally signed with a CSO, and the data thereof are self-reported by the respective Recipient UN Organizations as of 31 December 2021. This may be in the form of grants, engagements as implementing partners or as vendors – providers of specific services to the programmes. Finally, percentages of funds allocated by programmes are calculated off the total programme outcome budgets and are referred to as “**activity funding**”. These are the funds that are directly attributable to implementing the programme’s activities, for ease of understanding.

The results presented in the analysis are cumulative from the start of Spotlight Initiative. The fulfillment of funding commitments is expected for the programme as a whole and will not follow a linear or proportional increment year to year. Programme funding allocations increase annually with the approval of

new programme phases, and therefore proportions of funding are calculated over new increased totals of dollar investments. Moreover, the programmes are at various stages of their implementation cycles – some are implementing Phase I while others have progressed to implementing Phase II, together with varying start dates.

Programmes in Africa and Latin America (excluding the Africa Regional Programme and Ecuador) received Phase II budget allocations and have started implementing Phase II of programming in the second half of 2021. This includes additional activity funding and thus more funding allocated to civil society in 2021 as compared to 2020. Spotlight Initiative programmes in Asia, the Caribbean and the Pacific will be considered for additional Phase II funding in 2022. This will further expand the budget allocations for civil society and complete the programming of the Spotlight Initiative Fund’s current funding window.

Some programmes have different start dates as well as expenditure patterns (such as grant giving programmes vs country or regional programmes) and have for previous reports been excluded to ensure data was comparable.¹ This year, it was decided to include and show the results for all programmes, as most programmes, despite different implementation cycles, have advanced implementation sufficiently to be considered comparable. Any relevant nuances will have been detailed in the narrative and footnotes. For the purpose of this overall CSO funding analysis, Afghanistan is included in the Central Asia region.

The Safe and Fair programme in ASEAN countries has a different programmatic structure, and as a result, no information on the allocated funds planned for civil society is directly available. Therefore, the Recipient UN Organizations’ self-reported data on funds awarded to CSOs as of December 2020 was used as a proxy for the information on allocated funds.² Given its specific structure and geographical scope, the Safe and Fair programme is not included in any

1 The following were excluded from the 2020 report: 1) Programmes with a recent start date from July 2020 onwards: Africa Regional Programme; Central Asia Regional Programme; Caribbean Regional Programme; Ecuador Country Programme; Afghanistan Country Programme. Afghanistan is also removed from Central Asia regional percentages due to its significantly later start date, and 2) Programmes with different expenditure patterns, notably the Civil Society Grant Giving programmes through the Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund in Papua New Guinea, Haiti and Afghanistan.

2 For consistency of the analysis, the data used as the allocated amount for CSOs in the Safe and Fair programme is from 2020, as no more recent data from Recipient UN Organizations was available.

regional disaggregation for Central Asia throughout the analysis, such as in the data on Pillar 6 funding. Awards, as any financial grant, contract or partnership agreement with a CSO, are counted as self-reported data of engagement of CSOs by programmes per Spotlight Initiative programme output; a small amount of double counting in the number of awards may occur as some awards can be reported across several programme outputs and activities.

In data on sub-granting and sub-contracting, only 74% of awards to CSOs that have reported having a sub-granting or sub-contracting component have indicated the share of the award's financial value dedicated to these modalities. Therefore, the weighted average of the share of the financial value of the award channeled through sub-granting and sub-contracting is calculated using data only from these awards.

Definitions

As part of the self-reporting exercise, the following definitions have been provided to Spotlight Initiative programmes to disaggregate their funding by type of CSO partner.

International CSOs: International CSOs operate in two or more countries across different regions.

Regional CSOs: Regional CSOs operate in two or more countries within the same region (i.e. Africa, Latin America, Asia, Caribbean, Pacific). In this case, a regional CSO is not one that operates in a particular region within one country.

National, Local and Grassroot CSOs:

- National civil society organisations operate only in one particular country.
- Local and grassroots organisations focus their work at the local and community level, and do not have a national scope. They tend to have a small annual operational budget (for example, under USD 200,000); to be self-organised and self-led; and to have a low degree of formality.

Woman-Led and/or Women's Rights Organisation (WRO)/Feminist CSOs:

- For an organisation to be a "Woman-led CSO," the organisation must be headed by a woman.
- For a "Women's rights or feminist organisation," the organisation's official mission and vision statements must reflect its commitment to addressing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and advancing gender equality and women's rights. The organisation should aim to address the underlying drivers, systems and structures, including patriarchy and gendered power dynamics, that perpetuate violence against women and girls and gender-based violence and work to transform these.

New or Existing Partner:

- For a "New partner", the Recipient UN Organization has not engaged the CSO in any partnership modality, prior to the start of the Spotlight Initiative Programme.
- For an "Existing partner", the Recipient UN Organization has engaged the CSO in any partnership modality, prior to the Spotlight Initiative Programme. The rationale behind this is to understand the extent to which Recipient UN Organizations are expanding their outreach to CSOs beyond usual partners and giving opportunities to new CSOs.

Modality of Engagement

- **Implementing Partner (IP):** Programmes may contract out particular activities for a CSO to implement.
- **Grantee:** Programmes may issue a broad Call for Proposals to which CSOs submit proposals for grant funding.
- **Vendor:** Programmes may engage with CSOs through a procurement process, such as purchasing services from a CSO or hiring a CSO for a training or other activity.

Primary Vulnerable/Marginalised Population Supported by Award: Under the principle of Leave No One Behind, Spotlight Initiative UN Programme Teams are expected to ensure the representation of vulnerable and marginalised groups, including by engaging with CSOs that service or advocate for these groups.

Core Institutional Funding: The purpose of core institutional funding is not to finance the delivery of a programmatic activity and is distinct from the overheads related to delivering said programmatic activity. It is usually used to support an organisation's overall institutional capacity covering general operations and core costs, such as paying staff salaries and office rent, buying equipment and ICT services, providing psychosocial support and health insurance for staff, paying to put in place new adaptive strategies and systems or even paying to raise staff awareness and develop their capacities in technical areas. Institutional funding is multifaceted and constantly evolving based on the organisation's needs.

Sub-Granting: When a CSO issues grants to other CSOs who have submitted their own proposals for grant funding.

Sub-Contracting: When a CSO contracts another CSO to carry out part of its own contract with a Recipient UN Organization as part of a pre-defined Terms of Reference.