



**Spotlight  
Initiative**

**ANNUAL NARRATIVE PROGRAMME REPORT**

**PROGRAMME TITLE: SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE PROGRAMME  
KYRGYZSTAN**

**PROGRAMME START DATE: 01 JANUARY 2020**

**REPORTING PERIOD: 01 JANUARY 2021 – 31 DECEMBER 2021**



<p><b>Programme Title &amp; Programme Number</b></p> <p>Programme Title: Spotlight Initiative Kyrgyzstan</p> <p>MPTF Office Project Reference Number:<sup>1</sup> 00119461</p>	<p><b>Priority regions/areas/localities for the Programme</b></p> <p>12 target municipalities from 6 districts located in 3 provinces</p>
<p><b>Recipient Organization(s)</b></p> <p>UN Women, UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNODC</p>	<p><b>Key Partners</b></p> <p>Office of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic, Office of the Prime Minister, Office of the Vice Prime Minister, Cabinet of Ministers, General Prosecutor’s Office, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Labor, Social Security, and Migration, Ministry of Justice, National Statistics Committee, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Ministry of the Economy, Local and national CSOs, international NGOs.</p> <p>Associated UN agencies: WHO, OHCHR, IOM</p>
<p><b>Programme Cost (US\$)</b></p> <p><b>Total Phase I approved budget as per the Spotlight CPD/RPD: 5,396,071 USD</b></p>	<p><b>Programme Start and End Dates</b></p> <p><b>Start Date:</b> 01.01.2020</p> <p><b>End Date:</b> 31.12.2023</p>

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



**Phase I Spotlight funding:**<sup>2</sup> 4,700,000 USD  
**Agency Contribution:** 696,071 USD

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

<b>Name of RUNO</b>	<b>Spotlight Phase I (USD)</b>	<b>UN Agency Contributions (USD)</b>
UN Women	1 261 996	84 120
UNDP	1 181 114	120 248
UNFPA	901 529	174 504
UNICEF	1 078 910	228 282
UNODC	276 451	88 918

**TOTAL: 5,396,071**

**Report Submitted By:**

Samara Papieva, Spotlight Initiative  
 Programme Coordinator, RCO

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



Table of Contents

Acronym List..... 5

Executive Summary ..... 7

Contextual Shifts and Implementation Status ..... 8

Programme Governance and Coordination..... 11

    A) National Steering Committee ..... 11

    B) Civil Society National or Regional Reference Group ..... 11

    C) Inter-agency coordination, technical committees and other governance mechanisms ..... 14

    D) Use of UN Reform inter-agency tools ..... 15

Programme Partnerships ..... 15

    A) Government..... 15

    B) Civil Society ..... 18

    C) European Union Delegation ..... 19

    D) Cooperation with other UN agencies ..... 20

    E) Other Partners ..... 20

Results..... 20

    A) Capturing Broader Transformations Across Outcomes..... 20

    B) Capturing Change at Outcome Level..... 22

*Outcome 1: Legal and Policy Framework* ..... 23

*Outcome 2: Institutions* ..... 26

*Outcome 3: Prevention and Norm Change* ..... 28

*Outcome 4: Quality Services* ..... 33

*Outcome 5: Data*..... 36

*Outcome 6: Women’s Movement* ..... 37

Rights Holders (“Beneficiaries”)..... 39

Challenges and Mitigating Measures ..... 40

Lessons Learned..... 42

New Opportunities..... 43

Innovative, Promising or Good Practices ..... 44

Communications and Visibility ..... 47

Next Steps ..... 53



## Acronym List

BoS	Bus of Solidarity
CC	Criminal Code of the Kyrgyz Republic
CEDAW	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
CPC	Criminal Procedure Code of the Kyrgyz Republic
CSNRG	Civil Society National Reference Group
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DC CoM	Deputy Chair of the Cabinet of Ministers
DV	Domestic Violence
ERPP	Unified Registry of Crimes and Misdemeanors
EU	European Union
EUD	European Union Delegation
EVAWG	Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls
GALS	Gender Action Learning System
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women Empowerment
GPO	General Prosecutor's Office of the Kyrgyz Republic
HACT	Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfer
HoA	Heads of Agencies
HP	Harmful Practices
IMAGES	International Men and Gender Equality Survey
IMWG	Inter-Ministerial Working Group of the MLSSM
IP	Implementing Partner
LCPDVs	Local committees on the prevention of domestic violence
LoA	Letter of Agreement
MIA	Ministry of the Internal Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic
MLSSM	Ministry of Labor, Social Security and Migration
MLSSM	Ministry of Labor, Social Security, and Migration
MoES	Ministry of Education and Science
MoJ	Ministry of Justice of the Kyrgyz Republic
MP	Member of Parliament
MSR	Multisectoral approach mechanisms
NGES NAP	National Gender Equality Strategy National Action Plan
NSC	National Steering Committee



OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
OSPA	Oxford Scenario Planning Approach
OVPM	Office of the Vice Prime Minister
PCU	Programme Coordination Unit
PM	Prime Minister
PME	Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation
RUNO	Recipient United Nations Organisation
SGBV	Sexual and gender-based violence
SGLA	Law on State-Guaranteed Legal Aid
SI	Spotlight Initiative Kyrgyzstan Country Programme
SI TT	Spotlight Initiative Kyrgyzstan Country Programme Technical Team
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
UN	United Nations
UN RC	United Nations Resident Coordinator
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Populations Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime
UNW	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
VPM	Vice Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic
WGR	Women's and Girls' Rights



## **Executive Summary**

This report documents the key achievements of the Spotlight Initiative Kyrgyzstan Country Programme (SI Programme) in 2021, highlighting programmatic results, stakeholder engagement, partnerships, communications, and on the application of gender transformative strategies to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls in the Kyrgyz Republic. The report reflects on contextual shifts that have affected programming over the past year, lessons learned, and new opportunities.

In 2021, Kyrgyzstan experienced a number of context-related challenges including armed open conflict at the border area between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, constitutional reform, and abrupt shift in state officials at all levels of government. These challenges, which emerged in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, prompted the SI Programme to adapt its approaches and activities to its evolving context. For example, in 2021 the Programme responded to the growing needs of women and girls for legal aid following cross border conflicts by expanding its legal awareness campaign to rural Batken province.

Moreover, the SI Programme provided gender expertise for important laws in the area of eliminating violence against women and girls (EVAWG) as part of the comprehensive legal inventory process initiated by the President of the Kyrgyz Republic. As a result of these activities, several inclusive civic engagement platforms were founded for drafting legislation, strengthening existing laws, and holding state institutions accountable for the implementation of legislation on women's rights and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).

The SI provided technical support to national partners including the Ministry of Labor Social Security and Migration (MLSSM), Ministry of Health, Ministry of Interior, General Prosecutor's Office for developing and endorsing standard operational procedures (SOPs) for service provision in line with international standards on SGBV prevention and response. In addition, the SI provided support to the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) to ensure that educational materials are gender sensitive and free from stereotypes. The SI applied gender transformative approaches to bring changes in the attitude and behavior of community members in relation to EVAWG, including by harnessing the power of informal institutions such as local committees on prevention of domestic violence and media representatives. The SI Programme worked with diverse groups of civil society organization (CSOs) to map and identify new women's organizations and strengthening capacities of active CSOs in innovative Design Thinking approaches, communication strategies, and advocacy platforms.



Moreover, in 2021, the SI Technical Team (SI TT) dedicated significant time and efforts to building internal and external coordination to ensure timely information exchange and coherent programme implementation, monitoring, reporting, and communication. In addition to regular communications and activity platforms, the SI TT jointly conceptualized and implemented a number of initiatives such as organizing joint coordination workshop for implementing partners (IPs), joint presentations and engagement with key local stakeholders discussing SI plans and priorities, an expectations mapping exercises, and community of practice platforms.

The SI TT members, including the Programme Coordination Unit (PCU) and Pillar Leads worked closely with national and CSO partners via Programme mechanisms such as the civil society national reference group (CSNRG), the National Steering Committee (NSC). It has also closely partnered with CSOs and government stakeholders at the national and local levels as part of Programme implementation. The European Union Delegation (EUD) remained a key partner and was regularly engaged in discussion of the SI strategies implementation approaches as well as in design of the risks and mitigation measures.

The UN Resident Coordinator (UN RC) provided strategic oversight to the Programme, co-chaired the National Steering Committee (NSC) and advocated for women's rights issues. The UN RC personally provided an oral presentation of the the UN Country Team Confidential Report at the closed meeting of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) on the 5<sup>th</sup> periodic report.

### **Contextual Shifts and Implementation Status**

In 2021, the Kyrgyz Republic continued to experience the health and socioeconomic crisis induced by the COVID-19 pandemic, which gradually translated into severe economic recession, widespread unemployment, high migrant outflows, rising poverty, and domestic violence. The situation was further aggravated by armed cross-border conflict between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, which resulted in 36 deaths, 189 injured, and tens of thousands of internal displaced people.

The political upheaval in October 2020 was followed by constitutional reform, presidential and parliamentary elections, the revision of criminal codes, and comprehensive legal inventory (over 350 laws reviewed). These changes impacted implementation of the Programme but also presented new programmatic opportunities.





Among the reforms included turnover of the Vice Prime Minister's office (two times), requiring the Programme to re-introduce itself, its objectives and updates. Furthermore, to implement the above constitutional reforms, the Government introduced a new governance structure with a Cabinet of Ministers in which the gender focal point, the Ministry of Labor, Social Security and Migration (MLSSM), were initially merged with the Ministry of Health. These ministries were later separated again into a single entity with one department on family and children, gender policy, and protection from domestic violence. This resulted in cuts and reshuffles of department staff working on gender and domestic violence issues, leaving the new Department with only one person with gender-related expertise and institutional memory. The government also established a new Department on the prevention of domestic violence and coordination of mobile police under the Ministry of Interior. The National Statistical Committee (NSC) passed through the assignment of the new Chairman, who later reassigned. The above restructuring took several months, causing delays and shifts in Spotlight Initiative (SI) Programme implementation.

In response to these contextual shifts, the SI integrated the legal review findings (conducted under Pillar 1) into the ongoing legal inventory process through a series of high-level policy dialogues on aligning legislation with international commitments, increased funding for the protection of survivors of Gender Based Violence (GBV), and ensuring institutional strengthening for the national gender machinery. The team also re-focused Pillar 6 to provide immediate support to women's rights groups, enabling their timely and meaningful participation in the review and revision of legislation which affects the protection of GBV survivors and seeks to promote women's political participation. Lastly, under Pillar 3, the Bus of Solidarity's (BoS) implementation was extended to conflict-affected border areas of Batken Province upon the request of the Government to provide free legal aid to the local population.

Building on lessons learned from the 2020 COVID-19 response re-programming and programme adaptation (which involved harmonizing online and offline modes of operation, organizing coordination platforms for Implementing Partners to better coordinate simultaneous field activities which were postponed due to the outbreak of pandemic, etc.), relevant activities planned for 2021 were implemented using United Nations (UN) Reform inter-agency tools under the one UN approach: where Recipient United Nations Organisations (RUNOs) teamed up to conduct joint procurement of services, provided joint expert and technical support to the state partners, and built synergies between other programmes within the UN agencies and outside. For instance, the Programme coordinated their efforts with the World Bank and other international organizations supporting the NSC in capacity building and improving the quality of GBV data.

The Programme continued largely on track, with few exceptions related to specific Pillar interventions that were disproportionately affected by government re-shuffles, legal inventory, and



the political situation. Specifically, the majority of Pillar 1 interventions were implemented, except for an orientation training for the newly elected convocation of parliamentarians which had to be shifted to 2022 due to the delayed finalization of election results. Another exception was technical assistance in the development of the National Gender Development Strategy for 2022-2030, which was delayed due to ongoing administrative and legal reforms which required multiple revisions and adaptations in the final document. Currently, this document is being cleared by the Cabinet of Ministers and posted on their website for public review. Implementation of Pillar 2 activities was very challenging as almost all state institutions were restructured and had staff cuts, leaving leadership and key personnel in uncertainty and lacking the motivation needed to elaborate and implement long-term priority targets for GEWE. Additionally, Pillar 4 and 5 activities were delayed due to a massive legal inventory process needed to inform standard operating procedures (SOP) for essential services as well as the cancellation of the regional tender on development of the Gender Data Portal, led by the regional office of UN Women.

To accelerate delayed activities and further sustain its results, the SI Programme holds regular consultations with new Departments under MLSSM and the Ministry of Interior as well as other key line ministries and agencies to provide technical support and share expertise during the finalization of normative and strategic documents and joint conceptualization and planning of activities.

#### Implementation progress by outcome area:

<b>Spotlight Initiative – Outcome areas</b>	<b>Implementation progress as of 31 Dec, 2021</b>
<b>Outcome 1: Legal and Policy Framework</b>	83%
<b>Outcome 2: Institutions</b>	66%
<b>Outcome 3: Prevention and Norm Change</b>	74%
<b>Outcome 4: Quality Services</b>	63%
<b>Outcome 5: Data</b>	50%
<b>Outcome 6: Women’s Movement</b>	70%
<b>TOTAL</b>	70%

## Programme Governance and Coordination

### A) National Steering Committee

The National Steering Committee (NSC) was formed in March 2020 in close collaboration with the Office of the Vice Prime Minister (OVPM). Its original membership consisted of 26 individuals (representatives of Parliament, deputy ministers/directors, representatives from UN, EUD, media and civil society organizations), co-chaired by the Vice Prime Minister VPM of the Kyrgyz Republic for Social Issues and the UN Resident Coordinator (RC). Civil society comprised at least 20% of the NSC's membership. Since 2020, given the ongoing government reform and reorganization, the NSC has undergone three iterations. Specifically, the VPM (Deputy Chair of Cabinet of Ministers) in the Government changed six times since March 2020. This turnover created difficulties for the SI Programme in regard to Government ownership and meaningful stakeholder (NSC) contribution to project implementation. Despite these challenges, in 2021 the Programme Coordination Unit (PCU) organized a meeting with the VPM and another meeting with the NSC. The latter was co-chaired by the Deputy Chairperson of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic and the UN Resident Coordinator (UN RC). The meeting focused on orienting members to the SI Programme content, results achieved, and objectives of the NSC. During the meeting, the PCU presented the 2021 annual report and NSC members validated the 2021 Annual Work Plan and the related budget revision.

### B) Civil Society National or Regional Reference Group

The Civil Society National Reference Group (CSNRG) was formed in 2020 (see the 2021 annual report for more information). The group originally consisted of 12 members and currently has 14 members. CSNRG engagement can be categorized into the following:

- **Sharing programmatic results & monthly work workplans.** In 2021 the PCU organize 4 meetings with the CSNRG to share results and monthly communications to share monthly workplans.
- **Strategic participation in programme activities and events.** The PCU and RUNOs invited CSNRG members to participate in over 10 events including SI presentations, community of practice meetings, round tables and public hearings on legislation, design thinking workshops, etc.
- **Engagement in SI research dissemination.** The PCU and RUNOs share methodology, research and other materials with the CSNRG for comments and suggestions. For example, the SI



*Programme shared methodology and results on legislative review, early marriage, International Men and Gender Equality Survey (IMAGES), and Civil Society Organization (CSO) mapping and consulted on the methodology and findings. CSNRG members provided their feedback on the methodology and study findings.*

- **Piloting of participatory monitoring with CSNRG.** Another important area of planned CSNRGs engagement is participatory monitoring of the Programme. The draft concept note for participatory monitoring and evaluation (PME) was developed at the end of 2021 and monitoring missions are planned for April 2022.

CSNRG activities are budgeted under RCO, thanks to unexpected savings in salaries which allowed for redirection of funds.

### **Survey of CSNRG:**

In June of 2021, the SI conducted a survey of 8 CSNRG members and SI staff to identify areas of improvement. Survey respondents commonly identified youth organizations and women's rights organizations as underrepresented in the CSNRG and recommended to make additional efforts to include representatives of organizations/groups who represent the most vulnerable women and girls as CSNRG members. Survey respondents gave specific recommendations for potential new members who focus on these areas. In response, the SI invited two new young women members to join the CSNRG, one who works with people with disabilities and another who works at a youth feminist organization.

Respondents also recommended that the CSNRG hold more joint formal and informal meetings in order to improve communication and provide greater monitoring opportunities to members. This prompted the SI to organize an in-person meeting in September of 2021, as described below.

### **First F2F meeting:**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic many meetings between the SI team and the CSNRG were held online, except one workshop which was held face to face on September 2, 2021. Key objectives of this meeting included reflecting on the role of the CSNRG and planning future participatory monitoring visits. One of the key agreements was that CSNRG members will provide recommendations on communication and interaction within the SI, among implementing agencies, and with government stakeholders; CSNRG members will monitor and provide recommendations on intermediate program results and challenges.



The F2F meeting also included a broader discussion of the SI Programme effectiveness and contextual challenges given recent political changes in the Kyrgyz Republic. Participants provided recommendations on addressing these challenges, including increasing women’s lobbying capacity, organizing high-level meetings with the Office of the President to speak openly about problems and identify solutions for the prevention of violence against women and girls (VAWG). Participants also highlighted the importance of developing active channels of communication between SI Technical Team (SI TT) members, CSNRG members, and government stakeholders.

### **Examples of CSNRG meaningful engagement:**

- **Local level stakeholder communication.** SI members suggested organizing presentations by/about the Programme for key stakeholders at the local level. The SI team organized three presentations in target provinces and the CSNRG members also participated and supported actively the organization of these meetings. These presentations enabled the Programme to inform local stakeholders about the SI and to integrate their recommendations into programming.
- **Phase II programme design.** A number of recommendations from CSNRG were taken into consideration while developing the Phase II proposal such as integrating activities to increase awareness of duty bearers on the Istanbul Protocol. During the course of 2021, CSNRG members provided comments and recommendations to study methodologies as well as reports. In one case, the group members raised issues related to possible risks of the SI and contributed to the timely response of the Programme.

### **Reflection on CSNRG engagement:**

The SI Kyrgyzstan is still adapting its work with the CSNRG and establishing a common understanding of what constitutes meaningful engagement. Challenges arise from the context of the women’s movement/CSOs in Kyrgyz Republic. For example, there are a number of CSNRG members who represent or lead CSOs which are the Implementing Partners (IPs) of some RUNOs. Whilst this is an advantage - the members of the group are motivated and with in-depth understanding of SI programmatic areas, it can also be a challenge as those members sometimes play a double role -engaging in CSNRG activities while also having very strong positioning as IP.

Another issue is related to the volunteer nature of this engagement. Some CSNRG members raised the issue of not being paid while spending considerable amounts of time reviewing and reading SI documents and participating in meetings. According to the Guidance Note on the compensation of Civil Society Reference Group members released by the Global Secretariat in 2021, the decision



on whether to remunerate the CSNRG and how much the CSNRG can be remunerated lies with the Resident Coordinator in consultation with the UNCT, considering the specific local context and risks associated with remunerating the CSRG. SI TT discussed this issue and came to a consensus that introducing a system when volunteer civic engagement is paid, poses risks by shifting lines of accountability. Specifically, the SI team is worried if the CSNRG members were paid, this would shift accountability from the SI (to civil society) to Civil Society to specific RUNOs. The issue is still to be discussed with the CSNRG members in 2022.

### **C) Inter-agency coordination, technical committees and other governance mechanisms**

The SI TT, which consists of staff members in the Programme Coordination Unit (PCU), UN Resident Coordinator's Office, and the 5 RUNOs (UNDP, UN Women, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNODC) hosts regular meetings to discuss programme-related matters and facilitate knowledge exchange. During these meetings, RUNOs provide updates on each pillar of the SI's work, ask and answer questions, and discuss upcoming events and deadlines. Meeting notes for the nine SI TT meetings held as of December 3, 2021, can be found [here](#).

The SI TT held an in-person planning retreat from 3-5 February 2021, with safety precautions due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation. The retreat consisted of four sessions covering reflections on good practices, challenges, and opportunities across 5 SI dimensions; "Pathways of Change" discussions; reflections on risks and mitigation measures; and GBV cases in the media, and SI Programme positioning. The retreat was an opportunity for reflection that resulted in a series of action items to enhance the Programme implementation.

### **Oblast-Level Presentations**

In the Spring of 2021 and with the CSNRG, the PCU organized programme presentation meetings in three oblasts (Osh, Naryn, and Chui) in close collaboration with implementing RUNOs. More than 200 key local stakeholders attended the presentation(s). The goals of these presentations were to allow key field partners and community representatives to learn about the Programme and gain an improved understanding of the planned community-level activities, as well as for the SI team to receive community-level suggestions to improve implementation. Internal takeaways from the presentations included the need for gender sensitization training for key local partners; careful design and pre-testing of GEWE messaging, which tends to be less accepted than GBV prevention messaging; and the use of 'positive champions' to promote values related to gender equity in communities who are resistant to GEWE generally.



## **Knowledge Management**

The PCU is currently in the process of creating a library of materials related to GBV and GEWE produced by the SI program and other national and international actors. This innovative platform will be available to both internal SI staff and broader partners, thereby facilitating knowledge exchange on local and global evidence-based practices.

## **Expectations Mapping**

In 2021, the SI engaged in an Expectations Mapping exercise. The main objectives of the mapping exercise were to gain an up-to-date understanding of key stakeholders' views on the core focus of the Spotlight Initiative in light of the structural and political changes in the country; to develop a balanced understanding of, and vision for, the SI Programme by revisiting originally proposed content and conceptual design, and by applying relevant and effective communication strategies; and improve program effectiveness and relevance via adaptations and course corrections.

The expectations mapping resulted in strategic and operational recommendations to minimize programmatic risks, including by conducting a "do no harm/conflict sensitivity analysis." to improve communications within the SI Team, and mainstreaming thinking and acting towards the three dimensions of change against GBV (the household level, the societal level, and the cognitive/behavioral level).

## **D) Use of UN Reform inter-agency tools**

The Programme has utilized a common procurement tool through the joint development of TORs and procuring services that helped to build coherence in operational practices and reinforce mutual policy recognition across UN agencies through active collaboration and reduced transaction costs to IPs. RUNOS continue to build their institutional readiness to implement joint procurement procedures, which can be a difficult process at the outset. The UNDP, UNFPA, and UNODC have held joint procurement actions and overcome initial challenges such as high transaction costs at the outset.

## **Programme Partnerships**

### **A) Government**

#### ***Vice Prime Minister and Deputy Chair of the Cabinet of Ministers (DC CoM)***

This level of engagement was maintained throughout the implementation of the Programme, despite the changes in this position (changed five times since administrative reforms of November in 2020) The UN Resident Coordinator Mr. Ozonnia Ojielo met with DC CoM twice (with Ms. Jyldyz



Bakasheva and Mr. Edil Baisalov, who replaced Ms. Bakasheva) to brief them about the SI Programme, and discuss plans and the work of the NSC. In addition, the UN RC and RUNOs provided support to Mr. Edil Baisalov to lead an event devoted to the launch of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence Campaign with participation of key ministers and women from the remote Batken province. This was the first time the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence Campaign was launched from a province as opposed to the capital city.

The DCs of CoM, both Ms. Bakasheva and Mr. Baisalov, led public discussions on strengthening national legislation to eliminate domestic violence organized under Pillar 1 on 20 September and 12 November 2021 respectively. As part of the latter discussion, the [Cabinet of Ministers committed a three-fold increase in state funding](#) to support operations of crisis centers and public awareness-raising campaigns.

### **Parliamentary Engagement**

The Programme maintained a strong partnership with key Parliamentary structures including the Committee on Law Enforcement, Combatting Crime and Corruption, and the Council on Women's Rights and Prevention of Gender-Based Violence under the Speaker of Jogorku Kenesh. In 2021, under the Parliament's leadership, six public consultations were organized with the participation of diverse women's rights groups, activists, as well as high-level officials representing the Cabinet of Ministers, key line ministries, and agencies to discuss the most critical pieces of legislation on strengthening state measures to EVAWG. In addition to it, the Programme supported the organization of Women's Kurultais, initiated by the Gender Council of the Parliament, to identify new women and girls' leaders in Naryn, Osh, and Chui provinces. The engagement was maintained at the level of the Vice Speaker and Forum of Women Members of Parliament (MPs) through leveraging partnerships established within the other UN projects/programmes of the UN and other international organizations.

### **Ministry-Level Engagement**

The Programme has built partnerships with law enforcement and judicial actors, namely the Ministry of Interior, Police Academy, Bar Association, Advocates' Training Center, Supreme Court, High School of Justice, General Prosecutor's Office (GPO), and Prosecutor Training Center. This cooperation particularly contributed to the development of comprehensive training modules on preventing and responding to GBV cases by criminal justice actors, which will be further institutionalized under Phase II thus ensuring sustainability of the Programme's contributions.

The Ministry of Justice remained the Programme's key strategic partner for strengthening access to free legal aid among women and girl survivors of SGBV. The Ministry deliberately took leadership





of participatorily re-thinking the concept of the Bus of Solidarity initiative to make its legal services more gender-sensitive and survivor-centric. In addition, the Ministry successfully advocated for the adoption of the revised Law, “On State-Guaranteed Free Legal Aid”, which among other provisions included specifying SGBV survivors as eligible recipients of free legal aid funded by state. As a result, the draft bill was adopted by the Parliament in October 2021 and now awaits Presidential signature as a final step before entering into force.

The MLSSM has a key role on coordinating work on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG) and GBV response and prevention. The SI worked closely with the MLSSM as an important partner in 2021. For example, the Programme continued its support to the ministry in finalization of strategic documents for the National Gender Development Strategy for 2022-2030 and the National Action Plan for 2022-2025 on its implementation. During Ministerial restructuring, including the establishment of a new department on family and children, gender policy and prevention of domestic violence, the SI provided departmental technical support and institutional capacity building. Moreover, SI held a series of trainings for social workers and other actors on standards of multisectoral approach mechanisms (MSR), developed SOPs and their application and supported the development of SOPs for the municipal crisis center. Additionally, the SI Programme, in close collaboration with OHCHR, worked with MLSSD to organize information sessions on the CEDAW reporting process.

The revision of criminal codes has remained under the key focus of GPO for almost the entirety of 2021. The Ministry of Interior has also been actively engaged into the implementation of a multisectoral response mechanism (MSR) to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and VAWG in line with the standard operating procedures developed in support of their services. Juvenile Liaison Officers and District police officers were trained on SOPs and received practical support during application. Two hundred and fifty-three (253) members of juvenile and district police (165 women and 88 men) were trained from Bishkek, Chui, Naryn, and Osh targeted localities. Middle and front-end officers at the police and Ministry are the key contact points for the SI Programme.

The SI Programme maintains close and effective coordination ties with the National Statistical Committee (NSC) chairperson, his deputies, and heads of departments responsible for social statistics and gender-related statistics. Additionally, the SI engages NSC experts through short-term assignments and validates data forms and other relevant information with them.

Additionally, the SI maintains a strong partnership with the Ministry of Culture, Information, Sports and Youth Policy to promote a media self-assessment tool which helps to identify both institutional and social norms reinforcing gender inequalities and serve as a solid base for media and ethics related policy making. This partnership resulted in a self-assessment result of 17 media



organizations across three target provinces, which in turn contributes to promoting gender equitable norms and values among broad segments of the population. Given that the education sector plays a critical role in socialization of children and creating safe and inclusive learning environments, the SI has worked closely with the Ministry of Education and Science of KR (MoES) and its structures including the Republican Teacher Training Institute and Okuu Kitebi (textbook) Centre. This partnership is in the process of further implementation of gender expertise of textbooks, and institutionalization of teacher training courses. Once institutionalized the training course will be available for all in-service teachers.

## **B) Civil Society**

In 2021, the SI Programme worked with more than twenty civil society organizations, of which five are grassroots (or have branches at the grassroots level). Most CSOs are focused on EVAWG or promoting GEWE and women's rights.

The direct engagement of grassroots CSOs in programme implementation remains a challenge given the highly demanding selection requirements of RUNOs. To tackle this challenge and adhere to feedback from women's rights organizations, the SI under Pillars 1 and 6, used a grant modality to announce a call for proposals among national CSOs. Selected CSOs were tasked to design and implement tailored capacity building for local/grassroots organizations, provide them with institutional sub-grants to monitor law implementation at the ground, and maintain mentorship support throughout the sub-grant implementation. This allowed for the significant expansion of exposure for local/grassroots CSOs to institutional capacity building opportunities offered by the Programme, as well as the transfer of knowledge, skills and expertise from more experienced, mainstream women's rights CSOs to a younger generation of activists.

Another partnership with a non-conventional grassroots CSO was established following a study on the implementation of legislative norms on child marriage. To better understand the practices in minority ethnic communities, a partnership was established with Grassroot NGO HuizU, which was founded by Dungan activists, to research marriage practices in Dungan communities.

Under Pillar 6, support was extended to develop a communication strategy for addressing hate speech and attacks against 'left behind' groups, which generated useful lessons learned to inform the design of communication and advocacy interventions on EVAWG. Much effort has been invested by the SI to build capacities of IPs through joint sessions on the design of interventions, as well as regular coordination meetings.





In addition, the SI initiated a partnership with the Bishkek Feminists Initiative to produce a talk show, “Erkekche”. The show was broadcasted on the popular Super Info official online channels (YouTube and Instagram) and on Super TV. Eight episodes were produced, and each has reached around 500K viewers. The talk-show promoted messages about positive masculinity in an entertaining format.

Moreover, certain RUNOs worked for joint calls and procurement under Pillars 1-3 to streamline organizational procedures. In addition, the Programme jointly funded a group of experts at the beginning of the pandemic in 2020 for the MLSSM. Given that, several UN agencies started exercising mutual recognition policy and HACT assurance, the operational process did not require adjustments and/or changes.

To strengthen coordination of CSO partners at the local level, the PCU and RUNOs organized a coordination meeting for IPs. This was crucial to ensure improved coordination among the 15 IPs working at the community level. The meeting contributed to reaching a common understanding of the theory of change and expected programmatic results. It also allowed for a platform to exchange information on current and planned activities, and to agree on follow-up plans., SI TT and IPs agreed to regularly update monthly plans, to have regular coordination meetings in the beginning of 2022 and to create a new knowledge management platform for GBV- and GEWE-related materials (SI Library).

### **C) European Union Delegation**

The SI engages European Union Delegation (EUD) colleagues through regular briefings and meetings to discuss Programme progress, challenges and possible avenues for collaboration with other EUD projects to generate mutually reinforcing results. EUD focal points took an active part in conceptualization of strategic events (for example the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence Campaign) as well as at different SI Programme activities. EUD senior management attended events with high level state officials devoted to public discussions aimed at improving GBV legislation, particularly on abduction, forced marriages and domestic violence.

Moreover, EUD supported the SI Programme in building synergies with the ongoing EU-funded Rule of Law programme to implement gender self-assessment of Bar Association and Advocates’ Training Center.

The SI plans to organize a half-day executive retreat with HoA, European Union (EU) colleagues, and senior-level government officials to discuss its risk mitigation strategy for the SI Programme and the development of an action plan based on the findings of the expectations mapping exercise.



## **D) Cooperation with other UN agencies**

The SI partnered with the OHCHR to conceptualize human rights and gender mainstreaming approaches for the legal inventory process in order to leverage technical expertise and efficiently identify high priority laws. This close collaboration also resulted in the formation of an inter-ministerial working group which provided technical support to the Official Delegation of the Government in its preparations for the CEDAW 80<sup>th</sup> session presentation of the Country 5<sup>th</sup> Periodic report on 2-3 November, 2021.

The SI also engaged in productive collaboration with the ILO to conceptualize and implement a national campaign on combating violence and harassment in the workplace. The ILO provided technical expertise for crafting and tailoring communication messages to specific target audiences.

Finally, close cooperation with the UN Gender thematic group and UN Agencies' gender focal points facilitated the coordination of key events related to the Women Rise for All Forum, UN Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse action plan implementation, 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence Campaign conceptualization and implementation.

## **E) Other Partners**

As part of advocacy actions to lobby for the adoption of the harassment prevention bill, the SI partnered with Kyrgyzstan's largest-circulation newspaper, Super-Info, to conceptualize and implement a national campaign on combating violence and harassment in the workplace, specifically through engaging celebrities and influencers in raising importance of the topic in the social media. Under Pillar 4, partnership was also built with 25 private sector companies encouraging them to support operations of crisis centers through both financial means and provision of employment opportunities for SGBV survivors.

## **Results**

### **A) Capturing Broader Transformations Across Outcomes**

During the reporting period, the Kyrgyz Government elevated the strategic positioning of violence against women and girls to the highest political agenda when preparing for the presentation of the 5<sup>th</sup> periodic CEDAW report at 80<sup>th</sup> CEDAW session. Following the session, the government revisited legislation in the area of domestic violence as part of a massive legal inventory process.



While the Kyrgyz Delegation was presenting the country report during the CEDAW session, other members of the inter-ministerial working group came together in one space for a live online session. This was the first time in Kyrgyzstan when respective state authorities jointly observed a CEDAW session in one space with direct link to Geneva and worked together on compiling responses from the state. Moreover, The Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Migration/MLSSM invited gender experts from CSOs to consult on how to draft responses/clarifications to strengthen country reporting.

The formal Kyrgyz Delegation, upon returning from the session, provided a short brief on the country's presentation of its 5<sup>th</sup> CEDAW Periodic Report during the launch of the 16-days campaign against Gender-Based Violence. This year, the campaign was launched in Batken, a remote province which has experienced armed cross-border conflict with neighboring Tajikistan. In the opening remarks, Deputy Chair of the Cabinet of Ministers highlighted rural women's role in post conflict rehabilitation and recovery, the government's intention "to increase EVAWG-related financing, and plans to respond to gender based violence through the activation of the whole government machinery against abusers".

The theme of gender-based violence received similar resonance during public hearings on the Law "On Safeguarding and Protection from Domestic Violence" led by the Parliament Committee on Law Enforcement, Crime Prevention and Counteraction to Corruption, which is chaired by a woman MP. Several rounds of discussions, both in the official space and through media generated public discourse, engaged survivors of violence, women's rights advocates, women judges and broader CSOs. CSOs supported under Pillar 6 have been mobilized to review and comment on normative documents using the findings of the comprehensive legal review carried out under Pillar 1. They have also prepared and delivered CSO appeals to key decision makers on critical provisions. This resulted in multiple revisions and the integration of earlier missed or overlooked articles/items.

Strategic discussions of the gender-based violence happened not only at the central level but in 12 target municipalities. According to results review sessions with national partners, local stakeholders started to prioritize GBV issues during local development planning, monitoring and accountability frameworks and local financing. Thus, 12 municipalities devised joint plans on preventive measures on violence against girls and women (EVAWG Plans), 91% of the activities in the plans were implemented by almost all target communities from June through December 2021. 2 municipalities implemented 100% of the planned activities. These institutional changes have been promoted by locally trained [Gender Action Learning System \(GALS\)](#) champions (under Pillar 3) whose individual and collective critical reflections led to norm change.

Both national and local strategic interventions of the Programme have been implemented taking into account the "leaving no one behind" principle. The 16 days of Activism Against Gender Violence Campaign was launched in a remote province, engaging rural women from the most remote cross-border communities, women from diverse backgrounds (HIV positive, ethnic minorities, survivors of



violence, and LGBTQI women have been engaged in different programmatic activities both at the national and regional levels), and survivors of violence have been included, with some facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.

Importantly, joint platforms which were created by the PCU and RUNOs contributed to shifts in stakeholder attitudes, beliefs, and working methods beyond their thematic areas. Thus, comprehensive legal review under Pillar 1 coincided with a massive legal inventory process in the country after a change in government and required the mobilization of gender experts, lawyers, and women's rights advocates. This process allowed disconnected, diverse women's groups to unite (including under Pillar 6) to document women's concerns, attend numerous parallel public hearings to deliver key messages and recommendations, and create public discourse outside of official platforms to inform the broader public about the possible implications of laws.

Standard operating procedures (under Pillar 4) which were recognized and adopted by national level service providers were included in the awareness raising and training package offered to local authorities, semi-official structures (CEDAW, local Women's Councils, etc.), and service providers within Pillar 3 activities.

Finally, a design thinking platform that united both governmental and CSO actors (media, NGOs, gender experts, crisis centers, businesses, etc.) at the national and local levels within Pillars 2, 3, 4 and 6 have demonstrated a comprehensive approach to EVAWG by bringing bringing the perspectives of survivors of violence to the core and mobilizing diverse actors to search and prototype transformative solutions.

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

*PME is planned for April 2022. The PCU coordinated the process of its conceptualization and outlined the following key principles for the process: gender-sensitivity, results-oriented approach, and Do No Harm. The monitoring groups will include representatives from the CSNRG as well as key technical level national partners such as MLSSM and Mol staff, media, EUD representatives, and UN representatives. The objectives of the PME will be to jointly monitor SI activities in all 6 pillars, provide recommendations to improve results, identify lessons learned to inform future activity design, and increase ownership of the SI Programme among national and CSO partners.*

## **B) Capturing Change at Outcome Level**



## **Outcome 1: Legal and Policy Framework**

The SI Programme has worked to improve legal and policy frameworks in three core dimensions by (1) conducting research to better understand the existing issues and gaps in EAWG-related legislation and creating dialogue platforms to discuss these issues with different stakeholders (policy makers, CSOs including women's rights groups, lawyers); (2) providing support in the process of improving laws, by-laws and other normative documents in the area of EAWG/GEWE; and (3) lobbying for effective institutional structures to better implement these new legal frameworks.

Under the first dimension, the SI Programme completed an overarching review (hereinafter – Legislation review) of 36 laws and 60 by-laws, generating concrete recommendations for improving legislation and law enforcement practices in the area of EAWG/GEWE. The report was presented to the Parliamentary Committee on Legal Order, Combating Crime and Corruption of the Kyrgyz Republic, upon which the key recommendations were officially transferred to law enforcement agencies and judiciary for review and response. The report findings triggered a series of high-level policy dialogues between state authorities and women's rights groups on improving national legislation for better protection of SGBV survivors and strengthening the role of the GBV coordination body, including through a three-fold increase in state funding for sustaining the operations of crisis centers and the establishment of a national media campaign on zero tolerance to SGBV.<sup>3</sup> Moreover, the SI conducted a review and analysis of judicial practices on legal reforms related to child marriage, developed the subsequent report in partnership with Kyrgyz Association of Women Judges. The SI organized report dissemination with over 100 participants, including members of Parliament, relevant Government officials, women judges and civil society experts. The findings of this study informed the development process for internal action plans as elaborated by the MLSSM and aimed at the prevention of child marriage. In addition, as a follow-up action from the report, the Dungan NGO KuizU partnered with the SI program to study and better understand marriage practices in ethnic Dungan communities to fill in the data gap in this area given the anecdotal observations that child marriages are prevalent among members of this ethnic group.

Further, the SI provided support in regards to improving the normative framework in the area of EAWG as well as gender sensitivity mainstreaming in close collaboration with the Presidential Administration and Ministry of Justice (MoJ). The SI adjusted to evolving context and integrated the

---

<sup>3</sup> [https://24.kg/vlast/213353\\_kabmin\\_vtri\\_raza\\_uvelichit\\_finansirovanie\\_krizisnyih\\_tsentrov/](https://24.kg/vlast/213353_kabmin_vtri_raza_uvelichit_finansirovanie_krizisnyih_tsentrov/)



findings of its Legislation review in the Comprehensive inventory of legislation<sup>4</sup> process (launched by the initiative of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic in 2021) and conducted gender expertise reviews of an additional 37 priority laws in the area of EVAWG/GEWE.

Moreover, the SI helped establish dialogue platforms to discuss and integrate important amendments to the Law “On Safeguarding and Protection from Domestic Violence” aimed at improving protection of survivors of GBV and including progressive norms such as the extension of protection orders’ duration from 3 days to 30 days; recognition of violence committed by former intimate partners; restriction of parental rights for those who commit violence in the presence of children; and an improved mechanism for the implementation of rehabilitation programs for violence perpetrators.<sup>5</sup>

In addition, the SI, jointly with women’s CSOs and in cooperation with ILO and UNDP Rule of Law project, supported the development of amendments to the Labor Code to counter violence and harassment in the workplace, which were initiated and published by the Parliament in May 2021 for public discussion.<sup>6</sup> The Programme also supported advocacy efforts for the adoption of the new edition of the Law “On State-Guaranteed Legal Aid” to include survivors of SGBV as eligible recipients of free primary and qualified legal aid<sup>7</sup>. The SI provided support in the process of developing amendments (which were subsequently approved by the Parliament) to the Child Code and an accompanying package of 17 law amendments which are expected to significantly improve the country’s existing system of protection for girls and boys from all forms of violence against children and require the formalization of guardianship arrangements for children whose parents are migrating abroad in order to mitigate significant risk of violence and abuse if they are not living with authorized guardianship.

To draw public attention and put gender-based violence at the core of strategic discussions, the SI has supported a participatory design process for the the National Gender Development Strategy for

---

<sup>4</sup> Comprehensive inventory of legislation was launched under the auspices of the Ministry of Economy and Finance and the Ministry of Justice of the Kyrgyz Republic, outlined in the Presidential Decree of the Kyrgyz Republic of 8 February 2021

<sup>5</sup> ] <http://kenesh.kg/ru/article/show/8747/na-obshtestvennoe-obsuzhdenie-s-24-noyabrya-2021-goda-vinositsya-proekt-zakona-o-vnesenii-izmeneniy-v-nekotorie-zakonodatelnyie-akti-kirgizskoy-respubliki-v-sfere-ohrani-i-zashtiti-ot-semeynogo-nasiliya>

<sup>6</sup> <http://kenesh.kg/ru/article/show/8027/na-obshtestvennoe-obsuzhdenie-s-20-maya-2021-goda-vinositsya-proekt-zakona-o-vnesenii-izmeneniy-v-trudovoy-kodeks-kr>

<sup>7</sup> Adopted by the Parliament on 20 October 2021 and submitted for President’s signature.



2022-2030 and the National Action Plan for 2022-2025 (NAP). Both documents were developed based on a comprehensive context analysis that considered a wide variety of factors and articulated transformative Theories of Change, using Adaptive Leadership and the Oxford Scenario Planning Approach (OSPA) which started in late 2020 and continued in 2021. The National Gender Development Strategy for 2022-2030 and its NAP 2022-2024 are the key strategic documents which will enable a system approach. They are an important tool for coordinating the efforts of different actors including government, CSOs, and development partners in the area of EVAWG and GEWE.

On the institutional level, the SI provided support to the Permanent Council on Women's Rights and the Prevention of Gender-Based Violence under the Speaker of the Parliament, which resulted in the organization of several inclusive civic engagement dialogue platforms to draft and strengthen legislation, and to hold state institutions accountable for the implementation of legislation on women's rights and SGBV. For example, legislative initiative one of the MPs on prohibiting reconciliation in domestic abuse cases was rejected by the President upon an appeal by crisis centers to the above-mentioned Council. The SI facilitated the dialogue process with the participation of bill initiators and women's rights groups to elevate the voices of GBV survivors who strongly opposed the proposed changes.

Another partner which benefited the SI Outcome 1 interventions is the Ombudsman's Office. A tailored capacity building program was designed and delivered to its 64 staff members at both central and regional levels. As the result, the Ombudsman's Office undertook a comprehensive analysis of its internal procedures and capacities for improved response to VAWG, which allowed the institution to systematize its work on prevention and response to GBV cases and prepare its first ever special report on VAWG issues (to be presented to Parliament in 2022).

Among unexpected results, the Programme was able to build a partnership between women's rights defenders and the professional community of lawyers to jointly lobby and advocate for legislation and policy changes on GEWE/EVAWG, as it created synergies of skills, knowledge, and expertise within and across both groups. The establishment of cross-cutting communities of professionals and further connections to activists' networks/ movements have great potential of functioning autonomously after donor exit and consequently lead to long-term systemic changes.

In terms of sustainability, the SI in its next Phase will invest in the systematization, clustering, and transformation of legal review findings and recommendations into user-friendly and evidence-based policy briefs for further use by programme allies including decision-makers and women's rights CSOs. To this end, the Programme will establish a dedicated task force uniting gender and legal experts, practicing lawyers, and data-journalists, who will synthesize legal review analysis and create strategic knowledge products that will facilitate further lobbying for progressive legislative



changes in a holistic manner and in compliance with international commitments. The creation of the task force will also contribute to enhanced networking and collaboration of cross-cutting groups (legal, gender, and media) to more effectively advocate for the wider GEWE agenda promotion.

In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, women's rights CSOs and legal aid service providers have increasingly reported high levels of exhaustion, anxiety, depression, and burnout. As a way forward, most suggested integrating mental health and wellbeing sessions into SI-supported training programs. The SI, in coordination with UN Mental Health Psycho-Social Support (MHPSS) sub-sector, started exploring the possibility of adapting the Common Elements Treatment Approach (CETA), a scientifically proven and cost-effective system of care addressing a wide range of mental and behavioral health needs. Due to its high importance, the design of contextualized mental health support programs based on best global practices will be one of the central cross-cutting capacity building areas of the SI under Phase II.

### ***Outcome 2: Institutions***

Under Pillar 2 and during the reporting period, most SI interventions were consolidated around institutional changes in research and service provision.

As a result of participatory gender self-assessment exercises in the Bar Association, the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA), and Supreme Court, the key staff and personnel in central and regional departments engaged in joint self-reflection and identification of institutional barriers for survivor-centred and gender-sensitive service provision. Following a presentation of the assessment findings, the Bar Association and MIA developed and validated subsequent action plans to address identified gaps and challenges. The completion of this critical exercise allowed the MIA and Bar Association to re-think, systematize, and strengthen internal gender mainstreaming mechanisms within and across institutions. For instance, the MIA realized the cruciality of prevention measures for ending VAWG, prioritized them in the action plan, and recognized the importance of top leadership engagement in promoting a gender-sensitive and survivor- approach in GBV service provision. Starting from June 2021, regular operational meetings with the participation of deputy ministers and heads of departments for the first time ever start with a discussion of weekly GBV reports, which helps shape the key Ministry departments' understanding of key trends and methods in tackling of GBV. Additionally, the Bar Association for the first time ever integrated gender aspects into its institutional strategic development plan including the identification of internal GEWE/EVAWG capacity building for key staff members as a key priority in the coming years.

During the last reporting cycle, the MIA and Police Academy leadership and technical staff attended a series of knowledge exchange platforms, including round tables and an exchange study visit to



the Republic of Kazakhstan. These participants became the driving force in the development of comprehensive gender-transformative modules and their integration into curricula for in-service training institutions of law enforcement agencies and the judiciary. The UNDP Seoul Policy Center's capitalized on these activities in their interventions on police capacity building to address GBV and in coordination with SI Regional Programme for Central Asia and Afghanistan. This was in addition to the series of scheduled ToTs to transfer the knowledge to a wider group of teaching staff of Police Academy.

The Inter-Agency Task Force, which consists of mid-ranked staff members at law enforcement agencies, the judiciary, women's rights CSOs, and academia, reviewed the findings of the inventory of gender courses developed so far by the Training Center of Lawyers, High School of Justice, Police Academy, and GPO Training Center. During the review process, they recognized the fragmentation of training courses which lack human rights and survivor-centric approaches, as well as clear-cut monitoring and evaluation frameworks which could enable institutions to measure changes in attitudes and behavior of personnel participating in these courses. As a result, beneficiary training institutions recognized that more comprehensive behavior-change courses need to be developed and integrated into human resources (HR) management systems. HR systems should also include GEWE competency indicators in the personnel's career promotion opportunities.

Furthermore, the Management Academy under the President of KR developed and endorsed an educational course on the prevention of GBV for local self-government. Based on this, a team of gender experts and Academy trainers developed and delivered TOT to teachers from the Academy, Arabayev Kyrgyz State University, International University of Kyrgyzstan, as well as experts on gender and representatives of the Social Development Department under the Ministry of Social Security and Migration. After the TOT, many participants were interested in revising their related courses with regards to gender mainstreaming and adding related methodologies on the prevention of GBV. Since local authorities are the first line service providers for gender-based violence at grassroots level, their awareness and ability to prevent and respond to GBV sensitively is crucial in breaking the cycle of violence. The course will be further taught at the Academy to enhance the knowledge of future state and municipal workers on prevention of domestic violence and GBV.

At the policy level, 27 inter-ministerial working group (IMWG) members engaged in drafting the National Gender Development Strategy for 2022-2030 and gender focal points in ministries or agencies- critically examined, challenged, and questioned gender norms, power relations as well as system-related gaps in service provision during an experiential learning process which applied Oxford scenario planning, positive deviance, adaptive leadership, and design] thinking approaches.



The findings were documented during a series of strategic conversations and have been reflected in the final strategic policy document. Also, the IMWG benefited from exchange visitors from Moldova (representing UN women and Women’s Law Center) who shared their experience about positive co-creation of intersectoral cooperation mechanisms to EVAWG.

Furthermore, 136 representatives of province and municipal authorities (93 women and 43 men), including from sectoral service providers, explored the profiles of survivors including those who have faced multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and learned to draw and analyze survivor journeys and types of services they received (or not). This was possible due to the joint efforts of the SI and CSO partners in adapting design-thinking/user journey exercises from business practice to social issues. This tool helped training participants enhance their empathy while mapping survivor journeys, identify issues and needs, and prototype and test participatory solutions (inter-agency) with involvement of survivors themselves.

The SI will sustain Pillar 2 results through the development and institutionalization of mandatory comprehensive training courses on SBV prevention and response for law enforcement and judiciary actors, building on the CEDAW Concluding Observations (2021). Sustainability will also be achieved through the internalization and implementation of action plans on improving institutional gender sensitivity which were developed as a result of the gender self-assessment exercise. Lastly, gender transformative approaches and tools are reflected in the National Gender Development Strategy for 2022-2030 and its National Action Plan 2025 ensuring sustained commitments gender transformative outcomes.

### ***Outcome 3: Prevention and Norm Change***

Outcome 3 interventions are complex, involving multi-faceted work with a wide array of individuals and groups at the community and institutional level to promote gender-equitable social norms, attitudes and behaviors as well as zero-tolerance to VAWG.

During this report timeframe, the SI generated a number of studies to inform VAWG prevention programming and to share with relevant partners. These include IMAGES, conducted in line with international methodology and considered the most comprehensive household study on men’s and women’s attitudes and practices on a wide variety of topics related to gender equality (more than 600 respondents; <https://kyrgyzstan.unfpa.org/ru/node/67163>). The IMAGES findings informed the design of interventions on men’s engagement on EVAWG and promoting positive masculinity. Moreover, the IMAGES results are important evidence which provides insights on trends in community perceptions related to GBV and gender equality. The SI also conducted a rapid assessment in target municipalities to identify barriers which hinder men's engagement in promoting



gender equality. This survey complemented two informational campaigns carried out in support of Men Engage and responsible fatherhood.

Another study was conducted to inform the SI Programme intervention was the needs assessment of the Committees on Prevention of Domestic Violence. The report is expected to be finalized in early 2022. The findings of the needs assessment will inform a basis for government and other partners in planning their interventions with CPDVs.

An ethnographic review (ER)<sup>8</sup> was launched in 2021 and completed in 2022. Based on the findings of the ER, so-called old and new social norms and norm holders were identified in 12 target communities. These social norms were analyzed to guide further Spotlight activities, particularly under Outcomes 3 and 6. ERs' findings informed the GALS programme for community mobilization.

The GALS approach was applied as an entry point for work with social norms with the engagement of community members. As the result of a series of GALS trainings, 60 participants (35 women and 25 men) - Champions/facilitators learned how to apply its tools. For example, "Happy Family Diamond" allowed participants to reflect on the diamond of their happy family: strengthening relationships between family members by discussing relationships in the family that they "really like", "like" and relationships that they "like less" and "really dislike". Champions were able to distinguish between the types of violence and know that a woman has the opportunity to contact the police, local institutions responsible for DV prevention, and psychologists. Most champions noted that significant changes are taking place in their families towards more equitable gender relationships. Champions reported increased sensitivity violence and questioning gender stereotypes which are enabling factors for violence. Furthermore, Champions took an active part in the planning and implementation of activities devoted to the 16-day campaign against GBV.

The GALS method was further applied to the work on combating and preventing child and forced marriages with other groups as well. Following the socio-ecological model and in line with developed C4D Roadmap, the SI targeted adolescent girls and boys, their caregivers, teachers, and community leaders. Forty-three (43) teachers (38 women and 5 men) underwent regular trainings and mentorship sessions about using GALS tools in their families and teaching practice. These teachers in turn shared their knowledge with 628 pedagogues (570 women and 58 men) in their schools. Moreover, GALS tools have been integrated in the plan of extracurricular classes by homeroom teachers and approved for use in 12 target schools, mostly for secondary classes. As the result, participants reported improvements in students' strategic planning skills; student-parent

---

<sup>8</sup> a qualitative study that applies action learning research principles to actively involve community members not only as research objects, but also as equal and active partners.



communication; support from parents to realize the dreams and plans of their daughters and sons; opportunity for children to draw about issues they are afraid to voice; and trust in the relationships between teachers and students.

Teacher - participants of GALS trainings identified several cases of violence and children requiring psychological support, were identified. Adolescent boys and girls benefited from the SI interventions containing of GALS training, the UPSHIFT approach,<sup>9</sup> pitching and public hearings, motivational camp, video advocacy trainings, song contests, parents' meetings, etc. 180 girls and 10 boys attended GALS trainings and, in-turn, shared them with an additional 1,004 peers. As a result, by December 2021, there was an 8% increase compared to the baseline in girls discussing their plans for education with their parents, a 10% increase in girls taking actions towards their plans, and an 18.5% increase in girls' opportunities improve through getting education. Among surveyed parents, 8% more compared to the baseline report that their daughters will get higher education, 5% more report that their daughters will get vocational education and 9.5% more believe their daughters will study overseas.

160 caregivers (142 women and 10 men) attended GALS trainings and 654 caregivers (503 women and 151 men) attended parents' meetings at schools where messages to promote education of girls have been shared. Over 400 people attended community meetings, and 64 community leaders (57 women and 7 men) and 15 religious experts (14 women and 1 man) were trained on GALS. At the same time, parents reported a reduction of the likely that their daughters will get married after completing school education (by 3%), and 12% more parents have confirmed that they discuss their daughters' plans and dreams at least once a month. The SI Programme organized social media videos by children, song contests and public hearings to facilitate the wider dissemination of positive examples of parenting of daughters, including supporting their education as an alternative to child, early and forced marriages.

SI also implemented interventions with adolescent girls and boys using a digital platform (game) called "Spring in Bishkek", which aims to increase awareness and skills for adolescent girls and boys to prevent forced marriage. As of the end of 2021, the users in Kyrgyz Republic downloaded the game 161,269 times, and another 3,096 users rated the game 5.0 out of 5.0. Analysis of reviews on the game's Instagram shows anecdotal evidence that girls have increased their awareness regarding not only the prevention of forced marriages but also regarding the right to choose and the to influence (through expressing one's opinion) the outcome of a situation. According to some participants, the game helped them become more independent and confident. According to Results

---

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.unicef.org/innovation/upshift>



Review meetings conducted with IP, there were cases when the game affected the behavior of girls – at least 3 in which they acted to prevent forced marriage.

The platform also developed a story called “Secrets of SaryKol”, which sought to address norms supporting child marriage and promote education and professional careers for girls. SI launched the game with participation from 100 girls and boys from SI target communities. In one month, the new game was downloaded 1,575 times, and rated a 4.7 out of 5.0 by 62 players. Additionally targeted promotion activities are planned in 2022.

Within Outcome 3, the SI continued its support of key Ministries (MoES, MOJ, and the Ministry of Culture), which had an impact on EVAWG discourse and dynamics on the ground. For example, the SI Programme supported MOES in the implementation of a mandatory gender expertise of draft learning and teaching materials and thereby ensured gender stereotype-free content. With program support, the MOES reviewed a total of 61 drafts and included recommendations addressed to improve them. The experience also provided valuable recommendations on procedures for better and more transparent operationalization of the gender expertise mechanism. To enable improved application of the methodology, trainings were held for 58 participants (56 women and 2 men), including Ministry staff, authors of textbooks, teachers, and publishers. In addition, the methodology was translated into Uzbek and Tajik to allow its application in minority-language schools and as aligned with principles of ‘leave no one behind.’ The Okuu Kitebi Centre of MOES is in the process of developing an online training module on gender expertise methodology and will be available for all future authors, teachers and experts.

The SI will sustain Pillar 3 results through the development and institutionalization of gender-transformative curricula on GBV prevention and response for tertiary-level students of law faculties in three state-funded universities. The curricula will be developed by the teaching staff of these educational institutions after undergoing a series of experiential learning trainings using the GALS approach. The SI also worked with religious educational institutions – madrasahs to introduce the concepts of positive masculinities into their curriculum.

Moreover, the SI provided support to the MoJ to re-think the concept of legal awareness raising under the “Bus of Solidarity” (BoS) to ensure free legal advice is gender-sensitive and survivor centered. The re-thinking process was held in a highly participatory manner and engaged local self-governance authorities for the first time. In total, 178 representatives of LSGs from SI pilot communities, including 126 women and 52 men, provided recommendations which were further clustered into four key recommendations areas for future action: (1) strengthening coordination of national and local authorities, (2) capacity building of BoS lawyers on GEWE/GBV, (3) strengthening monitoring and evaluation, (4) massive legal awareness raising and advocacy campaign.



The SI engaged BoS lawyers and partnered with them using a series of experiential trainings with the use of GALS tools, allowing them to self-reflect on their own life experience and themselves arrive at the importance of GEWE and violence-free relationships for both women and men. Then, the trained lawyers participated in joint co-creation sessions, where through role plays and other interactive exercises, they co-designed GBV screening interview questions, contextualized to rural areas where the BoS activities will take place. According to the pre- and post-test results, 78% of participants changed their attitudes towards unpaid care work, recognizing that it is for each family member, irrespective of their gender, to equally share this burden. Ninety-four (94%) of participants reported changes in their approach towards legal advice provision, with GBV screening skills as essential competencies of lawyers. Moreover, lawyers and social workers trained under the SI provided legal advice to more than 1,146 citizens, 70% of whom were women. For the first time in the BoS campaign's history, 10 cases of domestic violence were identified and referred to the appropriate authorities. Overall, the nationwide campaign covered 4,363 people 60% of which were women.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the SIT revised the timeframe for implementation of the BoS several times considering quarantine restrictions in the most-affected areas. The activity was delayed for just under two months in Chui Province, prompting the Programme to revise some awareness raising campaign activities and re-design informational posters about the BoS schedule of visits, putting greater focus on dissemination of information through social media networks.

The SI Programme worked with the Local committees on the prevention of domestic violence (LCPDV) - the local mechanism charged with prevention activities- consisting of key stakeholders (social and health workers, police, local leaders, members of local parliament) to prevent and address domestic violence cases. The SI's mapping exercise revealed that LCPDVs were in place only in 4 target municipalities out of 12, although local authorities understood the need and requirement for establishing this kind of mechanism. Subsequently, the SI Programme provided expert and mobilization support to set up LCPDVs in 8 target municipalities. A series of workshops were held for 152 LCPDVs members (68 women) and, according to the results of pre and post-tests, participants improved their understanding of legislative framework including changes in legislation, relevant in their work. **The SI's intervention also increased their understanding of the importance of prevention work and some LCPDVs have already started incorporating preventive measures into their action plans in addition to responsive ones.**

The SI Programme engaged religious leaders in EVAWG interventions in close collaboration with religious spiritual administration – Muftiyat. After extensive consultations and discussions Muftiyat





agreed to include 5 topics related to GBV to the plan of Khutbahs<sup>10</sup> that Muftiyat releases each year (there are more than 50 topics annually). Accordingly, background materials for these Khutbahs were developed via participatory approach on the role of fathers (positive fatherhood) in upbringing children, prevention of GBV, responsible parenting and positive masculinity.

Through the media gender self-assessment tool under Pillar 3, 14 media organizations and 3 regional multi-media centers were trained on gender equality and women's empowerment issues. **As a result, participant journalists not only reported personal changes in their outlook towards workplace harassment and gender stereotyping, but also began to cover more GBV-related issues as well as topics challenging stereotypes (links available in the Communications and Visibility section).** In addition, "Gender Code of Ethics for the Media" was developed and consolidated by signing the Agreement on striving for gender-sensitive journalism by 17 media outlets. The media coverage of these media organizations is from 200 thousand to 3 million people.

#### **Outcome 4: Quality Services**

As a result of Programme interventions, service providers' essential services and understanding of SGBV specifics has been enhanced, leading to below concrete changes at the individual and institutional levels.

Specifically, the SI built the capacities of key legal aid service providers, including state-guaranteed free legal aid lawyers, district-level social workers, and private practice lawyers – all providers who directly interact with SGBV survivors. For example, 36 free legal aid lawyers and social workers, including 21 women and 15 men, from the BoS raised awareness on gender sensitive and survivor-centred service provision, as well as recognition of common signs of abuse through a series of training workshops using GALS methodology. For the first time, several survivors of violence were identified and received legal support including a girl with disability facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. The participants of the BoS also reported that the organization of joint trainings which included service providers representing different sectors (in this case, legal and social) was very effective for building long-term multi-sectoral coordination on GBV. Illustratively, after BoS implementation, social workers and lawyers continued networking, sharing information about SGBV, and effectively referring arising GBV cases to respective authorities through the online platforms created for the Campaign.

---

<sup>10</sup> A sermon preached by an imam in a mosque at the time of the Friday noon prayer.



The Advocates' Training Center, has launched pro bono legal assistance to women and children survivors of GBV. This was possible due to a partnership with the Association of Crisis Centers which helped to expand long-term recovery services to survivors, including access to training and employment opportunities. With support of the Programme, both the Advocates' Training Center and the Association of Crisis Centers will elaborate their sustainability strategies to promote pro bono culture among lawyers and the private sector.

In addition, the SI supported the expansion of existing functionalities for the Telegram Bot "Mildet", an innovative, solution-oriented creation of women lawyers which is able to provide legal advice and generate the documentation required for submission to courts and other state bodies. The Telegram Bot addresses the following issues: adding contingency scenarios on alimonies; claims to establish paternity and filing complaints on the inaction of court bailiffs; filing for divorce and property division; inheritance rights.

Furthermore, the MLSSM and Ministry of Interior (MOI) have developed and officially endorsed SOPs for social workers and police (juvenile and district police officers) as a part of the multi-sectoral response mechanism for GBV. The term SOP is new to the country context. Its adoption required extensive preparatory work including advocacy/awareness raising and an exchange visit to neighboring Kazakhstan organized in partnership with Regional SI Programme. Both documents made an extensive contribution to the capacities of service providers in delivering quality care to survivors of GBV. As part of an integrated process, the GPO, MOI and Ministry of Health have also developed and officially endorsed the SoPs for investigation, prosecution, and medical forensic examination services. Psychologists with experience working with women and child victims of violence were involved to the process of drafting SOPs for investigators on victim interrogation, taking into account psychological needs and protection against secondary victimization in accordance with international standards for the treatment of survivors of GBV and international standards for information sharing and data protection. A methodological tool was developed for patrol police based on the standards of GBV prevention. The tool prioritizes standards of treatment for women and girls who have been subjected to violence, as well as specifics of communication with women and children exposed to multiple forms of discrimination and violence.

To translate above SOPs into practice, local authorities from 12 target municipalities have reviewed and improved their annual work plans by incorporating prevention and response activities against violence of women and girls, which engage police, health, and social sector service providers. **Consequently, according to monitoring survey findings, local service providers and authorities have increased their understanding of multi-sectoral response and coordination, included issues of S/GBV into local development agendas, created networks among service providers using social**



media for easy communication and reference, and introduced new monitoring and reporting tools.

The SI engaged relevant ministries and agencies along with their provincial and district level branches both in the process of analytical review and development of the SOPs and their endorsement and training. As a result, the SI programme trained 283 police officers from district and juvenile police (165 women and 88 men) in 12 target municipalities and 143 service providers from the social security sector (102 women and 41 male) on the provision of social assistance to women and girls who have been subjected to domestic violence.

To further increase a survivor-centered approach and sensitivity of local actors, the Programme has worked with a national team of experts to adapt the Design Thinking/User Journey business tool to GBV issues, which was further tested on different audiences during 13 tailored workshops. This adaptation was aimed at transforming the approach from understanding women and girls as target groups or “service users” to “solution holders and new norm shapers” in order to ensure high-quality services to all survivors of GBV. The Programme offered a space for a wide range of stakeholders including survivors (it also helped to create profiles of survivors), civil society partners, and service providers to jointly connect, learn, explore, and co-create new approaches to EVAWG and service delivery. As a result, the SI increased the capacity of 309 people (226 women and 83 men)-representatives of sectoral service providers (health, law enforcement, social workers, crisis centers, lawyers) and civil society activists/organizations- on survivor/user-centered service delivery both at the strategic and service delivery levels related

Another structural-level change occurred in MLSSM, which rolled out a digital management information system (MIS) for case management for vulnerable children and families nationwide. The MIS will support the Child Code implementation and improve referral and case management processes for cases of violence against children and women. MLSSM departments nationwide were oriented on the database and how to use it.

The SI will ensure the sustainability of the above changes through the development and operationalization of a long-term strategy on the promotion of pro bono culture among legal professionals to protect the rights of survivors of GBV. The strategy will be implemented by the Advocates’ Training Center and Association of Crisis Centers, which will be trained and equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to build sustainable linkages with private sector companies. In addition, the Programme will work with the MoJ to support the operationalization of the new FLA legislation through the launch of the Free Legal Aid Hotline and the capacitation of the new district-level FLA coordinators’ network on SGBV prevention and response. SOPs will be further reviewed and adjusted in compliance with the revised legislation and further institutionalized in respective ministries and regional units.



Programmatic lessons learned, discovered during gender transformative and innovative interventions, points to the need to fully embrace a survivor-centered approach when developing models for service provision; innovative solutions need to be combined with technical solutions and with spaces for experimental platforms; and survivors and beneficiaries need to be part of the solution and involved at all stages of the co-creation process. The shared learning journey will be continued in 2022 towards fostering social innovation and finding new practical solutions to address GBV issues and bring quality service delivery to survivors of violence.

### **Outcome 5: Data**

The SI Programme supported the development of bi-annual and annual forms for strengthening collection and analysis of GBV criminal justice administrative data. Subsequently, the GPO of the Kyrgyz Republic endorsed 80 % of the developed forms and introduced into the Module 1 of the Unified Registry of Crimes and Misdemeanors (ERPP) of the GPO. However, data collection remains challenging as the Registry's modules require additional investments to be aligned with the new provisions of the criminal legislation. To further ensure the GBV data collection, the SI reached an agreement with UNODC to support technical upgrade of the modules under the new Phase III of the EU-funded Rule of Law programme.

Despite the 2020 political crisis, which caused structural changes in the National Statistical Committee (NSC) replacing the Chair and Deputy Chair twice and dismissal of key personnel, the Programme continued its activities with the NSC. The NSC and the Programme IPs had carried out two induction meetings on the key Outcome 5 objectives and expectations to have a common understanding and plan activities accordingly. During the meetings, a focus was on the review and update of the data sharing policy and communication strategy of the NSC; the review and update of ethical guides and protocols in line with the international standards; the review of GBV data collection forms from the main administrative data providers; the review of the capacities and needs of the NSC on GBV data hub taking into account the NSC's donor support from the World Bank and other EU projects to strengthen synergy.

Furthermore, the Spotlight Programme has built strong coordination with the regional office of the UN Women to jointly develop the gender data portal uniting GBV data and other gender indicators in one page. Activities aimed at improving GBV data collection, recording, reporting and dissemination were initiated in 2021 and will be finalized in Q 1-2 of 2022.

In terms of sustainability, the Programme's support in the review, update and endorsement of GBV data collection forms at the NSC and respective state institutions (GPO, Mol and MLSSM) will ensure sustainability of outcome results in conjunction with SGBV data hub unifying access for



decision makers, media and CSOs. The GBV data within the hub and Gender Portal owned and managed by the NSC will ensure public access to regularly updated GBV data.

### ***Outcome 6: Women's Movement***

Mapping CSO actors through engaging regional researchers and Women's Kurultai (public gathering) helped the SI identify local actors in three target provinces. Women's Kurultais, under the initiative of the Parliament's Council on Women's Rights and Prevention of Gender-Based Violence identified and invited 261 local women leaders to participate. These two parallel activities helped to reach out as many women as possible and complement by expanding the list especially from excluded groups. The Kurultai allowed women leaders to self-reflect on current socio-political processes in the country and key challenges faced by women and girl leaders in their communities. The key outcome of the Kurultai was women's appeals to key decision-makers.

The Programme also piloted a Leading Change approach by identifying gender champions and positive deviants, mapping non-conventional actors working for EAW and supporting targeted civil society organizations in sourcing social innovation and transformative approaches to promoting gender equality.

Furthermore, the Programme conducted a capacity assessment of women's CSOs at both national and sub-national levels to assess existing capacities for monitoring new legislation and law enforcement practices. The assessment findings helped identify local/grassroots CSOs in SI target communities and informed the design of planned SI capacity building programs, including thematic areas, format, duration, preferred language, and need for on-job mentorship support.

The Programme created a platform where 40 local women actors identified during the mapping could come together to exchange their experiences, knowledge in EAWG, and key challenges. It also provided an opportunity for participants to co-design a self-assessment tool to measure/evaluate the impact of CSOs activities/ initiatives/ projects and critically reflect on their work to identify gaps and share best practices. This collaboration resulted in 10 project ideas and the creation of a joint WhatsApp group for information sharing and networking.

The Programme also supported the development of a Communication Strategy to improve joint networking, advocacy and partnerships for ending violence and hate speech towards LGBTQI groups.

During the legal inventory process, the Programme supported the national women's movement "Unite to End Violence against Women" and women's CSOs in summarizing recommendations on

the new GEWE/EVAWG legislation and drafting open appeals to authorities, namely: *MP Pirmatov's draft bill on increasing punishment for perpetrators and the removal of reconciliation procedure; Draft editions of the Criminal Code (CC) and the Criminal Procedure Code (CPC) of the KR; Electoral amendments lowering actual gender quota for MPs and Inputs to legal inventory process.*

*The Programme has also supported semi-official local structures. 117 women members of Women's Councils and interested activists from 12 target municipalities improved their skills in advocacy, organizational development, mediation and negotiation, fundraising, and presentation by attending women leadership workshops. They have also increased their awareness of opportunities for peer learning and collaboration, sub-grants, as well as free legal advice and further legal support for registering women's council members as a legal entity and organization.*

*Moreover, 262 adolescent girls from 12 target communities attended tailored training programs aiming to improve their leadership, communication, analytical and public speaking skills. UpShift methodology was used to build girls' knowledge and skills of conducting research, analysis, prototyping innovative solutions, and testing and pitching their ideas to decision-makers. Projects proposed by participants included improving sanitary facilities at schools, investing in equipment for teaching ICT and science classes, leadership and self-development clubs for girls at school, and waste management. The 12 winning teams received support from school administrations and local governments, including financial support guarantee letters ranging from 3,000 to 50,000 KGS to implement the proposed solutions.*

Among the unintended outcomes of Pillar 6 interventions technical team members reported on strengthened capacities pertinent to strategic communication techniques and the realization of the “leave no one behind” principle, which became possible due to the team’s participation in the co-creation of a communication strategy for LGBTQI groups. The challenges and opportunities identified by these groups during the process were also important for better understanding of growth dynamics within groups/networks/ movements and could further inform the design and implementation of Pillar 6 activities.

The Programme will ensure sustainability through capacity building of grassroots women’s rights CSOs and networks on strategic priority areas, including fundraising and project development. New safe spaces will be created for dialogue and collaboration. Bringing new and diverse actors into the women’s movement will help make a generational shift, bring new perspectives and innovative solutions and enable joint initiatives.



### Rights Holders (“Beneficiaries”)

Please provide an estimated number of rights holders/“beneficiaries” reached during the reporting period (in this case 2021), using the table below. Please use the same methodology you’ve used to calculate estimated beneficiaries in your programme document. For additional guidance on calculating beneficiaries, please see [here](#).

	Direct beneficiaries	Indirect beneficiaries	Comments
Women (18 yrs. and above)	5, 796	20, 559	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women benefiting from SI's interventions - social service providers, parliamentarians and key state representatives of ministries and agencies and the Ombudsman’s Office, including women representatives of local governments and Domestic Violence Prevention Committees, law enforcement agencies and judiciary, including 6state-guaranteed free legal aid lawyers, district-level social workers.</li> <li>• Teachers in 12 schools of SI target communities, mothers and female caregivers</li> <li>• Members of Women's Councils and interested activists from 12 target municipalities</li> </ul>
<b>Girls (5-17)</b>	1, 519	4, 341	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adolescent girls attending GALS trainings and the UPSHIFT programme</li> <li>• Girls SGBV survivors receiving pro bono legal assistance from the Advocates’ Training Center, as well as got access to long-term recovery services, including access to training and employment opportunities.</li> </ul>
<b>Men (18 yrs. and above)</b>	6, 393	7, 197	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Police officers from district and juvenile police districts in 12 target municipalities</li> <li>• GALS champions in the communities</li> <li>• Male religious leaders</li> </ul>



			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social workers</li> <li>• Lawyers and advocates</li> <li>• Members of LCPDV</li> <li>• Office of the Ombudsman</li> </ul>
<b>Boys (5-17 yrs.)</b>	271	1, 723	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adolescent boys benefited from SI’s interventions specifically by attending GALS trainings and motivational camps.</li> <li>• Boys in religions communities and educational institutions (madrasahs)</li> </ul>
	<b>TOTAL 13, 979</b>	<b>TOTAL 33, 820</b>	+ 162,844 mobile games dowloads (“Spring in Bishkek” and “Secrets of SaryKol”) which cannot be disaggregated by sex or ae (UNICEF) + 620 151 views (UNDP): national legal awareness raising campaign. The total coverage across all platforms reached 620,151 views.

### Challenges and Mitigating Measures

Most of the challenges that the Programme team and its partners faced during the Phase I implementation were related to the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions, constitutional reform, and structural and political changes in the government. This restructuring was coupled with a massive reduction in the number of state and municipal servants, resulting in high government staff turnover, including in the Cabinet of Ministers, which severely impacted the Programme’s ability to engage effectively and systematically with governmental stakeholders. In particular, the numerous disruptive restructurings of the current MLSSM - one of the SI’s strategic partners - in a short period of time caused delays and shifts in carrying out the Programme activities. Having this challenging context, the team strove for smooth implementation of planned activities. The capacity-building of CSOs

The capacity building of women’s rights CSOs on gender transformative approaches remained challenging. On the one side, rapidly evolving contextual changes put enormous pressure on CSOs depleting their already scarce human and financial resources. As a result, some women’s rights activists and CSOs had to resort to survival strategies, which prevented them to meaningfully participate in self-assessment and capacity building interventions and consequently delivering



impactful interventions for improving women’s and girls’ lives. To address this challenge, the SI programme designed tailored capacity building programme for national, local and grassroots women’s rights CSOs, which will receive institutional core funding to improve the sustainability of their operations on the ground. Such interventions will be further upscaled in Phase 2 and cover larger number of CSOs. **The Spotlight Initiative team recognizes the need for a generational and cultural shift and renewal in the gender expert community, with the transition to the fundamental and systemic academic level.** For doing so, the team focused on identifying new change agents within women’s movement, groups, and networks. Under Pillar 6,.

### ***The Covid-19 restrictions***

Outcome 5 activities have started with delay due to the Covid-19 restrictions followed by political crisis in October 2020 and cancellation of the regional tender on the development of the Gender Data Portal led by the regional UN Women. As a consequence, re-announcement of the Gender Portal development was planned for January 2022. The UNFPA IP conducted several meetings in December 2021 to plan the next steps with the newly assigned management of the NSC on the revision of GBV indicators, ethical protocol, and data sharing policy that will be included into the Gender Data Portal. Also, it was agreed with the NSC that the setting up of the Interagency Working Group and the implementation of the project activities will continue in Q 1 of 2022.

Also due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the IMAGES survey was delayed impacting the timely implementation of the MenEngage campaign. The survey methodology was redesigned at the initial stage causing additional expenses for protection measures of the research team and respondents.

Community-level activities have been also postponed due to the COVID-19 restrictions, which led to intensive number of interventions in the communities in the second half of 2021. Often the interventions targeted and engaged the same people overburdening them with repeating and multiple project activities. To address this a coordination meeting with IPs under Pillars 3 and 6 has been held, which allowed the IPs to share their plans and concerns, coordinate and plan joint work in communities.

### ***The Constitutional reform***

The constitutional reform may indirectly contribute to a shrinking space for EVAWG and GEWE discourse and interventions. According to a new Constitution, adopted through the Referendum on 11 April 2021, activities that are contrary to “moral, ethical values and the public consciousness of the people of the Kyrgyz Republic” may be restricted by law to protect the younger generation. The



list of activities and information subject to restrictions is established by law.<sup>11</sup> One of the first decrees signed by President S. Zhaparov was “On the spiritual and moral development and physical education of the individual” which notes, “in order to support the most important direction of domestic policy - education of citizens through their assimilation of high moral standards, traditions, traditional family and social values, healthy lifestyle, familiarization with the system of common human values that reflect the richness, uniqueness and unity of the cultures of the peoples of the country.” The decree provided for the adoption of a concept of the same name (hereinafter Spiritual Development Concept). The Concept and its Action Plan were developed over the course of 2021 in a closed and prompt process. The Spiritual Development concept is open to subjective interpretations, and therefore could present an emerging challenge to the work of the SI.

### **Lessons Learned**

- Effective lobbying for legislation and policy changes on EVAWG requires a constant adaptation of communication strategies and tactics within both the gender expert community and wider women’s movements to frame gender-related concepts in an accessible manner which reduces the possibility of misinterpretation and backlash. In addition, more robust integration with Pillar 6 is necessary at both the national and local levels to ensure a coordinated ‘one voice’ approach for effective partnerships and alliances with ‘mass influence’ groups.
- Institutional capacity-building strategies must be rooted in the belief that institutional change begins with individual leaders buy-in and support. Therefore, effective capacity-building must be people-centered and then scaled to the institutional level. Opportunities for individual norm change must transform power dynamics to create more equitable relationships and create incentives for individuals to take responsibility for their own change process. This type of process requires a very strong facilitator with a strong adult-learning background and facilitation skills. Because of this, the SI needs to invest in forming a pool of skilled capacity builders, including through convening ‘community of practice’ forums for project facilitators where they can share learning and develop good practices. This is one of the promising practices that was launched within Phase I.
- Transformational solutions in prevention and response to VAWG are effectively generated and co-created when a diverse range of perspectives and experiences, particularly from survivors, are engaged. It is important to pay particular attention to the preparatory process, including the composition of the participant group. This principle was proved during the Design Thinking workshops, which catalyzed conversations for change, re-framed problems, encouraged collaborative creativity and promoted a survivor-centric approach. Additionally, the DT approach exposes gaps and challenges in policy/law implementation faced by executive bodies and law

---

<sup>11</sup> Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic, Article 10



makers, builds open discussion of internal challenges/fears by service providers, and co-designs the road maps, prototypes on prevention and response to VAWG with existing resources. The DT approach helps elevate and ensure national ownership of programmes/ideas that are key to the sustainability of results. The SI will invest its efforts in advancing the DT methodology to generate and implement innovative and transformational solutions while testing this method in policy making and institutional capacity development.

If future SI activities need to engage with teachers (the majority of which are women), training content needs to have clear added value for their personal life (mental wellbeing, etc). This is especially important when trainings are during weekend or evenings, which takes away time free time from already overburdened women. Action-oriented training will help maintain their motivation when they experience qualitative changes in their relations within the family.

### **New Opportunities**

The programme has embarked on a participatory re-thinking of the Bus of Solidarity to tailor it to the needs of women and girls survivors of SGBV and strengthen survivor-centered approaches in legal aid service delivery. This approach envisages a series of co-creation and brainstorming sessions engaging the MoJ as a key coordination body, the MLSD, and all other relevant stakeholders including at the community level. The co-creation process will be accompanied by the roll-out of a gender transformative experiential learning system for lawyers and other experts involved in the work of Bus of Solidarity, allowing them to critically assess and eventually change their own gender beliefs and attitudes. As an expected outcome, the Bus of Solidarity will transform into a new scalable model to promote legal awareness as a tool for challenging discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes and contributing to increased women and girls' empowerment for claiming equality before the law. This new model will lay the groundwork for building institutional capacities and removing organizational barriers and power imbalances that prevent effective work toward EVAWG.

Local elections in 2021 with newly introduced gender quota has led to a significant increase of women in local councils across the country. While targeted capacity building interventions are not within SI plans, engaging woman representatives with the aim of introducing to SI objectives and strategies, gaining their buy-in, and helping elevate their status will be planned in Phase II work in target locations.

Knowledge management platforms proved to be effective for presenting and discussing key analytical products and guidelines such as MSR approach methodologies, guides, and evidence. The platforms allowed for open communication between the government, CSOs, media, and RUNOs. The platforms facilitated material sharing regarding upcoming events by partners within and without the Spotlight Programme.



Using the grant modality instead of initiating formal procurement action is an efficient operational approach which can ensure the Programme's reach to local/grassroots CSOs. It also allows issuance of core institutional funding to recipients.

Experiential learning is the best method for changing attitudes and shaping new communicative culture, especially within a multi-stakeholder communication strategy development process which takes the collaborative efforts of different organizations and a certain level of organizational and emotional maturity in order to succeed. Learning by doing is probably the most effective method for gaining insights and creative solutions to problems and politically sensitive challenges. Strategic sessions should be realistically well-designed (e.g., creatively intensive sessions should run half-a-day followed by half-a-day relaxation and meaningful team building, otherwise people tend to be exhausted, return to the "energy saving" modus operandi and start mechanically utter old stereotypical suggestions of the "projectized" language with no applicability considerations). The SI plans to invest in building the strategic communication skills of the wider women's rights network/movement in Phase II.

### **Innovative, Promising or Good Practices**

Gender norm change and preventing violence against women and girls approaches show the need for multi-level and multi-sectoral interventions and work across socio-ecological models for shifts in unequal power relations. Thus, the Programme and its national partners have co-created and tested several gender-transformative approaches. These include the individual level, encouraging women and girls who were not empowered to advocate for their rights; the community level; where women's and girls' choices were limited; and the systemic level (both social and judicial), where gender-unequal mindsets and practices flourished. A socioecological model assisted in this process of understanding and tracking changes in the social expectations of girls and boys, male and female roles, and in gender-based values, beliefs and practices.

**Changes at the individual and relationship levels:** Having recognized that change begins with visions for change and concrete strategies for changing people's lives for the better through personal experiences and broadening the minds of family members, colleagues and communities, the Programme has launched a series of GALS training sessions for a broad number of local actors – activists, local authorities, teachers and school administrators, young women and girls, and service providers (in both social and judicial services). 60 champions (35 female and 25 male) and community activists (including couples) who received the training further disseminated their knowledge and skills to 780 people (455 female, 325 male) including family members, colleagues, and communities. As documented by field monitoring, 60% of the champions shaped their attitudes



to the social norms which were identified during the ethnographic study. Before the project, the champions did not reflect on the extent to which these norms hindered their development at the individual, familial, and community levels. Following the training, they began to step out of their comfort zone and reflect on what could be changed in themselves and in their family lives. 60% of the champions revised their attitudes towards the role of women and men in the family towards equal sharing of responsibilities and consideration of everyone's roles. 30% of men are now involved in the education and upbringing of children. 70% of the champions reported improved communication in their family, namely that they started to discuss family issues more while valuing everyone's contribution, taking the interests and needs of their children into account, being open to dialogue, and openly discussing what is important to other family members. At the level of behavioral change, GALS champions reconsidered their attitudes towards early marriage by moving away from forced marriage to marriage by mutual consent; some champions started to devote their time to issues of girls' education (according to teacher feedback, parental attendance at school meetings has increased by 40%); they recognize that women can earn on an equal basis with men and can choose their occupation; men began to rethink their beliefs that property should be registered only to men.

In parallel, young girls from 6 target locations were also engaged in GALS trainings and the UPSHIFT programme which helped them recognize their inherent worth and the fundamental equality of boys and girls. According to results review findings, girls learned of their rights (“It turns out we have the same rights as boys”), how to identify violence, including within parental relationships (there was an instance in which a girl advised her mother to see a psychologist), gained confidence to ask questions which they had previously been reluctant to since they believed their questions were too insignificant to be voiced, overcame their shyness and learned to communicate with decisionmakers and voice their ideas during individual meetings and public hearings alike. There are examples in which girls motivated each other. For instance, one girl signed up for taekwondo classes, following in the footsteps of another girl.

They were also able to challenge the attitudes and behaviors of their parents. They reported how parents began to understand that their children can have their own dreams, goals, and choices. Parents began to understand, support and listen to the opinions of girls more.

**Changes at the community level:** GALS champions have learned to express their opinion, began to show their leadership qualities and skills to mobilize people, and became involved in the local development of their community through EAWG initiatives in particular, which was recognized by LSGs (there were several meetings in which representatives of LSGs noted the contribution of





champions to community development). In summary, they broke the silence in their communities by recognizing that GBV exists and should be addressed collectively.

**Changes at the structural level:** Furthermore, the Programme trained GALS champions among service providers from the local departments of two ministries (MLSSM and MoJ) who joined BoS to provide mobile free legal aid directly in 12 target communities of Chui, Osh, Naryn, and Batken, the latter of which experienced armed conflict in spring 2021. This experiential learning was the result of a re-thinking process about the BoS concept led by the MoJ to make free legal aid provided by the bus lawyers more gender-sensitive and survivor centric. Based on the updated concept, the nationwide BoS campaign was implemented to raise women and girls' legal awareness. 30 lawyers and social workers, including 16 women and 12 men, trained under the Programme provided legal advice to more than 1,146 citizens, 70% of whom were women. For the first time in the campaign's history, 10 cases of domestic violence were identified and referred to the appropriate authorities. Overall, the nationwide campaign covered 4,363 people, 60% of them being women.

Another instrument which integrated the above 3 elements of the ECO model into one process was design thinking/user journey. In order to further survivor-centric thinking and actions, the Programme collaborated with local partners promoting STEM and social entrepreneurship to co-create design thinking/user journey tools adapted from business. The overall process is built on the profiles of women survivors of violence, including those facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. Visualized journey of survivors helped local actors recognize critical systemic gaps in services, attitudes, beliefs and practices of communities that reinforce GBV, encouraged participants to break their silence and share personal stories. Thus, more than 300 stakeholders (288 women and 77 men) across three target provinces and representing different sectors (public service, policy makers, key line ministries and agencies, NGOs, gender experts, business, women movements, crisis centers, etc.) teamed up together to incorporate SGBV survivors' insights through in depth and rapid prototyping, all aimed at getting beyond assumptions that block effective solutions. By working closely with the survivors, design thinking allows high-impact solutions to bubble up from below rather than being imposed from the top.

As a result of participatory workshops, the stakeholders set up 18 telegram groups to take discussion of GBV issues forward, exchange ideas and learning materials, receive feedback from participants, expand networks and facilitate cooperation between stakeholders. Participants built the network during workshops and subsequently implemented joint projects (including during the 16-day campaign). Some participants started to use an empathy tool, New Rhythm, and created a video on Tik Tok based on the knowledge and ideas from design thinking workshops. Another substantial outcome of the workshop was design thinking toolkit/guidance which was adapted from



business to SGBV, polished and refined utilizing the insights, knowledge and experiences of participants.

## **Communications and Visibility**

### **a) Overview**

The SI Kyrgyzstan team made significant progress towards strengthening its public communication about its new initiatives and partnerships during the reporting period. Since communication is an essential tool for the SI, not only for amplifying its achievements with media, institutions, key stakeholders and the general public, but also for impacting social norms and behavior, the SI team and its partners made huge efforts to employ varying communication tools and activities.

During the reporting period, Pillar 3 – SGBV prevention activities received broadest media coverage which challenged harmful social norms and gender inequalities that are underpinned by deeply rooted stereotypes. Media outlets and individual journalists that attended the media forum that was the culmination of the pilot media self-assessment exercise produced 98 news articles/reports, 40 posts on Instagram, 37 posts on Facebook, 12 articles on the Mediasabak page and 5 videos on YouTube using 4 media platforms. Similarly, national partners drew public attention to issues of positive masculinity and responsible fatherhood by preparing and posting 64 articles on Facebook and Instagram. The stories of individual and collective transformation after a series of GALS trainings appeared in the form of 6 media products, 5 articles of Facebook and 1 video in the news on Naryn TV (one of 3 pilot provinces).

Within Pillar 3, the SI Programme successfully initiated partnerships by engaging the private sector, civil society and media. In collaboration with the Bishkek Feminist Initiative and Super Info, the largest private Kyrgyz-language media outlet, the SI launched the edutaining talk-show “Erkekche”. The main objective of the show to challenge existing harmful stereotypes, promote new norms, and initiate discussions around issues of EVAWG and gender equality which are disputed and sensitive (positive masculinity, early marriages and marriages by abduction, alimonies, etc). The show was broadcasted through Super Info official online channels (YouTube and Instagram) and on Super TV. Eight episodes were produced, and each has reached around 500K viewers. The talk-show content was designed through co-creation by engaging gender experts, psychologists, sociologists, SI representatives and journalists. A story about the show can be found on [Eurasianet](#).

Another innovative media initiative is a new chapter of the interactive game “Spring in Bishkek” on prevention of child and forced marriages -- “Mysteries of Sary-Kol”. The interactive game allows players to get in the shoes of main characters who are GBV survivors and have an opportunity to





make decisions for her/himself. See these links for the key official page of the game on [Instagram](#) and the [download portal](#).

Additionally, key national stakeholders including survivors of violence co-created with the SI to launch 3 nationwide campaigns, including 16 days of Activism Against Gender Violence Campaign, awareness raising for Bus of Solidarity activities in the regions which informed the general public about legal aid services, and the campaign on combatting violence and harassment in the workplace. This year, for the first time, the 16-days campaign was supported by high-level officials; Deputy Head of Cabinet of Ministers Mr. Edil Baisalov opened up the campaign at the National TV station surrounded by women-activists from southern regions. He made an official commitment on behalf of the Government to fight against violence against women and girls at all institutional levels. Such a high level of engagement and public commitment was possible thanks to close collaboration between the SI team and the Government. A story on this can be found on [UN Kyrgyzstan](#).

During the 16 days of Activism Against Gender Violence Campaign, national and regional media outlets produced more than 40 articles and videos broadcasted on TV and social media. The campaign was also accompanied by art exhibitions, a presentation of music video clip of a prominent Kyrgyz feminist singer, theatre performance and traditional Manas epos recitations by female signers (this is a traditionally male dominated area). Two preceding campaigns on legal awareness and violence and harassment in the workplace cumulatively reached over 2 million views across all platforms. The latter was launched by the popular multi-media outlet Super-Info using the hashtags “IamNotAfraid, #ISpeakUp, and #StopHarassment. It collected 100 personal stories shared by survivors in social media. A joint communication report on the 16-days campaign with detailed documentation of activities and photos can be found in this [presentation](#).

To ensure visibility of the Spotlight Initiative, the communication and programme teams jointly discussed and developed Programme brochures tailored to national and grassroots stakeholders, produced a general introductory [programme video](#) and 2 videos on programmatic activities, 5 press-releases, programme presentations and briefs that were communicated at strategic meetings at the national and sub-regional levels, SI logos and key messages to be placed on the banners and promo materials/merchandise, which RUNOs and IPs have widely distributed during programmatic events at the national, regional and grassroots levels (about 3,000 positions of branded merchandise: notepads, folders, T-shirts, backpacks, pens).

In line with visibility objectives and in order to highlight women’s roles, contributions, and leadership during the COVID-19 lockdown in Kyrgyzstan, the SI developed a documentary portraying women leaders’ stories with the help of its partners. This is a compilation of stories from lockdown as told by women of different professions and spheres. The 20-minutes documentary “Women on the





frontline with COVID-19” was produced in Russian, Kyrgyz, and English. It was first presented to the broad public to celebrate International Women’s Day on the National TV channel (KTRK), and was played during a monthlong period as per SI’s agreement with KTRK. In addition, film was played by the second-rated TV channel ELTR and private NEXT TV. It was also published on UN Kyrgyzstan and Global Spotlight platforms. The documentary can be downloaded [here](#). A detailed description of the media coverage along with links is [here](#).

## **b) Messages**

The Programme applied a co-creation approach while developing the following 3 main messages:

- “Women leadership - a breakthrough into a new era” message became the motto of the Women Rise for All Forum which placed particular emphasis on the agency, leadership roles, and contributions of diverse women to the country’s response to the health and humanitarian crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- “Don’t be afraid. Stop the violence. Live” was both the motto and brand of the 16 days of Activism Against Gender Violence Campaign. It was co-created with design thinking workshop participants.
- “Investing efforts and funds in education of girls will lead to more prosperous families and communities”, “Support girls to get education and work outside home before and after marriage”, “The education of my daughter is my parental responsibility”, “Responsible and loving mothers and fathers know and support their daughters in realizing their dreams”, “Men in my family participate and support girls in obtaining their education and are proud of their girls” - these messages have been pre-tested in target communities and chosen as the basis for the C4D roadmap to address child marriages.

## **c) Media and visibility events**

- The 20-minute documentary “Women on the frontline with COVID-19” in Russian, Kyrgyz, English (mentioned in the “Overview” section)
- The nationwide forum ‘Women’s Leadership – Breakthrough into a New Era’ was conducted in March 2021 to show the diversity of women’s leadership and the significant contribution that women make for development in Kyrgyzstan, especially in the face of the new challenges and COVID-19. See the [press release](#).
- National Consultations on the National Gender Development Strategy for 2022-2030 with prior regional consultations in all seven provinces during March. See the National Gender Development Strategy for 2022-2030 [consultation](#) and [more information](#).



- Over 120 girls visited a career fest organized in Naryn city in celebration of the International Day of the Girl. The participants met successful Kyrgyz women who work in digital professions, IT, entrepreneurship, media, and civic activism. They played interactive games, had sessions with psychologists and career counsellors, and gained useful knowledge on sexual and reproductive health, menstrual hygiene and health, IT and other resources for self-learning. [Video of the event.](#)
  
- A public discussion of proposed amendments to the Domestic Violence Law was held on 12 November 2021. The event was culmination of a series of dialogue platforms uniting the Government, gender expert community, and women’s rights CSOs to improve GBV legislation, which all were organized with SI support throughout 2021.
  
- **Several key visibility and media events were conducted during the 16-days Campaign:**
  - Launch of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence Campaign under the leadership of the Deputy Chair of the Cabinet of Ministers. [Press-release on 16 days campaign launch.](#)
  - Release of music video “Jeneke” by feminist singer Zere on the launch of 16-days campaign. The song and accompanying video is an appeal to women who are experiencing domestic violence. “Jeneke” is affectionate appeal to a brother’s wife, who represents women’s role in Kyrgyz families. The music video was released online on Zere’s YouTube channel and reached 10,000 views in first hour. See the music video here on [YouTube](#)
  - Don’t be afraid. Stop it. Live! Art doesn’t tolerate violence” art exhibition along with theater performance and presentation of Zere’s song “Jeneke” was launched during the 16-days campaign and received extensive media coverage. This was an exhibition-collaboration of Kyrgyz artists and journalists who spoke about gender violence for a wide audience. 32 paintings with real stories, along with messages from GBV survivors (respecting anonymity), were presented to the audience.
  - The SI Programme launched the talk-show “Erkekche” jointly with a feminist organization-partner and the biggest Kyrgyz-language media outlet “Super Info” (mentioned in “Overview”).
  - The national forum “Gender Optics in Media” brought together more than 60 participants from Naryn, Chui and Osh provinces, who were leaders in media, journalists, editors, gender and media experts, and representatives of press services, to summarize and exchange their experiences, new ideas and information in the area of gender sensitive journalism and the results of a media-self assessment exercise. See more detailed information at [Media Forum at mediasabak.org](#) and [Media Forum video.](#)
  - An updated version of Mildet, Kyrgyzstan’s first virtual lawyer-bot, created in 2020, was re-launched to provide online legal advice to citizens and draft legal documents, for example an



application for the establishment of paternity, a complaint against the inaction of a bailiff, a divorce petition, etc.

- In November 2021, the national media campaign on combatting violence and harassment in the workplace was launched jointly with the Kyrgyzstan's largest-circulation newspaper, Super-Info, using the hashtags "IamNotAfraid, #ISpeakUp, and #StopHarassment. The messages were specifically addressed to everyone who has ever experienced violence or harassment in the workplace. The total coverage across all platforms reached 1,679,107 views. 100 personal stories were shared by harassment survivors on social media accounts.
- The closing ceremony of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence Campaign
- was held under the leadership of the Ministry of Culture, Information, Sports, Youth Policy and Tourism, the Ministry of the Labour, Social Security and Migration of the Kyrgyz Republic and UN RC. See more at [campaign closure](#).

#### **d) Campaigns**

From June through October 2021, a national legal awareness raising campaign was implemented to inform women and girls knowing and exercising their rights in accordance with legislation. The total coverage across all platforms reached 620,151 views. The campaign boosted the impact of Bus of Solidarity activities in the regions, as well as informed the general public on legal aid services.

The SI team took an active part in the design of the [Concept note devoted to the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence Campaign](#), based on a series of consultations with civil society organizations, service providers, duty bearers, survivors of violence, GBV experts, and civil activists through the Design thinking approach. Key areas include Women's Leadership (including women's political participation), Gender Based Violence and Sexual Harassment, Social Innovative Technologies to Improve the Quality of Public Services for Survivors, among others. As mentioned above, the campaign was launched at a high government level by Deputy Chair of the Cabinet of the Ministers and from rural Batken Province, where a cross-border armed conflict took place earlier in 2021. The campaign's closing ceremony was held at a high level, with participation of government partners, CSOs, the art community and development partners. See more detailed information: [press-release on 16 days campaign launch](#) , [campaign closure](#) and [brief overview of 16 days campaign in the country](#).

#### **e) Human interest stories:**



Returned Faith to Justice  
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/196Ke6rInPvEixZpAfhiyTYhDM5\\_egQjs3VX8iXkW0nA/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/196Ke6rInPvEixZpAfhiyTYhDM5_egQjs3VX8iXkW0nA/edit)

Bus of Solidarity - Paving a new road out for Salima – YouTube

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1f1CTCF5u5NQciSagIdQqo2PKEINYg3He/edit>

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/11280GTDQpk1UU45SMr0xuPppjelv5QGK/edit>

Media self-assessment [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1P54hoc48gtb-o6hu\\_2xfN2VOICu9O1dc/edit?usp=sharing&oid=100215721406310109273&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1P54hoc48gtb-o6hu_2xfN2VOICu9O1dc/edit?usp=sharing&oid=100215721406310109273&rtpof=true&sd=true)

GALS champions from Naryn: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1B8YJHl1BezKd-HztzrheirU0CKXtmMl/edit?usp=sharing&oid=100215721406310109273&rtpof=true&sd=true>

### **true Testimonials:**

“Before the training, we, lawyers, normally provided legal advice exactly to those inquiries clients were voicing. Now we understand that a person can ask about alimony or who children will stay with, in case of divorce, but through some guiding questions, we can identify if s/he is subjected to domestic violence. Recognizing signs of abuse is an essential competency of professional lawyers that might save people's lives.” – Ydyrys Asanov, FLA lawyer in Naryn Province

“The guiding principle we learnt during the training is that we can put an end to domestic violence through prevention, by working with families, encouraging them to build a purposeful life, to openly communicate, and to solve arising problems jointly. Now, whenever I encounter issues, be it on work, or in personal life, I use GALS tools. If we upscale these tools, many social problems will be solved by themselves.” – Ernis Sagynbaev, social worker from Kara-Suu district

“Indeed, a lot of useful and interesting information. Many things are already outdated, especially all these traditions related to girls, proverbs and so on. We need to come up with new things and keep up with the times!” - Nazgul, media training participant from the Osh region, IDAR

“We are at work from morning to evening, and we turned out to put a huge share of household chores on our daughter’s shoulders, we came from work, voicing out our dissatisfaction about why certain responsibilities were not done, or dishes were not cleaned, etc. We did not even suspect that she has a dream, a desire to go to study. My husband and I learned about her



dream with the help of the first GALS tool. We felt ashamed of our actions, we now agree on who is responsible for what, I took responsibility for preparing dinner. My daughter is happy and says that participation in these trainings is good for us. Now our daughter attends a komuz(musical instrument) classes,” says Mahabat, a mother and Dosumbek, a father, about a great burden on their only daughter.

“I have decided to use this tool in my family (Happy Family Tree). But I know that my husband will probably not like it, because he holds a lot of stereotypes. We have conflicts because of it. But what I know now is how we can jointly reflect and change those stereotypes together through discussions and without fights. This is exactly what I have been looking for. It will take time, and I believe it will happen and Happy Family Tree can change the relations in my family to the better. Thank you so much!” Ardak Usengazy kyzy, social pedagogue, Min Bulak village.

“It was so good to take time and think about my dreams. I have started studying English with the online application Duolingo. It is very handy because we don’t have good courses in our community. I also watch movies and cartoons in English. My dream is to be the best in the province and get education abroad”. Aisezim, 14, Myrzake village.

## **Next Steps**

A summary of key programmatic next steps by pillars is as follows:

### **Pillar 1:**

- Provide consultative and advocacy support in revision and adoption of the new edition of the Law “On Safeguarding and Protection from Domestic Violence”, as well as amendments to the Labor Code on prevention and response to harassment and violence at the workplace.
- Provide support for effective advocacy to key CSOs including women’s movement in identification and validation of legislative measures on combating harassment in public places.
- Support implementation and localization of the National Gender Development Strategy for 2022-2030 and its National Action Plan for 2022-2024 with a special focus on transformative EVAWG approaches.



- Build technical capacities and issuance of sub-grants to grassroots CSOs through umbrella local/national CSOs to monitor GBV-related articles of the newly introduced criminal legislation.
- Build institutional capacities of the Parliamentary Committees to draft new and strengthen existing legislation and policies to conduct oversight of the legislation on VAWG, and to hold state institutions accountable for implementation of selected legislation on women's rights and SGBV.
- Undertake an inventory and analysis of bylaws following adoption of new CC, CPC, development of practical guide and presentation of the guide to the MIA; C4D to address victim blaming attitudes targeting employees of law enforcement bodies (MIA, prosecutors).

### **Pillar 2:**

- Support the development of educational curricula for security and justice actors (police, judges, prosecutors, and lawyers) to enhance their institutional gender-sensitive and survivor-centred criminal justice practices.
- Strengthen the capacity and knowledge of key government counterparts, gender focal points from the ministries that are responsible for EVAWG, as well as National Gender Machinery representatives on the new gender-transformative approaches (GALS, DT, and ALPD) and international practices in working with S/GBV issues.

### **Pillar 3:**

- The MoJ will support the Bus of Solidarity to: (a) conduct an effective public campaign on women's rights and EVAWG in rural and remote areas of target communities; (b) promote legal awareness as a tool in combating discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes; and (c) contribute to women's' and girls' empowerment to claim equality before the law.
- Develop an interdisciplinary, gender-transformative module to integrate the concepts of Women's and Girls' Rights (WGR), EVAW, and Harmful Practices (HP) in the curricula of law faculties at selected public universities.
- Pilote the module on "Positive Masculinity and Promotion of Gender Equality" in 8 target vocational lyceums and among 30 teachers. Piloting will start in 2022 in target lyceums.



- Analyze subject standards, develop methodological guidance for teachers (pre-school, school, vocational, tertiary); roll out and institutionalize teacher training modules, including in vocational and religious schools.
- Provide support in certification of gender experts and establishment of roster of gender experts for review of textbooks under the MoES.
- Support community engagement and mobilization for social and behavioural change communication; support local initiatives of new norm holders and local committees for prevention of domestic violence.
- Promote active and innovative engagement with media, influences and art to amplify the messages.
- Document change resulting from SBCC interventions, lessons learnt and sharing of what works at local and national levels.
- Co-create different images and role models of a modern woman and man, girls and boys.
- Continue working with GALS champions to upscale the results.
- Upscale gender self-assessment of the media (scaling to the national and Central Asian levels).
- Use the “Whole of Society Mobilization Against Violence” approach through working with leaders/representatives of traditional and religious communities to increase gender sensitivity and understanding of the language/images needed to broadcast gender issues.

**Pillar 4:**

- Strengthen the access to justice and qualified legal aid for SGBV survivors based on pro-bono mechanisms, including via a partnership with private sector law firms and crisis centers.
- Build the capacity of Family and Child Support Departments on gender and GBV for improved implementation of the referral algorithms in cases of domestic violence.
- Support the co-creation of platforms on improving services provision through survivor-centric approach (VR tool, SOPs in line with the amendments to the law on DV)

**Pillar 5:**



- Continue working on SGBV data collection, recording, reporting and dissemination through review of data sharing policy and communication strategy of the NSC, review/update the ethical guide and procurement of services for the SGBV data hub together with the regional UN Women project.
- Build the capacity of the NSC personnel in analyzing gender data.

**Pillar 6:**

- Provide strategic support to CSOs in implementing multi-sectoral strategies to improve networking, joint advocacy, and partnerships for EVAWG.
- Continue building a better intergenerational transfer of knowledge and forming new generation of activists, and support girl-led initiatives at local and regional levels.
- Strengthen the capacity of CSOs and IPs on the new technologies (visualization, social media), communication skills, new transformational approaches (GALS), international experience in working with gender issues; monitoring and evaluation of their projects/initiatives, their impact, sustainability. As well as testing, improving, and disseminating the self-assessment tool for CSOs' activities' impact towards EVAWG.
- Strengthen the women movement in professional development networking/exchange to learn from existing best practices through open platforms for effective civil society-government engagement (including systematic work on prevention of emotional burnout of employees and women workers of organizations working with violence, as well as social workers and teachers)
- Strengthen the capacity of CSOs and women movement in their “watch dogs” role in implementation of CEDAW COBs and implementation of the NGES NAP for 2022-2024
- Initiate knowledge hub to accumulate knowledge, best practices, methodologies to address VAWG issues
- Facilitate horizontal cooperation/partnership of CSOs and women movement through Social Innovative joint projects/initiatives, common platforms (local and national) and with different media outlets for public outreach that can help transform isolated CSO advocacy efforts into a popular movement that engages different parties.





- Expand partnership with organizations and experts working with traditional and religious communities and religious women's groups towards eliminating violence against women and girls
- Co-create different images / images and role models of a modern woman and man, girls and boys
- Use the “Whole of Society Mobilization Against Violence” approach through working with leaders/representatives of traditional and religious communities to increase gender sensitivity and understanding of the language/images needed to broadcast gender issues

**Joint coordination activities led by the PCU in close coordination with Pillar Leads:**

- Organizing a joint participatory monitoring mission to SI target municipalities with the participation of government and CSO partners as well as the EUD
- Organizing a series of Results Review Sessions with IPs to discuss qualitative progress and lessons learned by components
- Hosting Implementing Partners’ coordination meetings, which identified approaches for strengthening coordination and communication
- Revising the SI communications strategy and plan as well as identifying strategic communications approaches of the SI jointly with EUD and Ips
- Developing the SI Sustainability Plan/Exit Strategy
- Designing the response plan to the Mid-Term Assessment recommendations
- Organizing regular technical and senior management level meetings between the UN and EUD
- Providing regular support to the CSNRG in organizing regular meetings as well as development and implementation of annual workplan

