



**Spotlight
Initiative**

Annual Narrative Programme Report

**Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF)
grant-giving to civil society organizations under the
Spotlight Initiative**

01 April 2019 for WPHF-Spotlight Initiative Africa Partnership
(The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Uganda)

24 July 2020 for WPHF-Spotlight Initiative in Haiti, PNG and Afghanistan

REPORTING PERIOD: 01 January 2022 – 31 December 2022

Initiated by the European Union and the United Nations:



Programme Title & Programme Number

Programme Title: Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) grant-giving to civil society organizations under the Spotlight Initiative
MPTF Office Project Reference Number^a
 Africa: 00117147
 Afghanistan: 000123503
 PNG: 000123505
 Haiti: 000123504

Recipient Organization(s)

Civil society organizations

Programme Cost (US\$)

Africa (DRC, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Uganda): 7,075,472 USD
Papua New Guinea (PNG): 2,000,000 USD
Haiti: 2,000,000 USD
Afghanistan: 2,000,000 USD

Priority Regions/Areas/Localities for the Programme

The WPHF-Spotlight Initiative partnership covers 8 countries:
 Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Uganda, Papua New Guinea, Haiti and Afghanistan

Key Partners

Civil society organizations in particular local/grassroots women’s rights or women-led organizations

Programme Start and End Dates

WPHF-Spotlight Initiative Africa Partnership (The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Uganda)
 Start Date: 01 April 2019
 End Date: 31 December 2022
 WPHF-Spotlight Initiative in Haiti, Papua New Guinea and Afghanistan
 Start Date: 24 July 2020
 End Date: 31 December 2023

Report Submitted:

26 April 2022

a) 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](#).

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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

CBO	Community Based Organization
CfP	Call for Proposals
CO	Country Office
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSRGR	Civil Society National or Regional Reference Group
DFA	De Facto Authority
D.R.C	Democratic Republic of Congo
EU	European Union
EVAW	Ending Violence Against Women
EVAWG	Ending Violence Against Women and Girls
FSW	Female Sex Worker
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
IGA	Income Generating Activity
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
ME	Management Entity
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NSC	National Steering Committee
PBSO	Peacebuilding Support Office
PCA	Partnership Cooperation Agreements
PNG	Papua New Guinea
PWD	People Living with Disabilities
SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
SI	Spotlight Initiative
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
STD	Sexually Transmitted Disease
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNTF	United National Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
VSLA	Village Saving and Lending Association
WPHF	Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund

Executive Summary

The partnership between the United Nations Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) and the Spotlight Initiative (SI) aims to channel funding to civil society organizations (CSOs) working on eliminating violence against women and girls (EVAWG) in conflict-affected and humanitarian settings. The partnership focuses on Outcome 6 of the Spotlight Initiative's Regional Results Framework (strengthening Civil Society Organizations and building women's movements) and on WPHF Outcome 5 (Protection of women and girls). The partnership targets specifically local, grassroots and community-based women's organizations, with grants ranging in size from USD 2,500 to USD 200,000.

2022 was marked by several crisis which impacted the implementation of projects. These include, new restrictions from de facto authorities following the Taliban takeover in 2021 on the rights and freedom of Afghan women and decrees preventing Afghan women from CSOs from working, escalating gang violence in Haiti, multiple floods in Malawi, displacement in Nigeria and Uganda and the continued armed conflicts in the Democratic Republic of Congo (the D.R.C), and continued restrictions around the global COVID-19 pandemic, all of which have increased the risks and threats to women and their organizations.

In this context, WPHF, in close coordination with the Spotlight Initiative Secretariat and UN Women offices, ensured that the principle of Do No Harm and inclusivity of various intersectionalities, remains central to the programme's approach and delivery. Flexibility to adapt to changing contexts was key to ensuring safe and smooth implementation, including for CSOs to adapt their project activities, budget and timing, notably in Afghanistan, as the country has had to adapt and pause, where needed, to ensure women's safety.

Despite these challenges, significant progress was still achieved during the reporting year.

During the reporting period, 88 grants by 120 CSOs and their co-implementing partners continued to implement initiatives, and two new grants in Haiti were approved under WPHF's emergency track following escalating violence and will begin implementation in 2023. This brings the total number of grants under the partnership to 99 grants, 95% of which are implemented by women-led and/or women's rights organizations and 3% which are youth focused or led by a young woman, including those representing marginalized women and girls.

Overall, 24 Partnership Cooperation Agreements (PCAs) were formalized in 2022 (16 in Afghanistan, 7 in PNG, and 1 in Haiti¹). A total of 45 projects were completed in 2022, including 10 in the D.R.C, 11 in Haiti, 6 in Malawi, 2 in Nigeria, 7 in PNG, and 7 in Uganda. 2 projects in Afghanistan have also ended, however no-cost extensions are being considered for CSOs in this country as a result of increasing restrictions and security situation. All projects in Liberia closed in 2021.

During the reporting period, CSOs and their co-implementing partners across seven countries², reached 211,414 direct beneficiaries, of which 127,282 (60.2%) were women and girls. Of these, 65.0% were women above the age of 18 and 35.0% were girls and young women below the age of 18. Among all active projects in 2022, different age and population groups were reached, including survivors of SGBV and women identified by various intersectionalities. Overall, 20.7% of partner projects work with women who are forcibly displaced, 31.0% with women and people living with disabilities, 21.8% with child, single mothers, and widows, 2.3% with LGBTIQI communities, 3.4% with female sex workers (FSWs), and 9.2% with indigenous and ethnic minorities. An estimated 2,453,364 indirect beneficiaries were also reached. Almost half of partners in are new

¹ A second partnership agreement for the second CSO funded under the emergency track will be signed in 2023.

² 88 projects were in active implementation in 2022. All projects in Liberia closed at the end of 2021.

to the UN (48.5%), showing the ability of WPHF to reach local and grassroots women's rights organizations that had not been previously supported by the UN.

Table 1: WPHF-SI Grants and Partners, 2022 and cumulative

Country	Active in 2022		Cumulative	
	No of grants	No of CSOs ³	No of grants	No of CSOs
DRC	15	25	16	27
Liberia	0	0	8	15
Malawi	9	11	9	11
Nigeria	6	11	7	15
Uganda	9	15	9	15
Afghanistan	16	18	16	18
Haiti	15	25	16	25
PNG	18	15	18	15
Total	88	120	99	141

Africa

In 2022, 62 WPHF-SI CSOs in Africa (DRC, Malawi, Nigeria, and Uganda) reached 99,420 direct beneficiaries, of which 64,924 (65.3%) were women and girls through 39 grants. Of these, 61.8% were women above the age of 18 and 38.2% were girls and young women below the age of 18. Among all active projects in 2022, different age and population groups were reached, including survivors of SGBV and women identified by various intersectionalities. Overall, 35.9% of active projects this year worked with women who are forcibly displaced, 46.2% with women and people living with disabilities, 41.0% with child, single mothers, and widows, 7.7% with LGBTIQI communities, 5.1% with female sex workers (FSWs), and 12.8% with indigenous and ethnic minorities. An estimated 1,772,354 indirect beneficiaries were also reached.

Almost half of partners in Africa are receiving funding for the first time through the UN (44.7%), showing the ability of WPHF to reach local and grassroots organizations that had not been previously supported by the UN.

During this reporting period, grantees have built upon results from last year through enhanced coordination with women's groups, CSOs and Community Based Organizations (CBOs) as well as undertaking advocacy initiatives and enhancing their agency and influence contributing to the security and safety of women and girls in target communities. Partners continued to make progress in coalition building for ending and addressing VAWG and strengthened the capacity and connected a total of 1,089 CBOs, CSOs, women's and girls' groups and associations through joint and collaborative efforts. As a result of coordinated efforts, approximately 23,972 survivors across seven countries have accessed critical psychosocial, legal, and health services as well as referrals to service providers and accompaniment for the rebuilding of their lives.

415 partners (lead CSOs and their co-implementing partners) as well as local CBOs, women's groups and/or associations have implemented initiatives and actions in EVAWG, including SGBV and HP. The impact of this influence through advocacy efforts and interventions is evident in local planning, new commitments, by-laws and implementation of policy. For example in Nigeria, the work of three SGBV stakeholder platforms and membership drawn from government agencies, religious leaders and women-led CBOs has instrumentally strengthened a protective environment for women and girls and leading to the assenting of the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act (VAPP) in Borno State through their advocacy efforts.

³ Includes lead CSOs and their co-implementing partners. CSOs that have received both institutional and programmatic funding are counted only once.

Afghanistan, Haiti, and PNG

In 2022, 58 WPHF-SI CSOs in Afghanistan, Haiti and PNG reached 111,994 direct beneficiaries, of which 62,358 (55.7%) were women and girls through 49 grants. Of these, 68.3% were women above the age of 18 and 31.7% were girls and young women below the age of 18. Among all active projects in 2022, different age and population groups were reached, including survivors of SGBV and women identified by various intersectionalities. Overall, 8.2% of active projects this year worked with women who are forcibly displaced, 18.4% with women and people living with disabilities, 6.1% with child, single mothers, and widows, and 6.1% with indigenous and ethnic minorities. An estimated 681,010 indirect beneficiaries were also reached.

Over half of partners in these regions are receiving funding for the first time through the UN (53.6%), showing the ability of WPHF to reach local and grassroots organizations that had not been previously supported by the UN.

The impact is noticeable at two levels in Afghanistan, Haiti and PNG. First, through institutional funding, CSOs have strengthened their institutional capacity making them more equipped to respond to women and girls' needs in crisis contexts and contributing to building women's movements and networks. During the reporting period, new adaptive strategies, tools and systems were adopted for continuity of their operations, including in Haiti where organizations developed risk management and contingency plans or strategies. In PNG, local women's rights organizations strengthened their operational and technical capacity, through staff trainings on referral and case management of survivors of violence, acquiring IT equipment and transportation to enhance their reach within local communities. This funding has also helped organizations sustain themselves during crisis, with 119 staff/volunteers across these countries retained during the reporting period for the continuity of their operations.

Second, through programmatic funding, 89 women's rights organizations in these countries have been strengthening their roles in community coordination and mobilization, in increasing access to services for survivors of Gender Based Violence (GBV) and other forms of exploitation as well as in the area of advocacy and awareness-raising. As a result, over 17,700 survivors have accessed critical health, legal and psychosocial and post-trauma care services. These organizations have also influenced prevention and response mechanisms and contributed significantly to the improvement of human rights, safety, security and mental health. In PNG for example, CSOs have been able to influence key decisions and actions in remote communities. KUP Women for Peace through its extensive outreach and advocacy efforts, have positively influenced response by local police. Moreover, skills building and advocacy on various laws in PNG with duty bearers, through the 'Law Toolkit' on laws such as the Family and Sexual Violence Act, Children Protection Act and Sorcery Accusation Related Violence (SARV) Act has improved referral pathways and appropriately ensuring survivors reach specific services. Moreover, CSOs like Voice for Change (VfC) have greatly influenced peace processes in their community while simultaneously advocating for the prevention of SGBV. VfC facilitated the first peace treaty between the Ramui and Dry Wara communities in Western Highlands – resolving a conflict that has lasted over 25 years between the two tribes.

Finally, across all countries and regions, project results have also demonstrated the importance of economic independence and resilience against abusive relationships and have shown to be an effective deterrent of VAWG and enhances women's and girl's agency and coordination. During the reporting period, community structures such as Village Saving and Lending Associations (VSLAs) and access to entrepreneurship opportunities have increased women's access to savings and income, building their confidence in speaking out against violence, contributing to advocacy efforts, and taking up leadership positions in their communities.

Contextual Shifts and Implementation Status

During the reporting period, the WPHF-Spotlight partnership countries continued to face the challenges and risks in conflict and crisis settings, including the deteriorating security and/or humanitarian situation, and political violence, worsening the situation of women and girls.

All countries reported increasing incidences of sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls, as they reeled from the lasting impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and its containment measures, the deteriorating situation in Afghanistan, as well as the global economic decline resulting from the Russian aggression on Ukraine. Major contextual shifts included armed conflicts, multiple floods, increasing cases of child and early marriages, rape, due to power imbalances strengthened by patriarchal norms in disfavor of women and girls. To these existing challenges, armed conflicts in the Democratic Republic of Congo (the D.R.C), displacement in Nigeria and Uganda, restrictions on women's rights and freedoms and bans on Afghan female workers in Afghanistan, and debilitating gang violence in Haiti have created additional challenges for women's rights organizations to safely implement their projects.

During the reporting period, in the **D.R.C**, the resumption of violent hostilities in October 2022 between the March 23 Movement (M23) armed group and the D.R.Cs army (FARDC) in Eastern Congo has caused significant human suffering, including deaths and injuries among civilians as well as significant numbers of newly displaced persons, leaving the country on the brink of a humanitarian disaster. Additional security threats in South Kivu, Maniema, Tanganyika and Mai-Ndombe were also prevalent and weakness of community protection mechanisms and movement of people greatly exacerbated women's rights and incidences of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). This increased the needs on the ground, which had particularly risen in the post-COVID situation, coupled with the persistence of conflicts, specifically in the Eastern regions. In addition, the lethargy in the processing of judicial files, traditional harmful customs and habits, high vulnerability and lack of financial capacities affected the implementation of activities.

Malawi experienced flooding twice during the reporting period due to Tropical Storm Ana and Cyclone Combe, displacing over 360,000 women and affecting the most vulnerable. Another key challenge was the rising cost of living due to high inflation rates and the devaluation of the Malawian Kwacha, exacerbated by the Ukraine war, leading to skyrocketing prices of goods, and affecting implementation of project activities as price increases affected budgets. Economic instability was a retrogressive element which has re-perpetuated power imbalances at the domestic level as patriarchy tendencies resurfaced, affecting women's rights and livelihoods.

In **Nigeria**, vulnerable communities were still reeling from the lasting impacts of COVID-19, as they faced overflow of Internally Displaced Populations (IDP) populations and refugees from Cameroon, multiple devastating floods and effects of climate change, rising food insecurity and terrorism. These resulted in negative coping mechanisms such as poor eating habits, transactional sex, child labor and begging. Within a complex operational context and limited humanitarian presence, women and girls still faced increasing threats of violence, abduction, rape, as well as forced and child marriages.

In **Uganda**, the effects of COVID-19 continue to be felt by the most vulnerable, especially women and girls. Heavy rainfall in July 2022 also resulted in the destruction of countless houses, affecting thousands of families, with a heavy impact on women and girls, children and elderly, as displacement took a toll on their stability, with many groups moving to camps. Although the projects were focused on GBV prevention, with the contextual shifts, beneficiaries' demands shifted to relief items and activities. In addition, a large influx of women, girls, men and boys continued to arrive across the border from the D.R.C and South Sudan.

In **Afghanistan**, the context with regard to women and girls' rights deteriorated significantly over the year. The severe negative impacts of the post-August 2021 Taliban takeover have been characterized by restrictions on women and girls, which has increased across the country. Throughout 2022 several edicts were passed by the De Facto Authority (DFA) restricting women's rights and freedoms, including the banning women from accessing public baths, gyms, parks, ban on education for girls except in primary schools, gender segregated workplaces and classrooms and banning women from access health without a 'mahram'. A DFA edict in March 2022 also ordered all male civil servants to grow beard or risk being fired. The end of 2022 was marked by a sudden shift in context and operating environment. On 24 December 2022, DFA issued a decree banning Afghan woman from working for national and international Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). Given that the model of anchoring GBV response services is 'services for women, by women', programme partners faced additional challenges to reach the most vulnerable and respond to SGBV and harmful practices in a context where the protection structure has effectively been demolished. To adjust to the situation, civil society organizations (CSO) are exploring innovative, but safe ways to implement their project and reach targeted beneficiaries. These include looking at implementing activities online, increase advocacy efforts with the DFA and use the door-to-door approaches to provide services to women and girls, and engaging male champions.

In **Haiti**, 2022 was particularly challenging for women and girls, as the situation was plagued with political instability and armed violence perpetrated by organized gangs, a debilitating economic crisis, as well as fuel shortages, cholera, and the deportation of Haitians from the Dominican Republic and the United States, as communities continued to also be impacted from the aftermath of COVID-19. In September 2022, the UN ordered the evacuation of all non-essential international workers from Haiti. This situation has considerable potential consequences in terms of protection including gender-based violence, displacement, food insecurity, and access to basic services. In public spaces, levels of violence against women and girls (VAWG) were particularly alarming, specifically in the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince and its surroundings, as armed gangs typically used sexual violence as a weapon to assert their control and power over communities.

In **PNG**, SGBV against women and girls continues to be persistent with high incidence rates, with about two-thirds of women having experienced some forms of violence. The country has been plagued with slow economic growth, high unemployment rates, continuous incidents of tribal fights and sorcery related accusations of violence and deaths, including the continued impacts from COVID-19 and the economic decline. On a positive note, however, the July 2022 elections saw for the first time the election of two women in Parliament, a positive progress for women in leadership in the country. A significant contextual shift was also the government vocally supporting ending VAWG, evidenced by the establishment of a permanent Parliamentary Committee on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) in the new Parliament elected in July/August 2022.

Implementation progress by outcome area:

Spotlight Initiative - Outcome areas	Implementation progress as of 31 Dec 2022
Outcome 6: Women's Movement	73.3%
TOTAL	73.3%

Programme Governance and Coordination

At the global level, during the reporting period, the WPHF Secretariat continued to work closely with the SI Secretariat following the Afghanistan Taliban takeover, on the way forward to ensure a do no harm approach for selected grantees and that local women's organizations for women's rights remain supported in a flexible way to adapt to the new context restrictions and challenges.

During the reporting period, the WPHF Secretariat participated in regular exchanges with the SI Secretariat and the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (UNTF) to ensure collaboration, complementarity, and non-duplication, based on the comparative advantages of both Funds. WPHF and the UNTF on ending violence against women (EVAW) have shared good practices and challenges to improve reach, accessibility, flexibility, and support to women's rights organizations.

National Steering Committees (NSCs)

To ensure inter-agency and programme coordination and to avoid duplication of funding, the WPHF uses existing national decision-making mechanisms (e.g., Spotlight Initiative National Steering Committees) and establishes new WPHF National Steering Committees (NSCs), where needed. The members of the WPHF NSCs include UN agencies, the EU Delegation, Government representatives, when possible, and civil society representatives. The NSCs are co-chaired by the Government and the UN Resident Coordinator, with a few exceptions according to the context. During the selection of proposals, special attention is given to women's rights organizations that have not received previous UN funding, as well as those that work in remote areas and with people facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination (PWD, indigenous groups, LGBTQI, female sex workers, single mothers, or child mothers, etc.). Throughout the project implementation the NSC is informed of implementation progress and members are invited to join monitoring missions to visit grantees. In addition, if major challenges or risk are encountered or change needed, the NSC is consulted on the decision and action to be taken.

Description of NSC mechanisms:

- In Liberia, Malawi, and Nigeria, WPHF is using the Spotlight Initiative's NSCs for final endorsement.
- In the DRC, WPHF is using its own NSC, which was already established prior to this partnership. In Uganda, it was decided to create and use the WPHF NSC. The EU Delegation is a member of both WPHF's NSCs.
- In PNG, WPHF is using the Spotlight Initiative's NSC, which proceeded with the final selection of the grantees during the reporting period.
- In Haiti and Afghanistan, a joint WPHF-Spotlight NSCs which was established in 2021, as no Spotlight or other mechanism in place. The EU Delegation is a member in both NSCs.

Civil Society National or Regional Reference Group (CSRG)

All existing Spotlight Initiative NSC and newly established WPHF-Spotlight Initiative NSCs, have at least 20% civil society representation. The civil society representatives are selected by self-nomination process including where possible from the Civil Society National Reference Groups.

Programme Partnerships

The WPHF Secretariat supported UN Women Country Offices (COs), as the Management Entities (ME) for civil society organizations in processing the transfer of funds for selected organizations. As per the WPHF Operations Manual, the designated UN Management Entity for CSOs (UN Women in countries where UN Women has a field presence) assumes programmatic and financial accountability for funds received and ensures timely disbursements of funds to partner CSOs and other designated institutions or entities in accordance with the decisions of the country level steering committee and its rules and regulations. This also contributes to building linkages between projects and CSOs –where there are other existing SI. In Uganda UN Women Pillar 6 is consulted for technical input of VAWG and grantees from the WPHF-Spotlight partnership and synergies where drawn where possible. In 2022 in Malawi, the grantee "Purple Innovation" linked an additional 6 CSOs that have been trained in ending VAWG to the existing Spotlight project coordination structures through District Coordinators ensuring joint planning, implementation and monitoring, bringing the total number of

CSOs to 92 CSOs. As such “Purple Innovation” was part of overall 10 monthly district coordination meetings and 4 field joint planning and monitoring that were conducted in an effort to contribute towards improved coordination and collaboration.

The UN ME also ensures project monitoring, evaluation, and audit of CSO projects and manages the reporting system of CSO projects on behalf of the country’s NSC and in line with its rules and regulations. The UN ME for CSO is also responsible for the management of Risk relating to cash advances to implementing partners.

a) Government

Through the NSCs (Spotlight Initiative or WPHF), government representation and ownership in the selection of projects and monitoring of implementation is secured. For example, in the D.R.C, the NSC meetings are attended at the highest levels with the Ministers of Solidarity and Humanitarian Action, Minister of Gender, Children and Family, and the Minister of Planning. This space contributes to raising awareness and recognizing the important role that local women’s organizations play in ending VAWG and promoting women’s movements, but also the long road ahead and need for further support from the government and national stakeholders. In Malawi the representative from the Ministry of Gender joined a 4 day monitoring mission together with the CO and the WPHF secretariat.

b) Civil Society

As a Fund working in crisis settings, supporting local, grassroots and women’s rights community-based civil society organizations, the leaving no one behind principle and ensuring inclusivity of women from various intersectionalities is at the heart of WPHF’s mandate and strategy. This is demonstrated by the fact that almost half (45.5%) of all local women’s organizations selected and supported by WPHF-SI are being funded by the UN for the first time, including 75.0% which are working at the local grassroots level. In addition, project proposals are reviewed and selected with a particular focus on targeting and supporting women and girls facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, including women living in poverty, women and girl refugees, IDPs, women and girls living with HIV/AIDS, indigenous groups and women from ethnic minorities within the context of ethnic tensions, and women and girls living with disabilities.

During this reporting period, there was continued partnership with CARE International in PNG, to strengthen the capacity of local women’s organizations working on women’s rights, ending violence against women and peacebuilding. A CfP was launched to identify a national or international CSO to support and build the capacity of these local women’s rights organizations in the application process and implementation of their projects. CARE, with an office and staff in PNG, was selected by the NSC amongst the 2 shortlisted organizations. The partnership with CARE facilitates capacity and access to funding for organizations that face particular barriers to funding because of capacity limitations, implementation in remote geographic areas and regions most affected by conflict and crisis.

In addition, civil society is not considered as only an implementing partner for WPHF, but also a decision maker in both its Global Funding Board and its NSCs (see previous section on NSCs). This contributes to reinforcing the perspectives of civil society in decision-making processes, for more accessible and demand-driven flexible funding.

c) European Union Delegation

In the WPHF-Spotlight Initiative countries, the EU Delegation is a member of the NSC and therefore part of the decision making in country for the selection of partners. The NSC meets based on the needs in country but at least once a year.

d) Cooperation with other UN agencies

UN agencies are members of the Global Funding Board and NSCs. At the Global funding Board level, in 2022, UN agencies included UN Women, UNFPA, PBSO and UNHCR. UNFPA chaired the WPHF Funding Board in 2022. At the country level, similarly, several UN agencies - different based on context and presence- take part in the decision-making process to ensure no duplication in funding and coordination.

e) Other Partners and resource mobilization

In 2022, the WPHF Secretariat continued to cultivate relationships with diverse actors in the private sector, including new corporations, celebrities, and high net-worth individuals to raise awareness and support for local women's organizations working to prevent and respond to SGBV on the frontlines of conflict and crisis. WPHF mobilized new support from various corporations and fostered relationships with celebrity partners throughout the year, including WPHF Global Advocate Kristen Bell.

As part of WPHF Global Learning Hub (L-HUB), in 2022, WPHF leveraged expertise and resources from civil society organizations, government and private sector entities to provide capacity development opportunities to WPHF-SI grantees. A series of 33 capacity building webinars and knowledge exchanges were held on data collection, digital security, research, anti-corruption, youth mainstreaming, advocacy, resource mobilization, feminist peace processes, climate change resilience, conflict-related sexual violence and coalition building, among others. Overall, 82% of grantees who participated in capacity building initiatives reported using new knowledge and skills. For example, through participating in peer exchanges, CSOs have been inspired to use new approaches in project implementation and create new partnerships and synergies at local level. One CSO participant noted that *"The webinars that have been conducted are aligned with the needs. We thank you for all your activities for women and for organizations that work for women. We hope that the activities will expand and continue as they are a strong support for women and human rights organizations of Afghanistan"*.

In 2022, specific webinars focused on the protection of women and girls were conducted, including Measuring coalition building for women's movements, specifically for WPHF-SI partners, preventing and responding to CRSV, prevention and response to sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse and a peer exchange on leaving no one behind. The sessions involved the participation of 204 participants and provided a unique space to reflect and share ideas on topics related to the advocacy and implementation of various protection issues.

In 2022, WPHF also launched the second CSO Peer learning Awards in partnership with Women Have Wings to foster mutual strengthening between CSO tandems (CSOs working in pairs) as a contribution to reinforcing women's coalitions, collaborations and movement building through joint advocacy, sharing of information and lessons. One WPHF-SI grantees, Soutien à La Femme Autochtone de Walungu (SFAW) from the D.R.C was selected and will implement a peer learning project with another organization in 2023.

The WPHF Secretariat also facilitated the participation of 27 local women CSOs representatives, including 5 youth speakers, in webinars, global platforms and events

Summary of Results

Overall, in 2022, WPHF-SI partners reached 211,414 direct beneficiaries, of which 127,282 (60.2%) were women and girls. Of these, 65.0% were women above the age of 18 and 35.0% were girls and young women below the age of 18. Among all active projects in 2022, different age and population groups were reached, including survivors of SGBV and women identified by various intersectionalities. Overall, 20.7% of partner projects work with women who are forcibly displaced, 31.0% with women and people living with disabilities, 21.8% with child, single mothers, and widows, 2.3% with LGBTQI communities, 3.4% with female sex workers

(FSWs), and 9.2% with indigenous and ethnic minorities. An estimated 2,453,364 indirect beneficiaries were also reached. Almost half of partners in are new to the UN (48.5%), showing the ability of WPHF to reach local and grassroots women's rights organizations that had not been previously supported by the UN.

A total of 1,086 CSOs, women's groups and/or associations across seven countries⁴, and which have been supported or working with grantees, have jointly coordinated efforts, and linking activists together, to advocate for and carry out interventions focused on the prevention and response of SGBV and ending VAWG and other discriminatory and harmful practices, strengthening their collective influence in addressing systematic barriers for women and girls. These efforts have also improved the understanding of the broader community and duty bearers on the causes, impact, and response to SGBV, and contributing to improving more local and regional plans and policies in this area.

As a result of coordinated efforts, approximately 21,300 survivors across seven countries have accessed critical psychosocial, legal, and health services as well as referrals to service providers and accompaniment for the rebuilding of their lives.

In 2022, WPHF-SI partners continued to strengthen social accountability mechanisms in order to plan, monitor and engage in prevention and policy interventions for ending VAWG. Overall, 84 different gender-responsive community, district or regional mechanisms drawing on different modalities have been strengthened and used by CSOs, ranging from gender rights early warning committees to community-based monitoring systems using score cards to monitor commitments towards the protection of women and girls, and victim support units.

598 CSOs, CBO, local women's groups, and associations across seven countries also made progress in increasing their influence, advancing gender equality, and protecting women and girls, and ending VAWG, including community and family violence in conflict, crisis and humanitarian contexts. These organizations have equally built their confidence in continued advocacy efforts towards their work in the prevention and response of SGBV and tangible changes around local planning and policy. These changes are a result of targeted capacity building efforts and coaching conducted by partners on prevention approaches, laws, and policies around violence against women, the use of social accountability tools, social media campaigns and community sensitization, as well as institutional strengthening opportunities for CSOs.

During the reporting period, under WPHF's emergency track, two additional partners were selected in Haiti after a targeted call for proposals was launched following escalating violence. These organizations will implement their interventions in 2023. In addition, 16 CSO partners in Afghanistan signed PCAs. To ensure the safety of the partners, implementation was paused in January 2022, and in order to re-assessing the situation, including channels for transferring funds to the partners in secure ways. Many of these organizations have continued to implement to the best of their ability using the aforementioned adaptations. UN Women COs continue to monitor the situation.

In PNG, following a second call for proposals in 2021 due to the NSC members noting very few women's organizations from more remote and conflict affected regions did not apply or pass the technical evaluation, 6 additional CSO partners signed their PCAs and began implementation.

In line with the key principle of leaving no one behind, all selected CSO projects adopted an intersectional lens to their activities and include marginalized women who face multiple and intersecting forms of violence as target beneficiaries in their delivery, addressing women's needs and promoting their rights.

⁴ Afghanistan, Haiti, the D.R.C, Nigeria, Malawi, Uganda, and Papua New Guinea (PNG).

Capturing Change at Outcome Level

Outcome 6: Women's Movement

Indicator 6.1 Proportion of countries where women's rights organizations, autonomous social movements and relevant CSOs, increase their coordinated efforts to jointly advocate to end VAWG, including SGBV and HP⁵.

A total of **1,089** CSOs, women's groups and/or associations across seven countries in Afghanistan, the D.R.C, Haiti, Malawi, Nigeria, Uganda, and PNG have jointly coordinated efforts, and linked activists and women peacebuilders together, to advocate for and carry out interventions focused on the prevention of and response to SGBV and ending VAWG and other discriminatory and harmful practices, strengthening their collective influence in addressing systemic barriers for women and girls. These efforts have also enhanced the understanding of the broader community and duty bearers on the causes, impact, and response to SGBV, and contributed to improving local and regional plans and policies in this area. Moreover, these efforts have reinforced psychosocial, legal and referral mechanisms established to address the needs of women, girls, and other vulnerable populations (also see Indicator 6.2).

As a result of coordinated efforts, approximately **23,972 survivors** across seven countries have accessed critical psychosocial, legal, and health services as well as referrals to service providers and accompaniment for the rebuilding of their lives.

In addition to partners having achieved results on movement building within their projects, UN Women Country Offices brought partners together to ensure knowledge exchange and better coordination among them. As much as possible, country offices ensured exchange through virtual meeting platforms and ensured one-on-one followed up with grantees, who had challenges in access to these meetings due to weak internet reception.

Africa

1,000 CSOs, CBOs and women's groups actively collaborated in planning, monitoring, information sharing and reporting of cases of SGBV in their communities. These organizations have increased their confidence in engaging in and facilitating dialogue with duty bearers, including service providers, government authorities and district level administration in ensuring that survivor-centred legal, health and psychosocial services and referral pathways are accessible and available to survivors, as well as concerted efforts in increasing the understanding of the boarder community on the causes, impact, and response to SGBV.

As a result of coordinated efforts, over 6,200 survivors across four countries have accessed critical psychosocial, legal, and health services as well as referrals to service providers and accompaniment for the rebuilding of their lives.

This coordination has also led to more stigmatized groups accessing services, but also increased positive engagement with local health providers, government authorities and police. In **Uganda**, for instance, WONETHA continued to support female sex workers (FSWs), and collectively they have advocated for human rights and finding alternative livelihood solutions which put them less at risk. As a result of their mobilization, the health seeking behaviour among the FSWs (i.e., demanding health services) has increased, including accessing HIV/AIDS testing and in 2022 978 FSWs accessed SRHR services. Through discussions with 345 Health workers, they also note that FSWs are more open to using health services and openly consult with them

⁵ Please note for WPHF grantees, the indicator's unit of measurement is 'number of CSOs'.

to receive treatment. Furthermore, there has been an increase in reporting gender-based violence cases faced by FSWs to the police, and more involvement of pro bono lawyers and trained peer educators to address cases of violence against them, ensuring access to justice for survivors of violence. It was reported that police officers investigate cases more efficiently when a lawyer and peer educator are involved.

In **Malawi**, Purple Innovation continued to engage and work with 82 women and youth groups including community structures like mother groups, women's forums leading to the strengthened design, implementation, and monitoring of programmes on VAWG, including SGBV/HP, and promotion of women's and girls' SRHR. The platforms include community victim support units, mother groups, Child Protection Forums, Community Policing Forums, among others. Through these, the women and girls form part of discussions in local structures, planning and implementation of GBV interventions such as awareness raising, case handling, monitoring of interventions and policies being implemented in the area by various stakeholders. A total of 42 CSOs, CBOs, women's and girls' groups are also regularly doing joint case follow up/monitoring visits. Further, NAWALOG engaged directly with 305 CSOs and CBOs supporting coordination efforts to end VAWG and access to SRHR services including engagements with CSOs and service providers at district level. As a result, engagements with police have led to strengthened capacity of Community Policing and Community Victim Support Unit regarding how to deal with GBV cases, championing working relationship between police and communities in promotion of safe community spaces and the organization has noted a 40% reduction in GBV cases, while still ensuring access to over 1,300 women, girls and boys to services such as counselling, mental health education, contraceptive, and continued linkages to service providers.

Joint advocacy and collaboration has also notably brought conflict resolution to the forefront in conflict and crisis settings. In the **D.R.C** for instance, Foundation Moyo, supported leaders in the reconciliation and cessation of hostilities between tribal groups in Katanda territory and to find peaceful solutions to conflict. A new consultative framework to simultaneously address SGBV and reduce conflict was established with provincial ministries, police, military, religious leaders and CSOs, and a new declaration of commitments by traditional authorities in favor of the integration of women in conflict resolution processes was declared.

Finally, in **Uganda**, CSOs, through their joint management of VAWG/SRHR cases which has equally relieved pressures on public justice systems, have supported the resolution of disputes, especially those in domestic situations. As a result, over 2,600 domestic cases were settled through mediation and reconciliation through trained women networks, groups, community Development Officers, probation officers, family elders and CBOs in the target areas.

Afghanistan⁶

A total of **46** CSOs jointly collaborated to address intersecting forms of discrimination. As a result, approximately **3,850** survivors access legal services, psychosocial counselling, and referrals to other CSOs and agencies.

For example one CSO established a network of 25 women's rights groups, autonomous social movements, and relevant civil society organizations and activists, including those representing youth and women. Despite the challenges faced in the country, the platform aimed to keep members active and safely advocate for women's rights, including access to services and protection against GBV. Notably, two positive impacts were recorded including increased public awareness in remote locations, and more cases of GBV and psychosocial counselling being referred in these areas. In addition, through institutional funding, another CSO was able to build the skills of 120 volunteer provincial coordinators from the Provincial Women Network (PWN) to support women and

⁶ Please note all CSO names are anonymized for their protection and security

girl survivors at the community level, including connecting survivors to different CSOs and agencies providing humanitarian assistance.

Haiti

Through programmatic funding, **18** local women's organizations, CSOs or autonomous social movements have been coordinating efforts to end SGBV, including all forms of human trafficking. As a result, over **2,700** women and adolescents and girls have received multi-sectoral and survivor-centered services across communes, including health, legal and psychosocial support services.

For example, as a result of the various interventions of WPHF-SI partner Movement for the Integration and Emancipation of Women with Disabilities (MIEFH), a coalition of 13 organizations has been formed to take joint action in the fight against women's rights and GBV. These efforts have addressed both prevention and response from multiple lenses including increased efforts in community sensitization, new skills for health providers at local facilities and in nursing colleges, adolescent-friendly counselling sessions, strengthening reception centers, income generating activities of 37 survivors living with disabilities, and skills building with local CBOs and disability person organizations (DPOs) to carry out advocacy initiatives. In addition, J/P Haitian Relief Organization (JPHRO) and its four partner organizations coordinated to ensure efficient service provision to 560 people, and referral follow ups and provision of dignity kits for 88 cases in Fanm Grandans, Fanm Solid, Entr'Elles, and AFAGA.

Indicator 6.2: Proportion of countries where there is an increased use of social accountability mechanisms by civil society in order to monitor and engage in efforts to end VAWG, including SGBV and HP

In 2022, WPHF-SI partners continued to strengthen social accountability mechanisms in order to plan, monitor and engage in prevention and policy interventions for ending VAWG. Overall, **84** different gender-responsive community, district or regional mechanisms drawing on different modalities have been strengthened and used by CSOs, ranging from gender rights early warning committees to community-based monitoring systems using score cards to monitor commitments towards the protection of women and girls, and victim support units.

For example, in **Afghanistan**, where women's rights organizations continuously faced threats and risks after the takeover of the Taliban in 2021, two CSOs⁷ established community-based monitoring systems with the coordinated efforts of 13 women-led and rights organizations to not only raise awareness on issues of SGBV and VAWG, but also as a mechanism to identify cases for direct referrals for psychosocial and health support in local health facilities. As a result, several positive impacts occurred including the rise of new volunteer group networks to participate in monitoring and an expanded access to extremely remote areas which do not benefit from available services. Dialogue mechanisms were also established to engage elders, Mullahs, Jigras and Malaks and provide space to advocate for prevention of VAWG and safety, and to ensure protection of women's rights given the current context.

In **Haiti**, increased coordination and funding has contributed to increasing accountability, including through strengthening, and scaling up access to SRHR and services for GBV survivors. 29 support systems for the protection of women have been established. For example, Rapha House has strengthened its trafficking and sexual exploitation trauma coping mechanisms to support their long-term mental resilience, providing anxiety management, counselling, and care sessions with 185 survivors of SGBV and those displaced by conflict and gang violence. In addition, 21 survivors, survivors of human trafficking were housed in a safe and transitional therapeutic center run by the organization. These recipients received trauma-appropriate care, meals, clothing,

⁷ Names of CSOs are anonymized in this country for security and protection

education, social development, and access to health care personnel. These actions have enabled beneficiaries to regain confidence and reintegrate into their communities as actors of change.

In **Malawi**, through existing and multiple platforms established and strengthened by PASD, at district and community levels such as the District Gender Technical Working Group, the District Spotlight Initiative coordination meetings, and ADC meetings among others, joint planning, monitoring, follow up of cases, sharing of project reports and data has been enhanced and sustained. This has helped enhance accountability among the CSOs through the consistent interfaces among the CSOs and with government stakeholders and institutions working to address SGBV/HP and promotion of SRHR in the district. In addition, Centre for Civil Society Strengthening (CCSS)'s network of 37 CSOs through the District Executive Committee and District CSO Network has leveraged its use of a "score card" and interface engagements between community structures and district council, to increase accountability for actions based on monitoring of efforts in how GBV response and needs are being addressed in the area.

In **Uganda**, the six local Peace Committees in Kamwenge and Kumi districts have successfully identified early warning and response to VAWG at both community and household levels. This committee not only serves as a monitoring mechanism but has further advocated for clean water during community barazas and as a result two new boreholes were drilled in Asinge Parish. And, Uganda Women's Network (UWONET), has strengthened its three gender-sensitive conflict prevention mechanisms that include: mediation, referrals and follow up in Adjumani and Yumbe district with 100 female leaders. A GBV referral pathway in both host and refugee committees has also been established and strengthened by linking them to police and the district-based network organizations whose capacity was built already in 2020.

Finally, in **Papua New Guinea**, CSOs strengthened referral pathways in collaboration with Family Safety Committees to ensure linkages with local service providers in Jiwaka Province for increased awareness and prevention on GBV and sorcery related violence and conflict. In addition, the launch of a 'Law Toolkit' for police and other service providers was instrumental in ensuring existing service providers had access to key policy knowledge on the rights of survivors, the Sorcery Accusation Related Violence act and Children Protection Act to protect children who have been exploited. CSOs such as 'HRDAPANG' strengthened its human rights defenders network through intensive certification programmes. These HRDs serve as witnesses and advocates for survivors of violence in communities.

Community structures such as Village Saving and Lending Associations (VSLAs), have also been established in three countries by WPHF-SI partners, building the economic resilience and independence of survivors of SGBV. Initial results in the **D.R.C** demonstrate that the support to survivors through economic activity entry points have been positive in increasing survivor's resilience and reintegration. To date, 100 groups are operational, with an average capital of \$875, which includes loans distributed to survivors for new income generating activities (IGAs). In **Uganda** there is a clear link between income and increased confidence of group members in advancing accountability systems in their communities and in their ability to engage in efforts to end VAWG. Follow up of 52 VSLA groups in 2022 established by Uganda Change Agent Association (UCAA) found that 2,000 women have started small-scale business, including retail shops, selling vegetables and fish and other income generating activities. The businesses have increased the women's resilience and enables them to meet some of the basic needs of their families. The group's financial health is strong with accumulated savings of 115,277,200 UGX (\$30, 586 USD), and the model has served to inspire the 45 additional VSLAs groups in the parish.

Indicator 6.3 Proportion of women's rights organizations, autonomous social movements and CSOs, including those representing youth and groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization, report having greater influence and agency to work on ending VAWG, including SGBV and HP

Overall, **598** CSOs, CBO, local women's groups and associations across seven countries have made progress in increasing their influence in advancing gender equality, protecting women and girls and ending VAWG, including community and family violence in conflict, crisis and humanitarian contexts. These organizations have equally built their confidence in continued advocacy efforts towards their work in the prevention and response of SGBV and tangible changes around local planning and policy. These changes are a result of targeted capacity building efforts and coaching conducted by partners on prevention approaches, laws and policies around violence against women, the use of social accountability tools, social media campaigns and community sensitization, as well as institutional strengthening opportunities for CSOs.

Africa

During the reporting period, 415 partners (lead CSOs and their co-implementing partners) as well as local CBOs, women's groups and/or associations have implemented initiatives and actions in EVAWG, including SGBV and HP. Overall, these efforts have led to over 6,200 women and girls accessing essential survivor-entered services, including legal and judicial services, psychosocial, and health services, including youth friendly and sensitive responses.

The impact of this influence through advocacy efforts and interventions is evident in local planning, new commitments, by-laws and implementation of policy.

Specifically, in **Nigeria**, the work of three SGBV stakeholder platforms and membership drawn from government agencies, religious leaders and women-led CBOs has instrumentally strengthened a protective environment for women and girls and leading to the assenting of the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act (VAPP) in Borno State through their advocacy efforts. The work of Ambassadors of Dialogue, Climate and Reintegration (DCR) has also notably contributed to increasing the number of convictions for perpetrators of SGBV in the court, and trained women-led CSOs are collaborating with justice and police institutions to report cases and follow up to ensure access to justice for survivors.

In **Uganda**, as a result of strengthened capacity among duty bearers, host and refugee communities advocating for EVAWG and the safety of women, new commitments were made in Yumbe District, following the alarming numbers of teenage pregnancies, including local authorities vocalizing the need for police to adequately investigate and bring perpetrators of GBV before the law. In Adjumani the local chairperson noted his support for the draft GBV ordinance, stating, "I will support this ordinance towards reducing the high prevalence of GBV in Adjumani district". The ordinance is being fronted by the district women councillors (women caucus).

In addition, the efforts of CSOs to support populations that are traditionally excluded have led to increased access to social services for female sex workers through 'security talks' and sensitization among female sex worker associations, health workers, police, and local government authorities. District officials from Mukono, Kalangala and Buikwe have committed to supporting female sex workers to access justice and services and agreed on three key recommendations to be implemented jointly, even after the end of the project period. These include the increased uptake and access of SRHR services through outreach facilitated by the public health workers in targeted health facilities; prosecuting perpetrators of violence against female sex workers as a strategy to reduce violence against them; and targeted training to police in efforts to reduce violence against female sex workers. As a result FSWs have been able to access life-saving ARTs, test for STIs and receive SRHR services in more accessible ways.

Solidarity of Refugee Women for the Social welfare (SOFERES) in **Malawi**, through targeted workshops with duty bearers on child rights to education, the importance of girls' education and the capacities (knowledge and skills) to respond to and prevent school related GBV in schools and communities led to collective community planning and the establishment of by-laws to improve girls' education and health. The by-laws include examples

such as: a parent shall ensure that his/her child is attending school without any hindrance and failure on his/her part to send the child to school shall be an offence; cultural practices and domestic chores that hinder smooth attendance of classes by children shall be prohibited; and teen marriage shall be nullified by the community and religious leaders.

And, in the **D.R.C** 63 autonomous social movements and civil society organisations working towards ending VAWG, including SGBV/HP, and promoting SRHR, strengthened their impact and improved the mental health of women and girls. Community members including traditional leaders and political-administrative authorities, young people as well as marginalized women (themselves) were mobilized and actively and progressively engaged in the promotion and defense of women's rights and the fight against sexual and gender-based violence. Further, an informal legal framework and advocacy plan was established by 'AFPE' for inclusive services and action for indigenous and local women in the Maï Ndombe province.

Moreover, awareness-raising, advocacy, and training actions to prevent violence against women and girls were initiated across the four countries in the region, contributing to improved perceptions and understanding of SGBV of community members, government authorities, service providers and local duty bearers, and engaging communities to end it. For example:

- In the **D.R.C**, CSOs have successfully influenced local, regional and national authorities and duty bearers through targeted actions. For example, LOFEPACO conducted workshops with local authorities and communities leaders for the continued coordination and awareness raising on EVAWG. As a result, an estimated 72% of these stakeholders are now involved in the fight and denunciation of SGBV.
- In **Nigeria**, 11 joint advocacy campaigns with government and three joint communiques in Borno State have been produced resulting the Head of Schools Services instituting new scholarships for 13 female survivors of violence across five schools and committed to continuing the scholarship scheme in the future.
- In **Malawi**, the use of social media as a tool for awareness raising has been instrumental. In addressing cultural issues, cultural communication media events through mobile vans were conducted reaching 2,800 people. This resulted in community dialogues involving local leaders, girls and young women on how to address the existing harmful cultural practices and systems such as lack of inheritance for women.

In addition, these efforts have influenced young women and adolescents to be more actively engaged in their communities and to fight against deep rooted norms. For example:

- Five female students in **Nigeria** have declared their intentions to run for Student Council Government Elections at the conclusion of a training organized by the project on the "Importance of Women/Girls Participation in Student Council and National Governance", as a result of training on the importance of female representation in schools and government leadership in Grand Gedeh County. In addition, INOL, through the support of GBV clubs in male secondary schools has raised male gender champions against gender-based violence on women and girls. Their voices have driven change within the school environment and communities by impacting their peers through conversation and dialogues.
- Young people in **Malawi** were trained and engaged in safe spaces leading to increased demand for information and SRHR services. The area as a result saw significant reductions on reported cases of SGBV was also noted in some of the project target areas such as Traditional Authority Mposa in Machinga where a 20 percent drop on reported cases was registered. Much of this was because of various factors such as increased awareness on effects of harmful practices and negative social norms; empowerment of local structures with knowledge and capacity to manage cases; adoption of community bylaws and their enforcement by local structures; among others. In all the target areas, a total of over

608 Child Marriages were annulled and over two thirds of the girls rescued from such marriages were supported to go back to school.

- Increased knowledge on SRHR in **Uganda** of 117 students through sex-education training (cumulatively 540), including topics of sexuality, gender, early pregnancy, forced marriage and menstrual hygiene has not only increased girls' confidence, self-esteem and life skills, but has resulted in trainees disseminating knowledge to their peers. 30 of these girls also started to make sanitary pads from local materials as a source of income.

In addition, women's rights organizations have enhanced the availability of quality data and disaggregated information to inform planning and influence decision-making by key stakeholders, as well as service provision. For example, Grassroot Researchers Association (GRA) in **Nigeria** strengthened the IT-based Clearing House Data Management System (CHDMS) for functionality across communities for the reporting of incidents and case management documentation. And, Purple Innovation in **Malawi**, maintained a GBV actors database at the district level which has facilitated in data consolidation of cases in Nkhatabay and Mzimba and providing access to service providers to support in service delivery and programming.

Haiti

During the reporting period, 13 partners and 152 CSOs reported having greater influence and agency to work on preventing and ending sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), well as contributing significantly to the improvement of human rights, safety, security and mental health.

At the organizational level, through institutional funding as a key to women's movement building in crisis settings, organizations are better equipped, and mobilized to respond to emergencies and different impacts of violence against women and girls. The capacities of these organizations have been strengthened to adapt and improve their responses to women and girls, as well as strengthen their strategic capacity, and their visibility and advocacy ability to intervene through concrete actions. This includes (i) strengthened management systems (staff training, access to workstation & materials, management experience), governance (emergence of new female leaders, knowledge, and resource management) and fund-raising capacities (financial management experience with international structures), (ii) improved premises and service locations for women such as offices and health blocks, access to radio broadcasts, publication of awareness-raising tools in the field, etc.

Moreover, institutional funding has supported women' rights organizations to sustain themselves for an average of 12 months each with 14 staff retained during the reporting period through remuneration and stipends. They have also developed and/or adopted adaptive strategies, tools, or systems, for continuity of their operations including development of risk management and contingency plans. This has improved staff performance and efficiency and has increased the role of women's organizations making them more equipped to respond to women and girls needs in crisis contexts and contributing to building women's movements and networks.

PNG

During the reporting period, 8 local women's rights organizations strengthened their operational and technical capacity, through staff trainings on referral and case management of survivors of violence, acquiring IT equipment and transportation to enhance their reach within local communities. Institutional funding contributed to strengthening women's organizations staff confidence and their relationships with local stakeholders to implement their projects. Moreover, as a result of core funding, 40 staff – who primarily worked as volunteers and unpaid – received monthly salaries and stipends for the critical work they carry out in supporting survivors of SGBV. For example, Kafe Urban Settlers Women Association (KUSWA) extended its office space and was able to provide stipends for 20 focal points in charge of accompaniment of survivors. This has been critical as in the past survivors were housed in volunteer homes while they waited for space in shelters or access to services. This expansion has resulted in KUSWA influencing perceptions of the organization as being more credible and professional.

Programmatically, CSO partners in PNG have also been able to influence key decisions and actions in remote communities. For example, KUP Women for Peace through its extensive outreach and advocacy efforts have positively influenced response by local police. Moreover, skills building and advocacy on various laws in PNG with duty bearers, through the ‘Law Toolkit’ on laws such as the Family and Sexual Violence Act, Children Protection Act and Sorcery Accusation Related Violence (SARV) Act has improved referral pathways and appropriately ensuring survivors reach specific services.

Moreover, CSOs like Voice for Change (VfC) have greatly influenced peace processes in their community while simultaneously advocating for the prevention of SGBV. VfC facilitated the first peace treaty between the Ramui and Dry Wara communities in Western Highlands – resolving a conflict that has lasted over 25 years between the two tribes.

Reporting on SRHR

In Malawi, WPHF – SI grantees have reported notable progress on SRHR. Over the reporting period “Partners in Action for Sustainable Development” has reached 1,119 adolescent girls enabling them access to SRHR information and services. This also includes training that has built their capacity to report and support the community and their peers in the fight against SGBV/HP. In addition, “Karonga Debate Club” led a total of 37 interventions contributing towards raising awareness and also stimulated demand for SRHR services. 72 key gatekeepers such as traditional leaders, male champions, and mother groups’ chairpersons, have also been key in the engagement with adolescents through their existing structures in addressing the critical barriers they face in accessing SRHR services and information. As such, these gatekeepers have been able to interact with the adolescent girls and women on SRHR creating a free and safe environment for girls and young women to access SRHR services and information. The grantee reached 8,979 (6,944 girls below 18 and 7,772 above 18) through dialogues and discussions on SRHR at district and community levels in schools and target communities through community dialogues, arts competitions, awareness rallies/campaigns, and engagements with community level groups. As per the District Health Office records in 2021, this has resulted in an increased uptake of SRHR services of 290% (from 1,159 to 4,517) by adolescents and young women. In Haiti, as a result of WPHF-SI partners interventions during this reporting period, 65 female adolescents aged 12 to 17 years, and 81 women aged 18 to 35 years have accessed SRHR services and information, including training on GBV and STI/STD prevention, mentoring, and support for girls; facilitating access to specialized SRH services; and the development of prevention programs with educational sessions for young women and men on sexuality and their rights. They also received key techniques to strengthen their professional and personal development (self-esteem in mental and emotional health).

Rights Holders (“Beneficiaries”)

Indicative numbers	Direct for 2022	Indirect for 2022	Comments / Explanations
Women (18 yrs. and above)	82,704		WPHF does not collect disaggregated data for indirect beneficiaries. Cumulatively, SI
Girls (5-17 yrs)	44,588		

Men (18 yrs. and above)	50,314		partners have reached 330,223 direct beneficiaries (64.2% women and girls) and 4.8 million indirect beneficiaries
Boys (5-17 yrs.)	33,808		
TOTAL	211,414	2,253,364	

Challenges and Mitigating Measures

During the reporting period, several challenges occurred. For example, in Uganda, while restrictions due to COVID-19 were lifted, the Ebola outbreak in the second half of the year required partners to adjust their activities slightly to ensure Ebola Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) were observed. UN Women Country Offices (COs) stayed in close contact with all CSO partners to secure flexibility and support. Since the outbreak was contained quickly and the reach was limited to a few areas, project implementation did not suffer delays.

The crisis in Afghanistan which began in August 2021, has continued to severely impact and threaten women and women's rights organizations in the country. On December 24th, a new decree was issued by de facto authorities barring women from working in CSOs. WPHF partners have strived to continue implementation, while still ensuring the protection and well-being of their personnel, but activities did require to be either adjusted or paused, as female staff worked online or from home.

During the reporting period, inflation skyrocketed further and led to increased costs in the implementation of projects. WPHF and COs continued to guide partners closely to discuss possible strategic changes in implementation and provided the necessary flexibility to make adaptations in the project designs and budgets.

In addition, the volatile security situation in the D.R.C, Nigeria and Haiti continued to challenge project activities as well as capacity building efforts. The insecurity and prevalence of armed groups in project areas affected access to beneficiaries and made it necessary to postpone meetings, trainings, and workshops to ensure safety. In the D.R.C, the state of emergency continued in three Eastern provinces, leading to the instalment of military governments and the related challenges. The security risks were however mitigated through a strategic selection of activity locations, travel times and access routes. Most importantly, all activities were paused if there were any risks for partners or beneficiaries, and adaptation and flexibility was provided to CSO partners. In Haiti, insecurity resulted in travel restrictions and violent demonstrations, delaying activities to ensure staff and beneficiaries alike remained safe.

Severe floods in Malawi challenged project implementation as well as monitoring efforts by the UN Women CO. The partners continued to implement their activities, with reduced speed and had to postpone events due to road blockages and heavy rains. The UN Women CO stayed in close contact with the CSO partners to ensure support and quick actions as needed.

The remoteness and rural nature of CSOs in PNG also continued to challenge project monitoring and follow up. Despite this, UN Women CO in collaboration with its partner CARE International carried out joint monitoring missions, held a joint in-person reporting and M&E session and leveraged online and WhatsApp messaging groups to provide support to partners.

Finally, during the reporting period, two new cases of concern regarding corruption/financial mismanagement among WPHF-SI partners was recorded (one in Malawi and one in the D.R.C). Consequently, both projects underwent further investigation, screenings and quality checks. A final decision over possible continuation or termination of the projects will be taken in 2023, once COs complete their investigations.

Lessons Learned and New Opportunities

Similarly to previous years, the WPHF-SI partnership has provided an opportunity to draw important learnings from the rich array of project implementation experiences across the 8 covered countries. Central to its adaptive learning approach, WPHF is committed to a continuous assessment and revision of its approaches and practices in the interest of a more effective and efficient support to women civil society organizations operating in crisis settings.

Adaptation and Flexibility in hostile environments for women's rights organizations

2022 continued to see intractable conflicts and crisis contributing to severe instability in countries such as Afghanistan and Haiti. Compounded with this has been increased food insecurity due to climate change and lack of security and growing number of populations facing forced displacement. Threats to the fundamental rights of women and girls, LGBTIQ+ communities and other marginalized groups are also on the rise with conflicts and humanitarian emergencies exacerbated by the global climate crisis, food insecurity, violent extremism and the reverberations of the deadliest global pandemic in a generation.

Despite these threats, women's rights organizations have tried to adapt to their environments by using new working modalities such as telework and use of online platforms and providing tools to personnel to work from home or engaging male confederates and supporters in their advocacy efforts. In cases where continuation of work would pose additional risks, rescheduling or stopping activities for a time is a key strategy and remaining flexible and adaptable within crisis settings is critical.

Country-to-country peer exchanges is a key strategy for learning on movement building. As a follow up to the WPHF-SI global event on Movement Building held in 2021, WPHF organized in 2022 peer exchanges involving organizations from two countries to share their best practices in terms of movement building. Specifically, CSO partners from Uganda exchanged with peers in Malawi, and organizations in Liberia with CSOs in Nigeria. The conduction of these facilitated dialogues in small, intimate settings involving only two countries at a time were found an optimal environment encouraging lively discussions that were conducive for participants to share their own experiences and dive deeper into best practices. WPHF plans to build on this and organize additional country-to-country peer-exchanges in 2023, along with a summary document capturing key lessons and promising practices to be shared with and potentially benefiting CSOs from other countries.

Early direct support to strengthen CSO project management capacities are critical for successful implementation. Having identified capacity gaps among CSOs, particularly those from PNG, regarding project documentation, monitoring and reporting CARE International decided to provide ongoing and direct capacity building to local organizations on financial management, reporting and implementation during Round2 of Spotlight Initiative. In addition, WPHF carried out a mission to PNG and conducted a practical and participatory monitoring, evaluation and reporting workshop with all CSO partners in efforts to improve the demonstration of results. While these efforts certainly helped to improve reporting, it was noted that timing of such efforts need to be done at the project onset and during CSO onboarding to be better capitalized during the implementation period. This would help preventing implementation delays, ensure completion of reporting and provision of appropriate documentation. WPHF will assess different ways in which it can integrate this approach moving forward.

Innovative, Promising or Good Practices

2022 reported results have surfaced a number of promising and good practices as well as project innovations that can serve as inspiration for further programming and learning opportunities.

WPHF-SI structures and approach as enablers of collaboration and systemic transformation. Over 1,000 CSOs, women's groups across seven countries have coordinated advocacy efforts and strengthened their collective influence in addressing systemic barriers for women and girls. This result has been possible thanks to a unique combination of establishing dedicated WPHF and SI country-level coordination structures and having a clear, outcome-based, intentionality in supporting collective action and movement building to prevent and respond to SGBV and ending VAWG. This dual approach has facilitated the use of a systems perspective among stakeholders, including the broader community and duty bearers, hence a better understanding of on the causes, impact, and response to SGBV and more holistic responses. WPHF's own processes requiring the designated UN Management Entity to assume programmatic accountability in accordance with the multi-stakeholder national steering committee has also contributed to increased partner coordination, and building linkages and synergies between WPHF-SI partners and other existing initiatives and resources. For instance, UN Women Country Offices have brought partners together for knowledge exchange and better coordination among them, including via virtual meetings and one-on-one follow-ups with CSOs.

WPHF L-Hub as a key resource to expand project's impact and sustainability. The capacity building opportunities made available by WPHF's Global Learning Hub have proven to be a good practice in enhancing grantee partners' capacities in strategic areas affecting project implementation and sustainability – this includes data collection, digital security, research, anti-corruption, youth mainstreaming, advocacy, resource mobilization, feminist peace processes, climate change resilience, conflict-related sexual violence and coalition building. WPHF's 2022 CSO partner survey revealed that 82% of grantees who participated in L-HUB's capacity building initiatives are using new knowledge and skills. For example, through participating in peer exchanges, CSOs have been inspired to use new approaches in project implementation and create new partnerships and synergies at local level.

Diversity of civil society actors brings more reach and richness. In line with previous years' experience and knowledge, WPHF has noted as a good practice that expanding the number, diversity and inclusiveness of civil society actors – and stakeholders in general – gives the space for a wider array of perspectives, thus more holistic and effective approaches to GBV in fragile settings, addressing the specific needs of different actors and reaching the most marginalized. For example, the network established in Afghanistan comprising of 25 women's rights groups, autonomous social movements, and civil society organizations and activists was key to make information and services accessible in remote locations, leading to more cases of GBV and psychosocial counselling being referred in these areas. In Haiti, a coalition of 13 organizations joining forces against GBV allowed to address both prevention and response from multiple lenses including increased efforts in community sensitization, new skills for health providers at local facilities and in nursing colleges, adolescent-friendly counselling sessions, strengthening reception centers, income generating activities of survivors living with disabilities, and skills building with local CBOs and disability person organizations (DPOs) to carry out advocacy initiatives

Investing in income generation to enhance engagement and accountability. Project implementation in 2022 demonstrated the importance of economic independence and its role in deterring VAWG and enhancing women and girls' agency and coordination. Community structures such as Village Saving and Lending Associations (VSLAs) and access to entrepreneurship opportunities have increased women's savings and income, building their confidence in speaking out against violence, contributing to advocacy efforts and taking up leadership positions in their communities. For example, CSO partner Uganda Change Agent Association (UCAA) implementing an initiative that supported VSLAs noted that the resulting increase in income for women members, enhanced their resilience and their ability to engage in efforts to end VAWG, as well as their confidence in advancing accountability systems in their communities.

Boys' school clubs against SGBV transforming harmful social norms (Nigeria). A project-specific good

practice to highlight this reporting period comes from Nigeria, where three SGBV clubs in male secondary schools have proven to be a viable approach to addressing SGBV among youth groups, using youth male vanguards advocating against VAWG. The clubs, comprising 40 boys each, have been institutionalized in male secondary schools with the theme “stop violence against women and girls” as extracurricular activities. Supported by a teacher acting as a coordinator and supervisor, each club identifies and develops inclusive and equitable activities promoting gender equality and protection against GBV, by facilitating conversations within their peers geared towards shifting attitudinal change and positive masculinities, addressing bias and negative social norms and fostering an inclusive culture. The boys also exchange ideas and experiences with local women groups and advocates in the communities and they work closely with other local structures to garner further support and synergies. Club members are well accepted by traditional and community leaders and regarded as good ambassadors of youth in the community. When the club members transit from secondary schools, a ‘recruitment’ mechanism will be established to ensure continuity through enrolment of new club members to continue with club activities.

Communications and Visibility

Overview

In 2022, the WPHF Secretariat executed a wide range of strategic communications and public advocacy initiatives aimed at driving enhanced visibility for the WPHF-SI partnership while amplifying the central role of the EU as a generous donor, and the voices and transformative impact of women civil society leaders working to end SGBV in crises contexts. WPHF and SI worked in close coordination throughout the year to develop and amplify a range of complementary communications initiatives that enhanced public awareness of the WPHF-SI partnership and the critical work of its civil society partners - building on a strong foundation of strategic collaboration that continues to effectively shift public narratives of women from passive survivors to active agents of change, centering the critical contributions and voices of local women’s rights organizations in crises settings working at the forefront of SGBV prevention and response.

The WPHF Secretariat worked throughout the year to reinforce among its partners and managing UN Women CO focal points, the WPHF-SI Communications and complementary branding Guidelines, which outlines comprehensive guidance on co-branding, logo usage, social media best practices and standard language used to effectively communicate on the unique WPHF-SI partnership across both entities’ various traditional and social media channels.

The WPHF Secretariat also leveraged its growing social media presence across its Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn channels (WPHF successfully grew its social media audience from 19,040 followers in 2021 to 29,415 at the end of 2022, resulting in a 54.4% net growth in total social media followers from the previous year) to enhance the visibility of interventions, new funding opportunities for local women’s rights organizations in crisis contexts, and the impact of its partners on the front lines. In close coordination with the Spotlight Initiative global communications team, WPHF highlighted key initiatives across its social media channels, including the active promotion of joint WPHF-SI calls for proposals, furthering the visibility and awareness among a wide range of audiences. WPHF also leveraged the International Day to End Violence Against Women and the corresponding 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence campaign to drive broader awareness of the impact of WPHF-SI CSO grantees and local women’s rights organizations to end sexual and gender-based violence in crises settings across the globe.

Messages

In 2022 WPHF continued to highlight the impact of WPHF-SI-supported partners through regular contributions to the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women UNiTE Action Circulars. These publications

successfully targeted UN, INGO and other expert advocacy audiences with messaging on the unique added value of local women’s civil society organizations and their contributions to a range of SGBV-related topics, such as funding, prevention, response and collecting data on the improvement of SGBV services. WPHF also worked with its UN country office focal points to develop a series of impact stories to further advocacy and visibility efforts of WPHF-SI projects at the country level.

Media and visibility events

In 2022, WPHF seized opportunities to integrate the voices and critical work of local women peacebuilders and humanitarians in a number of key opportunities and public events to advocate for their recognition, enhance their visibility, mobilize financing for their critical work and shape policy. A total of 27 women civil society activists supported by WPHF, including women civil society leaders from the WPHF-SI partnership, shared their experiences and recommendations in events organized or co-sponsored by WPHF, addressing a diverse range of challenges and key recommendations.

Campaigns

In 2022, WPHF continued to leverage and drive towards the goal of its global campaign: #1000WomenLeaders: Accelerating a Global Movement for Peace and Equality. The campaign aimed to invest in 1,000 women leaders and their organizations – including women rights leaders working to end SGBV - in 1,000 crisis-affected communities through contributions to 5 key areas: Mobilizing Financing to Support their Work; Strengthening their Institutional Capacity; Amplify their Voices, Priorities and Impact; Driving Innovation, Connection & Community; and Advocating for their Rights, Recognition & Influence.

Human interest stories:

Afghanistan

For Berezira⁸, a mother of three children, the organization’s community engagement has impacted her life directly though awareness sessions in her community in Nuristan Province. Below she tells her story, in her own words:

“I was forcibly married in exchange for money to an aged person as his second wife, I was faced with discrimination and violence in my family and I was considered like an animal purchased in exchange for money, I do all my housework, work in agricultural lands, collecting firing wood from the nearby mountains and bringing water from early morning until late night. Like other women here, I did not ever know that a woman can have some rights as a human being. An elder of our community told my husband to let a woman from our household to attend the session organized by the organization on December 04, 2022. I attended the females’ session, and my husband attended the males’ session on the same day, both of us have been informed during the sessions that a Muslim woman can have some basic human rights given by our religion, this was a good understanding for me, and I was in hurry to return home and talk with my husband regarding it, as I knew he can’t deny religious guidelines because he is a strict follower of Islam. I returned home and crying for my existence as a woman who has been sold in exchange for money and have no rights to be respected by a husband. My husband came home and lovingly asked me about the reason for my sadness and about what the session was like. I responded that the session was about women’s fundamental Islamic rights that you have never given to me as your wife, men here just misuse a woman for doing work, giving birth to children and using a wife for lust purposes who are always victims of violence deprived of their basic human rights, I wish that the organization had told this lesson to you too, so that you could know a woman’s human being and the basic rights given by our religion. He smiley said that he attended the session too and he has just been informed about women’s Islamic and fundamental human rights and his mindset was positively changed towards women, he regretted from what he used to do and said ((I was a stupid and ignorant person that I did all with you opposed to our religion, I am sorry for what I did, I am really regretted for the violence I did against you)).

⁸ Names and community name has been changed to ensure protection and security

Since then, his attitude towards me has been changed and we have been having a loving life cooperating with each other and this was basically because me and my husband knew about women's basic human and Islamic rights and reason for the positive change was conduction of the awareness raising session organized by the organization. I am therefore thankful to them for organization the session and I am thankful to UN Women and WPHF for financially supporting the initiative which can have life changing positive impact on the lives of hundreds of victim women like me."

Nigeria

Asabe⁹ was 16 years old when her father removed her from school and forcefully married off to a man 65 years old. *"I have never seen him before in my life and I didn't love him at all"* she recounted. When she was taken to his house, she met three other wives old enough to be her mother. The man was brutal and sexually assaulted and raped her continually. Every night he forced himself on her resulting in severe pain and bruises, causing physical and emotional harm. Whenever she tried to resist, she would be beaten severely. She attempted running back to her parents but was sent back by her father with strong warning that she no longer belongs to them.

Asabe managed to escape from sexual abuse and slavery to a new community with the help of a community leader. As a result of community engagement efforts, INOL was invited to intervene in her case. After a careful review, the case was referred to the International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) for additional support. FIDA took the case to the court and the marriage was successfully dissolved, both father and husband were charged for sexual assault and child abuse and jailed for 2 years with a fine of NGN 200,00 (approximately 500 USD).

Asabe gained her freedom and has been rescued from her violent environment. She attended skills acquisition training in tailoring and fashion design for the period of twelve months at the Women and Girls Dignity Center Damaturu. She also benefitted from the empowerment and livelihood support by the Ministry of Women Affairs Yobe through the Lake Chad Basin project which was implemented with support from UN Women. Asabe was supported with a sewing machine and cash support to engage in income generating activities. As a result of her new skills and professionalism, she was employed as an instructor for other survivors training at Women's Empowerment Hub to build their capacity and strengthen their resilience and improved economic status. Asabe uses her experience to counsel other survivors coming into the center on human rights and access to justice.

Uganda

"My name is Mirembe¹⁰, I am 32 years and I have three children. Two of them are twins. And I have been a sex worker for 13 years."

Mirembe is one of the female sex workers who have benefitted from a project financed through the WPHF-Spotlight Initiative partnership. Women's Organization Network for Human Rights Advocacy (WONETHA) works with the women to improve their access to justice and health services. When joining the project, Mirembe was chosen as a peer educator by her fellow sex workers.

"In the past when I was starting sex work, we worked in bars. That is where you would get customers. You would work in the bar but also sell sex and our boss was selling us. Sometimes a customer would come but pay the owner of the bar and I wouldn't get paid. So, I worked only for food and accommodation. I didn't even know how to use a condom and got HIV. Fortunately, all my children are negative," Mirembe explains.

Mirembe's story is very common and female sex workers face a lot of exploitation and violence in Uganda. WONETHA educates women on sexual and reproductive health and rights, Ugandan laws and on their human rights. The peer educators like Mirembe are in key roles as they reach out to other sex workers to form groups, educate them and connect them with health workers and the police. This creates a movement among sex workers to stand up for their rights.

⁹ Name has been changed for protection and security

¹⁰ Ibid.

“Before this project, we had no voice, and we were taken as mere sex workers. Now the ladies can come and speak for themselves. WONETHA has taught us about our rights and how to protect ourselves better. As a peer educator, I go around and try to understand how my peers are doing and help them with getting medication and assist them with contacting the police when their rights are violated.”



*Photo 1: Mirembe is one of the peer educators trained by WONETHA.
(Photo: Laura Silver, UN Women Uganda)*

Getting help from the police is sometimes challenging for the sex workers. Sex workers face a lot of violence and talking to the police is not easy. Sex work is illegal in Uganda and many people have many the preconceptions about sex workers. WONETHA brings the women together to form groups that are led by the peer educators. The groups protect one another and assist each other when one of them needs help.

Some of them have also started savings groups to generate other income as a strategy to leave the trade, *“We help each other out. We have been taught not to lock our rooms when one of us has a customer. If a client tries to be violent you can call for help and the others come and help. Before this wasn’t the case. We help each other out, we are stronger together.”*

PNG

KUSWA is tucked on the second floor of a building, no signs or markings to ensure women can enter safely. Established in 2001, they are a survivor-centered organization which provides case management services to survivors of SGBV. They are part of an extensive network of other organizations that work in this area and are often provided referrals from INGOs or NGOs as well as local police, and work with other WPHF grantees such as VFC, KUP and HRDANG. On average they see 5-8 clients a week and provide them with referrals to legal support or health care, access to safe shelter, meals, and develop action plans with them so they can become self-sufficient. The organization is small and the majority of women of KUSWA are volunteers and themselves survivors. In 2021, KUSWA received institutional funding from WPHF which specifically went to expanding their space with the rental of a new room. This was a significant and important thing as previously there was no private space for women to meet with staff. The room is large enough to also have meetings. Rent in Goroka is extremely expensive (1,200 PNK (about 550USD a month) and the grant will cover 12 months. In addition as a result of funding they have also developed new HR policies and are able to provide small stipends to the volunteers.



Photo 2: KUSWA head office demonstrating new data collection forms and processes
(Photo: Erica Stillo, WPHF)

PNG

Mr. Bana from Muglwaku Kar tribe lives in Simbu Province which borders Simbu and Jiwaka. Simbu is associated with high rates of intimate partner violence where, 68.4% women aged 15 to 49 years old reported to have ever experienced physical, sexual or emotional abuse from their partners (PNG DHS 2016). Mr. Bana was a perpetrator of violence, exacerbated by his use of alcohol and drugs, and domestic violence was common in his household as he came home after drinking. One of the community leaders said that the wife feared reporting her abusive husband to the police because she feared losing him and feared community wrath.

However, the Spotlight initiative helped to change Mr. Bana's behaviour and attitude towards his wife. He began taking part in all community initiatives and awareness sessions carried out by Kup Women for Peace, on ending violence against women and girls. Mr. Mick said about himself, *"I used to be a violent man, beat my wife and children daily"*.

Ms. Bana's sister was also used to seeing her sister being abused, and equally afraid to report it. She didn't have the knowledge of what she could do and feared reprisals from the community. After participating in a series of GBV prevention workshops and awareness raising sessions, she decided to protect her sister from Bana. She reported the case to the police and Mr. Bana was arrested two days. She says, *"my younger sister's husband was a perpetrator;*

I took my sister to Family Support Unit, and they arrested her husband. Since then, he became a better person."

Kup Women for Peace provided joint counselling services and awareness raising sessions to Mr. Bana and his wife at their home. The information improved his understanding on gender-based violence, gender equality and human rights. He is now respecting his wife, budgeting, and working with her on all family issues. Moreover Mr. Bana became a male advocate and family mediator in his community, mobilizing other men to end violence against women and girls.

Testimonials

“Since we started Sirri Care organization, we have not fully participated in any form of capacity building program that is as impactful as this one implemented with funding from the WPHF/EU supported project. As a team leader, when I started attending some of the activities on this project, certain humanitarian principles became clearer to me than ever before and now I have greater knowledge of GBV and GEWE which I am already applying in my work. Four of my program staff now have demonstrated enhanced competencies in program design and have already utilized knowledge gained from the training on program management to design a grant winning project proposal”

(Susan Binwie Tanwie, Executive Director of Sirri Care Foundation, a national non-governmental organisation working in northeast Nigeria. Sirri Care Foundation is a beneficiary of the WPHF project implemented by DCR Ambassadors)

Photos



Photo credit: © 2022 Fondation Femme Plus

Photo caption: Berthe, Laurette, Mado and Carine get ready to serve food at their restaurant, which they opened after attending a training organized by Fondation Femme Plus in Kananga, Democratic Republic of Congo, with support from the United Nations Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) and the Spotlight Initiative.



Photo credit: © 2022 WPHF/Erica Stillo

Photo caption: CSO KUP Women for Peace in attendance at the in-person workshop facilitated by WPHF and support of the Spotlight Initiative, on gender-sensitive and feminist monitoring, evaluation and reporting in PNG in September 2022. All 14 CSOs attended the three day participatory workshop.



*Photo credit: © 2022 Nègès Mawon
Photo caption: A group of women, all of them former inmates, show their dancing abilities during a workshop organized by Nègès Mawon, a local organization based in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, as part of a reintegration project supported by the United Nations Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) and the Spotlight Initiative. This project uses dance and theater to enhance the protection and reintegration of formerly incarcerated women into their communities, raising awareness on women's rights and gender-based violence.*



*Photo credit: © 2022 Solidarity of Refugee Women for the Social Welfare
Photo caption: A young student takes part in a workshop on school-related sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) organized by Solidarity of Refugee Women for the Social Welfare (SOFERES) in Dzaleka Camp, Malawi's first refugee camp. With support of the United Nations Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) and the Spotlight Initiative, this project aims to increase the number of adolescent girls completing their education while changing the attitudes and behaviors of community members in relation to girls' right to education, gender, and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).*

Videos

Not applicable for the reporting period

Sustainability

On the global level, sustainability of financing is a key priority. Particular attention is paid that WPHF interventions in every country continue to bridge funding gaps for local women's rights organizations. Already 2 CSOs that were supported through the WPHF-Spotlight partnership in Liberia received further funding through another WPHF call for proposal in Liberia and 2 CSOs supported in Uganda receive further funding from UN Women Country Office through its WPS programme.

Similarly, Spotlight Initiative funding has allowed WPHF to open allocations in new countries. These allocations were sustained through other sources of funding in Malawi, Haiti and Afghanistan.

Through the L-Hub and the different exchange opportunities created for WPHF CSO partners, and the knowledge briefs about lessons learned and best practices on movement building, it is ensured that the knowledge generated in the projects is available to all WPHF CSO partners around the world strengthening future projects.

At the project level, from the beginning CSO partners were requested to build strong relationships with local authorities and other CSO networks, where possible. Together with the UN Women Country Offices, who act as Management Entities for the WPHF in country, CSO partners were guided to aim at institutionalizing structures, groups and networks established throughout the project activities to ensure continuation of these structures even after the project ends. In Uganda for example, 10 peer support groups of Female Sex Workers that have been established by a WPHF-Spotlight CSO partners have registered at the sub-county and district level. They are officially recognized and can access government resources aimed at empowering vulnerable groups especially women. In Nigeria the Boys Clubs that were established in 3 all male secondary schools have been taken up as extracurricular activities in the school programmes. Further attention was paid that tools such as the mobile SAV app that was developed in Liberia to capture and report real-time data on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) cases are shared with other organizations ensuring their widespread usage beyond the project period.

Next Steps

As the programme will be in its final year in 2023, a few key steps will be conducted to ensure the continued implementation of initiatives, consolidation of results and closing of grants.

- Monthly monitoring calls will continue to be held between the WPHF Secretariat and all Spotlight Initiative country offices in order to monitor closely the budget absorption as well as discuss challenges and successes.
- As part of its continuous advocacy in support of women's rights organizations in crisis settings, the WPHF will continue to amplify and facilitate spaces for local women's rights organizations voices in international platforms.
- A country-to-country exchange between Haiti and the D.R.C to share cross-country experiences, best practices, and lessons on SGBV and EVAWG initiatives.
- Reporting information session with country offices on final reporting, with a focus on cumulative results and impact. In addition, this will involve updating reporting templates to facilitate this, as discussed with the Spotlight Secretariat.
- Closing event for CSOs in Africa will organize highlighting the achievements of the Partnership.
- Support the UN Women COs to implement closing workshops in country collecting lessons learned and best practices.
- Support to the UN Women COs to successfully close the projects by 31. December 2023 and support COs develop comprehensive exit and sustainability strategies through quarterly calls.

ANNEXES

Annex B: Risk Matrix

Annex C: CSO Engagement Report (separate)

Annex D: Innovative, Promising or Good Practices Reporting Template

Annex B: Risk Matrix

Risk Assessment			Risk Monitoring		Addressing the Risk:	Responsible Person/Unit
Risk	Likelihood: Almost Certain – 5 Likely – 4 Possible – 3 Unlikely – 2 Rare – 1	Impact: Extreme – 5 Major – 4 Moderate – 3 Minor – 2 Insignificant – 1	Periodicity	Source for monitoring		
Contextual risks						
Resistance from family, community, traditional and religious leaders	4	4	Quarterly	Calls between the WPHF Secretariat and COs	Strong engagement of men especially from family, community elders, traditional and religious leaders at the programme level. Sensitization and empowerment of women, traditional and political leaders to understand, mobilize against, and stop HP, such as FGM and Child Marriage. Ensuring local ownership and buy-in from local authorities is evaluated during the technical review of proposals and monitored throughout the project. In the case of Afghanistan, risks and mitigation measures for each projects are developed to ensure safe implementation for both the CSOs and beneficiaries.	WPHF Secretariat UN Women Country Offices
Lack of political will at senior decision-making levels within the UN and governments	3	4	Weekly/Monthly	Emails and Calls between the WPHF Secretariat and COs	WPHF uses and leverages existing structures and mechanisms to ensure the buy-in of all relevant stakeholders, including through Spotlight NSCs and PBF JSCs. In the cases where Spotlight NSCs are not established yet, close coordination is undertaken at the national level to establish a joint WPHF-Spotlight NSC. In the case of Afghanistan, the government is no longer part of the NSC following the Taliban takeover.	WPHF Secretariat UN Women Country Offices
COVID19 pandemic restrictions and health risks	4	4	Quarterly	Emails/Calls between the WPHF Secretariat and COs	COVID19 delays have increased the risks for the timeline of implementation. WPHF Secretariat in consultation with SI Secretariat has developed adaptation guidelines for CSOs and UN Women Country Offices to ensure safe delivery of activities and do no harm approach. The UN Women Country Offices are in close contact with partners ensuring safety of partners and beneficiary through applying the respective SOPs.	WPHF Secretariat UN Women Country Offices

Lack of security, high levels of instability and complex political dynamics in focus country	5	4	Quarterly	Emails/Calls between the WPHF Secretariat and COs	The WPHF Secretariat liaises closely with UN Women Country Offices and Regional Directors to be apprised routinely of the evolving contexts in focus country. Timelines are adapted as needed to ensure Do No Harm approach at all levels and to ensure security of partners and staff is ensured. In the case of Afghanistan, risks and mitigation measures for each projects are developed to ensure safe implementation for both the CSOs and beneficiaries.	WPHF Secretariat UN Women Country Offices
Programmatic risks						
Insufficient funding available to reach WPHF's goal	2	4	Quarterly	Emails/Calls between the WPHF Secretariat and COs	WPHF Secretariat is leveraging the current Spotlight Initiative funding to mobilize additional resources for each country.	WPHF Secretariat
Civil society organizations do not deliver on the planned interventions	3	4	Quarterly	Emails/Calls between the WPHF Secretariat and COs	Quality control of prodocs, close monitoring in country and a quarterly cash advance system to assess progress will allow to mitigate the risks. The National Steering Committee will also be able to suspend or put an end to a project should it fail to deliver. Flexible guidance was developed by the WPHF Secretariat to monitor and approve changes in alignment with overall outcome area. Additional capacity building and support will be identified by WPHF in consultation with Country offices to support smaller organizations with limited capacity. In the case of Afghanistan and PNG, where there are more important delays and challenges, a no cost extension was approved by Spotlight Initiative. In PNG, specific plans for identified CSOs not delivering will be developed as needed.	WPHF Secretariat UN Women Country Offices
Institutional risks						
Weakened civil society	4	4	Quarterly	Emails/Calls between the WPHF Secretariat and COs; WPHF Survey on risks for civil society	Institutional Funding stream in 3 countries (Afghanistan, Haiti and PNG) is helping strengthen civil society institutions. The development of COVID19 adaptation guidance aimed to ensure flexibility and adequate support to civil society to ensure safe delivery and Do No Harm approach. WPHF-SI grantees have access to additional resources and trainings to build their organizational capacity through the WPHF-C Community of practice. In addition, the UN Women COs provide trainings and regular support to each organization to ensure quality delivery and reporting. The selection of projects at the national level encourages support to a diverse group of CSOs representing	WPHF Secretariat UN Women Country Offices

					groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of violence and discrimination.	
Lack of results-based management and reporting knowledge limiting the monitoring and evaluation of results and impacts	3	3	Quarterly by the WPHF at least bi-weekly by the CO	Emails/Calls between the WPHF Secretariat and COs and partners Quarterly implementation reports and regular monitoring visits and calls	UN Women Country Offices provide technical guidance and capacity building measures to partners on country level to strengthen partners in RBM and Reporting online and as much as possible in person. The WPHF Secretariat liaises closely with UN Women Country Offices to provide additional support to the capacity COs. The WPHF Secretariat provides additional guidance and training through tip sheets and capacity building sessions on M&E	WPHF Secretariat UN Women Country Offices
Lack of absorption capacity of women's rights organizations in the target country	3	3	Quarterly	Emails/Calls between the WPHF Secretariat and Cos Quarterly implementation reports and regular monitoring visits and calls on the country level	Technical and capacity building support to women's organizations ensure financial absorption while providing quality interventions. Experience has shown in the past significant needs for civil society.	UN Women Country Offices WPHF Secretariat
Fiduciary risks						

<p>Corruption and misuse of funds by civil society organizations, or accusations of terrorism linkages.</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>Quarterly</p>	<p>Emails/Calls between the WPHF Secretariat and COs Quarterly implementation reports and regular monitoring visits and calls on the country level</p>	<p>Capacity assessments undertaken by the UN Women CO and UN Women financial reporting procedures are in place and capacity building on anti-corruption is included in the WPHF-C global capacity building plan. If an organization is accused of corruption or misuse of funds, the WPHF and CO will act according to the zero-tolerance policy on fraud and corruption of UN Women; it will be decided jointly with the NSC on how to proceed and end the contract. The WPHF Secretariat will keep the SI Secretariat informed.</p>	<p>UN Women Country Offices WPHF Secretariat</p>
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Annex C: CSO Engagement Report (separate file)

Annex D: Innovative, Promising or Good Practices Reporting Template

Title of the Innovative, Promising or Good Practice	Boys Clubs
<p>Provide a description of the innovative, promising, or good practice. What pillars/principles of the Spotlight Initiative does it address? (When did the activity begin? When will it be completed or is it ongoing?)</p>	<p>A good practice was recorded in Nigeria, where Sexual and Gender-based Violence against women and girls' clubs in male secondary school have proved to be a viable approach to addressing GBV among youth groups, using the youth as male vanguards advocating against gender-based violence against women and girls. The boy clubs are established in all male secondary schools with the theme "stop violence against women and girls" and have around 40 members. A coordinator and supervisor, who are teachers in the school, support the boys in planning activities. The clubs identify and initiate opportunities for developing diverse inclusive and equitable activities that promote gender sensitivity, equality, and protection against GBV, by facilitating productive conversation within their peers and are leading conversations aiming at attitudinal change and positive masculinities. They also created a club social media group to exchange ideas and pass information on issues related to GBV and brainstorm on more ideas to reach their peers. Their voices drive strategic change within the school environment and communities by impacting their peer groups, critical knowledge, and skills to address bias and negative social norms to foster an inclusive culture. After the success of the first club two further clubs were established successfully. All three clubs are now implementing activities.</p>
<p>Objective of the practice: What were the goals of the activity?</p>	<p>Ending SGBV through engaging young men and boys at school</p>
<p>Stakeholders involved: Who are the beneficiaries or target group of the practice? Describe how all relevant stakeholders were engaged.</p>	<p>The target group are young men and boys at secondary schools. However, the boys also exchange ideas and experiences with local women groups and advocates in communities. The boys' clubs are working closely with other local structures within the communities to garner support for women and girls in their communities. The networks include women's groups and other advocacy committees to ensure a synergy in their approaches towards ending violence against women and girls. Traditional and community leaders are also aware of the existence of the club and members of the club are well accepted and regarded as good ambassadors of youth in the community.</p>
<p>What makes this an innovative, promising, or good practice? Identify distinguishing feature(s) that make this an innovative, promising or a good practice in the efforts to EVAWG and/or in the context of the UNDS reform.</p>	<p>This good practice has been implemented in Nigeria. After the success of the first club two further clubs were established successfully. All three clubs are now implementing activities. The club helped in building collaborative capacity of youth groups to develop strong resistance against cultural norms and practices that condone gender-based violence using social media platforms.</p>
<p>What challenges were encountered and how were they overcome?</p>	<p>No specific challenges were encountered because INOL is very well connected in the communities and the planning and setting up of the clubs was in coordination with all relevant stakeholders, including traditional leaders.</p>
<p>Outputs and Impact: What have been the results thus far? Do they contribute to long-term impact?</p>	<p>The clubs unravel deep rooted cultural beliefs and practices that continue to undermine gender equality efforts as well as emerging gender concerns. Key club members of the clubs received training and capacity building by the WPHG-SI CSO partner INOL on SGBV Prevention, Response and Referral Pathways. The training participants returned to their schools to cascade the knowledge to other club members by retraining them. Through this modality the knowledge reached all boys within the clubs, who are now using their knowledge to become allies in ending violence against women and girls and actively support the promotion of the rights of women and girls in their community. The boys not only shared the knowledge in the schools but also extended their activities to the community - among their friends and relatives, who now have enhanced knowledge of SGBV particularly rape.</p>
<p>Adaptable (Optional) In what ways can this practice</p>	<p>N/A</p>

<i>be adapted for future use?</i>	
Replicable/Scale-Up (Optional) <i>What are the possibilities of extending this practice more widely?</i>	This simple but effective good practice can easily be implemented in all schools as it is low cost and gives youth especially young boys the opportunity to belong to a club, initiate activities with friends etc.
Sustainable <i>What is needed to make the practice sustainable?</i>	The clubs have to become institutionalized in schools as extra activities that the boys can sign up to and a supportive environment has to be set in place by the schools ensuring that the clubs keep existing and implementing activities. When the members of the clubs transit from Secondary School to Tertiary Institution or University, a ‘recruitment’ mechanism is put in place to ensure continuity/Sustainability through enrolment of new club members who will also continue with club activities in the school.
Validated (for a good practice only): Has the practice been validated? Is there confirmation from beneficiaries/users that the practice properly addressed their needs and is there expert validation?	The practice has been validated as three different boys clubs are now up and running. The schools are: i. Government Day Senior Secondary School Potiskum ii. Government Day Secondary School Gashu’a iii. Government Secondary School, Damaturu
Additional details and contact information: Are there any other details that are important to know about the innovative, promising, or good practice? <i>Please provide contact details of a focal person for this practice as well as any additional materials including photos/videos.</i>	Katrin.fischer@unwomen.org



Spotlight Initiative

Initiated by the European Union and the United Nations:

