

# Spotlight Initiative

*To eliminate violence  
against women and girls*

**ANNUAL NARRATIVE PROJECT REPORT**

**PROJECT TITLE: SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE GLOBAL PLATFORM**

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## Spotlight Initiative

<b>Programme Title &amp; Programme Number</b>	<b>Priority regions/areas/localities for the programme</b>
Programme Title: Spotlight Initiative Global Platform MPTF Office Project Reference Number: <sup>1</sup> 00128649	Global
<b>Recipient Organisation(s)</b>	<b>Key Partners</b>
UN WOMEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women</li> </ul>
<b>Programme Cost (US\$)</b>	<b>Programme Start and End Dates</b>
Total budget as per the Spotlight Initiative Global Platform Project Document: 927, 837.00	<b>Start Date:</b> 04.13.2021  <b>End Date:</b> 31.12.2023
	<b>Report Submitted By:</b>
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<sup>1</sup> The Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) Office Project Reference Number is the same number as the one on the Notification message. It is also referred to as “Project ID” on the project’s factsheet page the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#).



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## Acronym List and Abbreviations

COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
COSI	Community of the Spotlight Initiative
CS-CRG	Civil Society Global Reference Group
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DCO	Development Coordination Office
DG INTPA	European Union Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA)
EU	European Union
EVAW	Ending Violence Against Women
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
KM	Knowledge Management
SD Direct	Social Development Direct
SVRI	Sexual Violence Research Initiative
TOR	Terms of Reference
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNTF	United Nations Fund on Ending Violence Against Women
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
VAW	Violence Against Women
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
WPHF	Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund





## Executive Summary

The Spotlight Initiative Global Platform, rolled out in 2021, is a virtual exchange and convening ecosystem designed to offer the combined power of an online knowledge hub, a community of practice and an advocacy channel, founded in the practical experience of Spotlight Initiative's investments across more than 25 countries. The purpose of the Global Platform is to share the Initiative's results, lessons, and good practices, and enhance the Initiative's convening power and knowledge exchange on EVAWG towards coordinated and collective action.

This report highlights how the Global Platform furthered the three deliverables within its results framework in 2022: 1) development, maintenance, and engagement of the Knowledge Hub; 2) EVAWG knowledge production and dissemination; and 3) global exchange and strategic convenings and advocacy.

In 2022, the following key results were achieved:

### **Amplified results, lessons, good practices of the Spotlight Initiative and supported global convenings on EVAWG:**

- The Global Learning Symposium, a flagship global and multi-stakeholder convening of the Initiative drew over **200 participants** from the UN, government, civil society, and other stakeholders in September 2022. A total of **45 plenary and topic-specific sessions** were organised at the symposium providing a space for honest reflection and sharing of results, lessons and practices across contexts and contributing to building a global community on EVAWG.
- Global knowledge exchanges on *engaging the private sector* and on *resiliency to crises: lessons from Civil Society Organizations in the prevention of VAWG* were held. The latter exchange brought together more than **1,080** participants from UN, civil society, and other stakeholders. This was held in collaboration with the Spotlight Initiative programme, and the United Nations Trust Fund on End Violence against Women (UNTF).

**Launched an online knowledge exchange hub on EVAWG:** The UNTF in collaboration with the Spotlight Initiative launched [SHINE](#), an online knowledge exchange hub on EVAWG bringing together government, civil society, the UN, EU, and other practitioners. SHINE is accessible in more 50 languages and seeks to facilitate co-creation, collaboration, and knowledge amplification on ending violence against women and girls. It is a strategic online space for stakeholders to engage in discussions, learn about the latest resources in the violence against women and girls (VAWG) ecosystem and share knowledge. With over 1500 users thus far, eight online discussions have been conducted, two communities of practice have been set up and 25 tailored resources have been uploaded.

**Increased knowledge curation, production, dissemination, and uptake on EVAWG:** Seven knowledge briefs on various EVAWG topics such as child marriage, FGM, SRHR among others were produced and disseminated providing key results, lessons, and promising practices from the Spotlight Initiative. The following are the knowledge briefs:

- [A Comprehensive Approach to Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls: Results, Lessons Learned and Promising Practices from Spotlight Initiative](#)

- [Ending Child Marriage: Results, Lessons and Promising Practices from the Spotlight Initiative](#)
- [International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation \(FGM\). Results, Promising Practices and Lessons from the Spotlight Initiative to end FGM](#)
- [Engaging the Private Sector to End Violence Against Women and Girls - Results, Lessons and Promising Practices](#)
- [Promising approaches and lessons on sustaining the gains of ending violence against women and girls](#)
- [Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls](#)
- [Guidance note: Sustainability of Spotlight Initiative](#)

Furthermore, the Global Learning Symposium Resource package was put together with more than 20 briefs from 45+ plenary sessions, providing key insights from the discussion as well as relevant tools and resources. More than 1000 products were also consolidated between the Global Technical Repository and the knowledge product tracker with various tools and resources from the Spotlight Initiative programmes, and the Secretariat. Furthermore, a **tool to measure the uptake of knowledge** was developed.

**UN coordination on EAWG Knowledge Management strengthened:** The Spotlight Initiative Secretariat coordinated regular meetings with the **Knowledge Management Focal Points** of the Spotlight Initiative and **UN HQ Knowledge Management Group on EAWG** - which was pivotal in identifying opportunities for collaboration and strengthening knowledge management efforts on EAWG across the UN system.

The Global Platform project duration was extended until the end of December 2023. Furthermore, the revised programme document and budget reflecting the inclusion of an output to support the Global Civil Society reference group was approved by the OSC on 21 December 2022 bringing the total budget of the project to 927,837 USD.

## **Project Governance and Coordination**

### **a) Spotlight Initiative Governance Structure**

The current governance structure for the Spotlight Initiative is used for the Global Platform. This ensures a streamlined and coherent approach to decision-making, accountability, coordination, and oversight for the Global Platform as part of Spotlight Initiative's broader governance structure. Thus, the EU plays an important role in the coordination and governance of the Global Platform.

### **b) Civil Society Global Reference Group**

The Civil Society Global Reference Group (CS-GRG) is a key part of the governance structure for Spotlight Initiative at the global level and has been an integral partner in the design, development, and implementation of the Global Platform. The CS-GRG is an established institutional mechanism of 18 peer-selected women's rights activists who advise the Fund and hold the Spotlight Initiative accountable to its commitments to civil society, including through the Global Platform. This level of civil society oversight and accountability is important for the Global Platform to ensure it upholds the Initiative's values



of inclusivity and increased decision-making for civil society, is continuously needs-driven and aligns with the *leave no one behind* principle.

The CS-GRG has disseminated information on knowledge exchanges, briefs, and SHINE, an online knowledge hub on EVAWG, produced by the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (UNTF) in collaboration with the Spotlight Initiative with Spotlight Initiative's civil society networks. This has helped the Global Platform better reach national and grassroots civil society organisations to benefit from these activities. Furthermore, the CS-GRG has contributed to the organisation of exchanges to increase accessibility and ensure they best meet the needs of local, grassroots organisations.

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

#### **HQ Knowledge Management Group on EVAWG**

The Spotlight Initiative Secretariat led the coordination mechanism of KM focal points at the headquarter level and strengthened synergy on knowledge management among different funds and initiatives. This included the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF), the UNTF and UN Women. This has now been further expanded to include all other relevant agencies such as UNDP, UNFPA to facilitate system wide collaboration on EVAWG knowledge management. This group was critical in the adoption of the KM uptake tool for the Initiative as well as in discussing plans for the Global Learning Symposium and activities on the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence. The coordination mechanism has met quarterly to draw concrete synergies between the Global Platform and existing knowledge management initiatives for EVAWG in the UN system.

#### **Spotlight Initiative Knowledge Management Focal Points Network**

The Spotlight Initiative Secretariat developed a Knowledge Management Focal Points Network in 2019. More than **50** members representing all Spotlight Initiative programmes are part of this network. This network consists of one KM focal point from each Spotlight Initiative programme responsible for overseeing and ensuring robust knowledge management in that programme. In 2022, the Secretariat hosted **6** meetings with the network where KM focal points were consulted on the design, development, and implementation of the various components of the Global Platform. KM focal points provide critical insight on the needs at regional, country, and local levels and have provided continuous feedback on the Global Platform including in the organisation of the Global Learning Symposium. In 2022, an additional group specifically for regional knowledge management focal points held a meeting to help convene regional focal points who expressed having unique needs. Overall, the entire network has been a useful space to raise key knowledge management related questions, share experiences and exchange ideas.

### **Project Partnerships**

#### **a) Civil Society**

The Civil Society Global Reference Group has been the main point of contact to support meaningful civil society engagement through the Global Platform. This has included SHINE demonstrations, an online knowledge hub on EVAWG, produced by the UNTF in collaboration with the Spotlight Initiative, to a total of over **100** Civil Society National and Regional Reference Group (CS-RG) members from Argentina, Latin

America and the Caribbean region, and the Africa Regional Programme, supporting knowledge convenings and an online discussion on SHINE (more information on this is available in the *results* section).

Closely engaging with the CS-GRG intends to advance the Global Platform's strategic objective of strengthening a coalition of key stakeholders and connecting local, grassroots society with duty bearers for increased advocacy and impact.

## **b) European Union**

The roll out and implementation of the Global Platform project has been guided by the principles of full partnership between the EU and UN. Existing meetings with the EU on technical matters and for communications have been used to provide regular updates on the progress of the Global Platform. The EU works closely with the Secretariat on the Global Platform and side-meetings on critical decisions for the Global Platform are held.

This partnership has been particularly helpful in the implementation of this project, including by providing inputs on the list of topics for knowledge briefs, providing feedback on various ToRs for the development of key products such as the Technical Package. Furthermore, information on upcoming knowledge exchanges and all knowledge products are shared with the EU, who disseminates this information with their networks and EU Delegations.

## **c) Cooperation with other UN agencies and funds**

### **United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women (UNTF)**

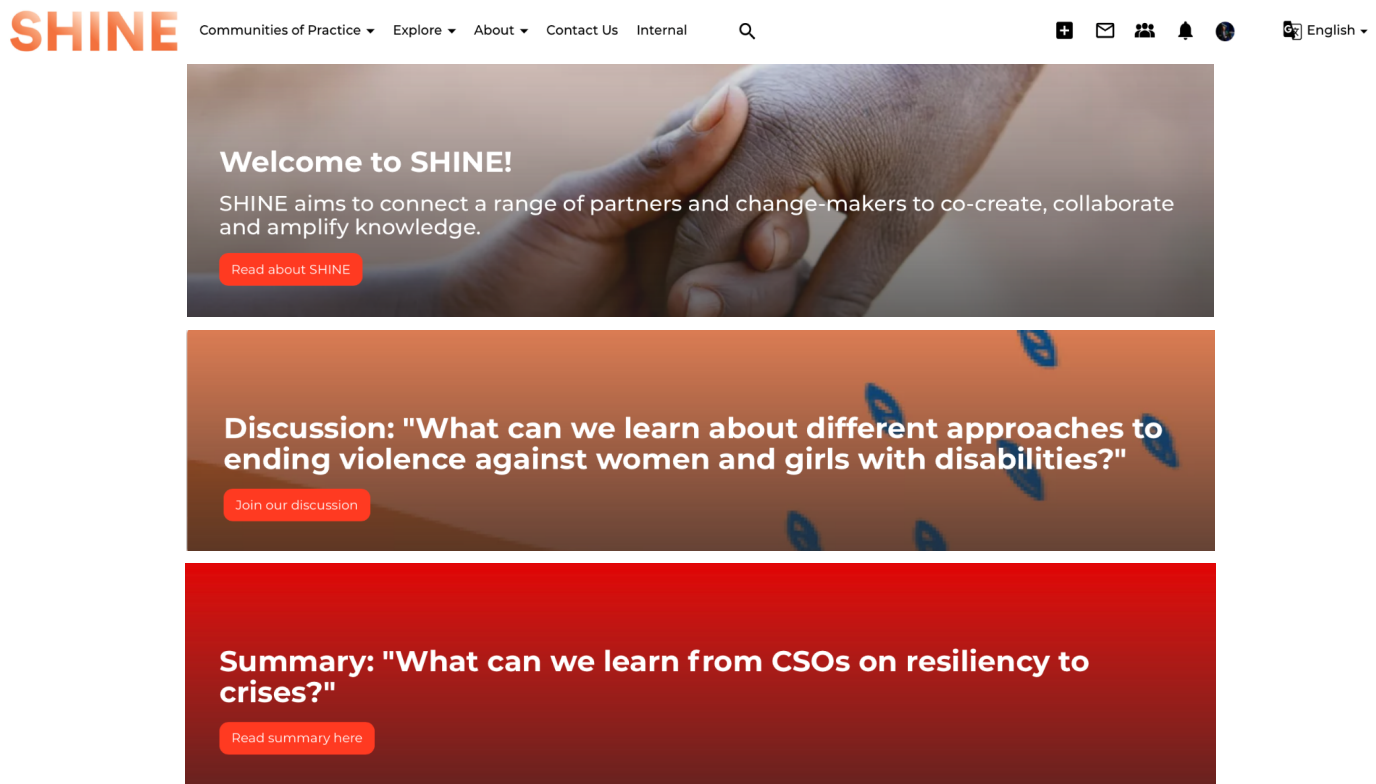
The Spotlight Initiative Secretariat has formed a strong partnership with the UNTF in the implementation of the global platform project, particularly as it relates to the online hub. Given the aligned objectives of the two initiatives in strengthening a knowledge exchange on EVAWG, the Secretariat formed a critical partnership with the UNTF. Hence, in 2022 SHINE, the first online global hub on EVAWG produced by the UNTF collaboration with the Spotlight Initiative was made public. This collaborative effort and partnership in advancing the deliverable, *development, and maintenance of knowledge hub* was furthered through bi-weekly meetings between Spotlight Initiative Secretariat and the UNTF. The two teams developed a joint content action plan, oversaw the technical roll out of the hub and user engagement. Furthermore, various demonstrations of SHINE were done in collaboration with the UNTF over the course of 2022.

## **Results**

### **Capturing Change Against the Results Framework**

The Global Platform has three overarching deliverables under *Output 1: Global, Regional and Country networks of key decision-makers, practitioners and local, grassroots actors are strengthened; lessons, good practices and solutions are made accessible and amplified; and uptake of knowledge across stakeholders supports comprehensive EAWG programming*. The three deliverables include, 1) development, maintenance, and engagement of Knowledge Hub; 2) EAWG knowledge production and dissemination and 3) global exchange and strategic convenings and advocacy.

## Deliverable 1: Development, Maintenance and Engagement of Knowledge Hub



The screenshot shows the SHINE website homepage. The header includes the SHINE logo, navigation links (Communities of Practice, Explore, About, Contact Us, Internal), a search icon, and social media icons. The main content area features three sections:

- Welcome to SHINE!**: A section with a background image of hands holding each other. Text: "SHINE aims to connect a range of partners and change-makers to co-create, collaborate and amplify knowledge." A button labeled "Read about SHINE" is present.
- Discussion: "What can we learn about different approaches to ending violence against women and girls with disabilities?"**: A section with a background image of blue leaves. A button labeled "Join our discussion" is present.
- Summary: "What can we learn from CSOs on resiliency to crises?"**: A section with a red background. A button labeled "Read summary here" is present.

Following the partnership, the Secretariat formed with the UNTF to collaborate on an online hub for global exchange on EAWG, SHINE, was introduced on the 1st of March 2022. [SHINE](#), accessible in more than 50 languages, offering online discussion space for co-creation of knowledge, a community of practice on key pillars, groups for networking as well as space for connecting to other knowledge platforms and access to tailored resources. The platform is available in more than **50 languages**. Users can create profiles on SHINE and connect with other practitioners from around the world. The public introduction of

SHINE took place during a knowledge exchange on *Resiliency to Crises: Lessons from Civil Society Organizations in the Prevention of Violence against Women* co-hosted with the UNTF. This event was attended by **1,018** registered participants. The introduction of SHINE highlighted how SHINE aims to connect a range of partners and changemakers including civil society and women's organizations, the United Nations, practitioners, academics and researchers, the private sector, EU, donors, and other partners to co-create, collaborate, and amplify knowledge and learning together to end violence against women and girls.

Following the introduction of SHINE, a total of **1,461** users registered in the first year. In 2022, there were a total of **8** online discussions, of which the Secretariat undertook **3**. In addition, a Community of Practice on Prevention and Women's Movements have been set up, and a total of **25** resources have been uploaded. The online discussions covered the topics of sustaining EVAWG efforts, *engaging the private sector to end violence against women and girls*, and *redefining and sustainability of the civil society reference group mechanism in future programming*. Additionally, demonstrations of SHINE have been conducted for over 100 CSO Reference Group members from Argentina, Latin America and the Caribbean region, the Africa Regional Programme, members from the EU's DG INTPA, technical agency focal points and for participants at the Global Learning Symposium.

## SHINE Audience Statistic & Demographic

01 March - 30 November 2022

**7801**

Page views

**64%**

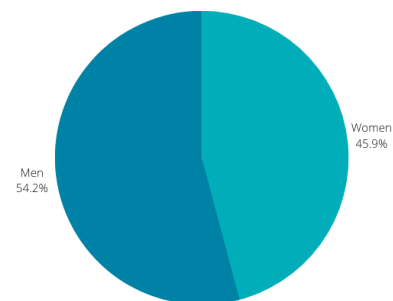
Organic search

**1461**

Number of users

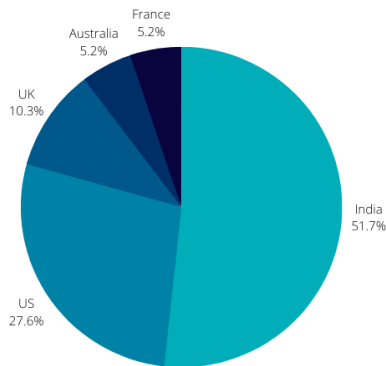
Top 1 Referral: [www.spotlightinitiative.org](http://www.spotlightinitiative.org)

One of the best performing pages: [GLS Resource Package](#)

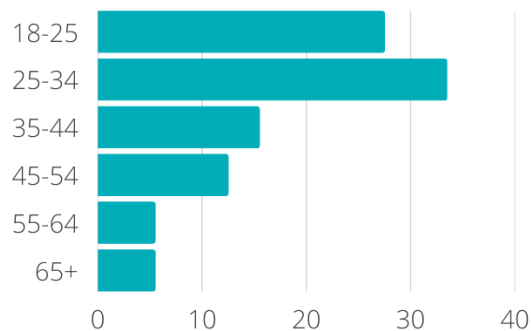


Audience Gender





Audience Location



Audience Age

## Online Discussion on SHINE

The first Spotlight Initiative led online discussion was on [Engaging the Private Sector to End Violence Against Women and Girls](#) following a global exchange undertaken in collaboration with the Spotlight Initiative Zimbabwe Programme. This discussion was held from 7- 18 of February 2022 and led by two moderators from the Secretariat. Users on SHINE, an online knowledge hub on EVAWG, produced by the UNTF in collaboration with the Spotlight Initiative reflected on how the private sector was a strategic partner in addressing VAWG and that private sector actors must be held accountable and ‘walk the talk’ on furthering gender equality principles including addressing sexual harassment in the workplace and promoting equal pay, to name a few interventions. Following the online discussion, a [knowledge brief on private sector](#) was developed providing insights from the online discussion as well as the webinar on lessons and good practices on private sector.

As a precursor to the Global Learning Symposium, the Secretariat also hosted a discussion on [Sustaining our Gains for the future of Ending Violence Against Women and Girls](#) from the 13th - 30th of June 2022. The discussion was led by three moderators. There was an active engagement with as a total of 43 comments. The discussion questions included exploring what guides the development of sustainability, what key lessons have been learnt, and which strategic stakeholders should be included. The key points emphasised during the discussion included focusing on establishing national ownership, accountability, building local capacity and systems, developing context specific and effective capacity development tools, and sustained multi-stakeholder engagement (see the summary in Annex A).

As a follow up to the Global Learning Symposium discussion on sustaining the Civil Society reference group mechanisms, an online discussion was hosted on SHINE on [Redefining and Sustaining the Civil Society Reference Group Mechanism in Future Programming](#) from December 5<sup>th</sup> 2023 – 13<sup>th</sup> January 2023. The discussion moderated by three moderators reflected on ensuring the Reference Group mechanism fosters robust partnerships with diverse members, respects local needs and contexts and strengthens their decision-making and accountability skills. Contributions from the discussion also contributed to the development of the sustainability guidance note on civil society engagement. (Annex B).

As a co-creation online tool, various knowledge briefs are published on SHINE. In 2022, the Secretariat published **seven** knowledge products, and these have been shared widely on SHINE, the Spotlight Initiative website and through social media (Annex C). Additionally, **25** knowledge briefs have been added

to SHINE and are available under the resource library. Since the introduction of SHINE, knowledge products have been widely accessed and analytics indicate that the GLS Resource Package for example, had the 6<sup>th</sup> best performing page on the platform and among the referral resources for SHINE, the Spotlight Initiative website was the top referral website.

As part of the goal to make linkages to other platforms relevant to EVAWG and strengthen the EVAWG knowledge ecosystem, Platform Mapping was also undertaken (Annex D). All relevant EVAWG platforms both global and regional, have been mapped and [linked on SHINE](#), providing a comprehensive overview of different platforms, databases, inventories, global and regional networks, communities of practice, learning spaces, among others that users can explore to access relevant tools and knowledge on EVAWG. This aligns with the goal to enrich the EVAWG ecosystem and promote circular knowledge.

To ensure the effective roll out of and maintenance of the online hub, the Secretariat and the UNTF engaged in bi-weekly meetings and shared regular updates on planned activities as per the joint Content Action Plan that outlined thematic areas to be featured on SHINE, scheduled online discussions, the creation of communities of practice and resources to be shared. These meetings were especially critical to address technical difficulties that SHINE users experienced, to discuss online discussions that were being held, share lessons on the roll out of the platform and to discuss new features that would be available on SHINE including for 2023 such as crown innovation, polls, multiple editors, and video upload functions. The Secretariat and the UNTF is committed to ensuring that SHINE is accessible and to that end is exploring the potential of including bionic reading and high contrast buttons as features.

## **Deliverable 2: EVAWG knowledge production and dissemination**

The Global Platform prioritises the knowledge curation and production on EVAWG based on the knowledge, lessons, results, and good practices generated in over 25 countries across 5 regions from the Spotlight Initiative. A series of analysis are conducted of global, country, and regional reports, and mid-term assessments and an inventory of *Good and Promising Practices* was updated with data collected from the 2021 annual reporting processes, which was then used to produce a range of knowledge briefs on strategic themes to contribute to the EVAWG evidence base more broadly.

In 2022, **seven** knowledge briefs highlighting key results, lessons, and good practices on various EVAWG topics through the Spotlight Initiative have been developed and shared widely. These are [comprehensive approach to EVAWG](#), [ending child marriage](#), [engaging the private sector for EVAWG](#), [female genital mutilation](#), [sustaining the gains of EVAWG](#), and [sexual and reproductive health and rights](#). A critical [Technical Guidance Note: Sustainability of the Spotlight Initiative](#) to support sustainability efforts has also been produced and shared (Annex E).

The [Global Knowledge Tracker](#) was also completed in December 2022, that documents all knowledge products produced across all Spotlight Initiative Programmes. Global Knowledge Product Tracker has been developed with more than 1000 knowledge products consolidated across all Spotlight Initiative programmes. During the annual reporting process, all Spotlight Initiative programmes submit an Annex D that reports the good, innovative, and promising practices as well as knowledge products produced. Information that is inputted to the Global Knowledge Tracker is taken directly from Annex D which provides an exhaustive list of knowledge products. The tracker can be filtered by region, programme, the



year the product was produced, product type that includes training manuals, briefs, research papers among others.

These products have been used to further promote Spotlight Initiative's results, promising practices, and lessons through the Global Platform. Select knowledge briefs also supported global campaigns on EVAWG, such as the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, international day of the Child, FGM, among others. Additionally, the GLS resource package was marked as the 6<sup>th</sup> best performing page over a 6-month period (1 June 2022 - 30 Nov 2022).

### **Deliverable 3: global knowledge exchange and strategic convenings**

UN knowledge management coordination on EVAWG was strengthened through regular consultations with the HQ Knowledge Management Group on EVAWG, the Spotlight Initiative UN Agency Focal Points<sup>22</sup>, the Knowledge Management Focal Points Network. These consultations mainly focused on demonstrations of SHINE, an online knowledge hub on EVAWG, produced by the UNTF in collaboration with the Spotlight Initiative the organisation of the Global Learning Symposium, feedback on future convenings, and contributions to technical guidance notes and knowledge briefs.

Furthermore, throughout 2022 global knowledge exchange and strategic convenings on EVAWG was strengthened. A knowledge exchange was held on the 27<sup>th</sup> of January 2022 on *Engaging the Private Sector to End Violence Against Women and Girls* in collaboration with Spotlight Initiative Zimbabwe Programme. The exchange was attended by participants from the UN, civil society and other stakeholders and allowed for sharing of experiences and lessons were shared on how to engage the private sector ethically and effectively through the Spotlight Initiative. The exchange featured the learnings from the Model Workplace Programme in Spotlight Initiative Zimbabwe. To further the conversation on the role of the private sector, the exchange was followed by Spotlight Initiative's first [online discussion](#) as noted above. This culminated in the production of a knowledge brief on [engaging the private sector to end VAWG](#) that draws on the inputs from the exchange and the online discussion.

One of the strategic global convenings in 2022 was the **Global Learning Symposium (GLS)**, that took place on the 16<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> September 2022 in Cancún, Mexico – ahead of the **2022 Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI) Forum**. The Symposium was the first time Spotlight Initiative stakeholders met post-COVID-19, convening over 200 participants from government, civil society, UN, the youth, and others from across 25 countries.

### **Co-creation and Collaborating**

The theme of the GLS was ***Galvanising our Gains: past, present, and future*** and the primary objective was to create a space for participants to reflect on Spotlight Initiative's journey and discuss how to sustain momentum for EVAWG. Based on this, preparations towards the symposium focused on strengthening knowledge on the promising practices and lessons on sustainability, co-creating topic-specific sessions

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<sup>22</sup> UN Agency Focal Points include: United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment (UN Women), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), International Organization for Migration (IOM), International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Development Coordination Office (DCO), United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), World Health Organization (WHO)/ Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), and United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

with participants who will be attending and fostering collaboration among Spotlight Initiative colleagues and partners.

A preliminary mapping analysis of mid-term assessments, programme annual reports, Phase II programme proposals and global survey was conducted to gather promising approaches and lessons on sustainability across Spotlight Initiative. This exercise informed the development of the knowledge product on [sustaining the gains of ending violence against women and girls as well as online discussion](#) on SHINE. A summary was then produced to highlight the importance of establishing national ownership, accountability, building local capacity and systems, developing context-specific and effective capacity development tools, and sustaining multi-stakeholder engagement (Annex A). These became some of the preliminary themes that framed the **agenda of the GLS** including the participant led survey. A participant-wide survey was used to identify level of interest of participants as well as inform the design of participant-led sessions. Hence, based on the use of a mixed methods, a comprehensive GLS agenda was designed with various topics of interest and participant led sessions led by different programmes (Annex F).

In coordination with Spotlight Initiative programmes, a delegation from each country made up of government, civil society/youth and UN representatives were selected to ensure diversity and participation from key stakeholders for each programme.

### ***Spotlight Initiative as a Movement***

The GLS was a momentous convening that enabled Spotlight Initiative colleagues to convene for the first time post-COVID-19. Over three days, participants had the opportunity to attend high-level plenary sessions, engage in meaningful discussions during various topic-specific sessions and build a sense of community with like-minded EVAWG actors. The theme of the first day at the GLS was, ‘*Celebrating successes*’ which enabled each programme to reflect on and share elements that have contributed to building a successful model. Sessions such as *participatory monitoring, evaluation and reporting, lessons learned on implementation acceleration measures, engaging a regional response: experiences from Africa and Pacific regional programmes*, among others were offered on the first day. The resounding message was that Spotlight is not just an initiative; it is a movement, transforming the way in which we engage in development assistance and, most critically, charting a pathway toward a world free from violence against women and girls. The second day was centred on critically reflecting on the ‘*Current realities at play*’ that explored how strengthening activism and advocacy, leveraging national contributions, and engaging in proactive partner collaboration can all help to foster gains and sustain efforts. These areas were discussed in sessions such as *CSO and women movements – overcoming barriers and advancing sustainability of results in EAWG, leveraging national contributions for sustained impact, sustaining the Civil Society Reference Group, data in the domain of GBV/EAWG* among others. The final day, ‘*Sustaining the gains*’ placed an emphasis on leveraging the event’s learnings and exchanges to ensure that Spotlight Initiative has the necessary tools to increase its reach and momentum to end violence against women and girls. This included sessions such as the plenary session on the *Imperative to Invest in EAWG* where the findings of the Dalberg study were presented, the *Global Platform and introduction to SHINE, transforming the way the UN resources agents of change*, among others.

*"I've been calling and calling, but my voice hasn't been heard for the previous 45 years since my country became independent – until Spotlight came! For me, the Spotlight Initiative is building a movement, not only a women's movement, but a movement of women, men, youth, and leaders that will bring transformative and sustainable change."*

- Jean Jano, Papua New Guinea CSRG Member

During the GLS, the *Spotlight Initiative Awards* were held for the first time to recognize and honour the outstanding performance of teams and individuals making a difference every day through their work. Some of the awards featured included, leadership, innovation, CSO collaboration, and service among others.



Over three days of the symposium, the perspectives of the Spotlight Initiative's key stakeholders from government, civil society, the UN, and the EU reaffirmed Spotlight's DNA: **a comprehensive approach, government ownership at the highest level, a disruptive and new way of operating as One UN, a "whole of society" and multisectoral approach with civil society engagement at the centre, and a multilateral partnership built on a shared vision backed by significant investment. This is the recipe for ending violence against women and girls.** Furthermore, the GLS strengthened networks within Spotlight Initiative's ecosystem of partners and the sessions identified opportunities for adaptation, replication and scale-up and discussed solutions and barriers to effective Spotlight Initiative programme design and implementation.





A brief was developed summarising the highlights of the three days at the GLS (Annex G). As a follow-up to the GLS, a survey was conducted which confirmed the effectiveness of the symposium and highlighted the need to organise more convenings. Furthermore, a GLS Resource Package was produced that includes all the presentations, the relevant tools and resources and a one pager brief with key highlights and recommendations drawn from each session (Annex H). This resource package was disseminated widely and posted on SHINE, an online knowledge hub on EAWG, produced by the UNTF in collaboration with the Spotlight Initiative making it one of the most accessed resource products on SHINE within a 6-month period (1 June 2022 - 30 Nov 2022).

Overall, these knowledge exchanges and convenings continue to demonstrate how Spotlight Initiative values multi-stakeholder collaboration and ownership, regional and country-level expertise, and practice-based knowledge.

### **Challenges and Mitigating Measures**

One of the main challenges experienced during 2022 were related to the technical difficulties that SHINE users faced. During online discussions, some users experienced challenges posting their comments due to automated messages stating their content was banned. Upon further investigation with the UNTFs' coordination with the developer, technical glitches were sorted out.

Internal procurement processes were also a hindrance in meeting certain targets in a timely manner, this included the organisation of the first Global Learning Symposium as certain procurement related services such as the hotel and simultaneous interpretation were delayed. This led to further delays in announcing updates related to the symposium. Another challenge was the process of submitting requests for proposals. However continuous monitoring and follow up is being conducted to ensure the delivery of various initiatives in the pipeline.

## **Lessons Learned and New Opportunities**

### **a) Lessons Learned**

Key lessons have emerged for ensuring that the Global Platform effectively meets the needs of the multi-stakeholders working on ending violence against women and girls. For example, the initial online discussion on SHINE, an online knowledge hub on EVAWG, produced by the UNTF in collaboration with the Spotlight Initiative, had a lower rate of engagement than anticipated. Despite the fact that this is expected for an online platform being launched for the first time, after conducting more SHINE demonstrations and using various networks such as the Knowledge Management Focal Points and encouraging focal points to share their experiences, engagement for subsequent discussions increased. Furthermore, Google analytics, surveys and DEMOs are being used to monitor the user engagement, get feedback on SHINE and design specific interventions to strengthen an active engagement as well as update SHINE features in 2023.

Another lesson learned was the benefit of bringing Spotlight Initiative Regional Knowledge Management Focal Points together in a network to have quarterly meetings. Furthermore, a space was created for regional programmes during the sessions at the GLS to ensure that regional programmes could support each other and share ideas and solutions to some challenges that were unique to regional programming. Sustaining these spaces and creating additional spaces like knowledge convenings and exchanges would be an opportunity to consider for 2023.

While reviewing learnings from the GLS, participants indicated that knowledge convenings need to allocate more time for stakeholders to be able to critically reflect and discuss topics more in-depth. Another lesson drawn from the GLS was how to better leverage knowledge convenings with a significant government presence to push for further commitments in ending violence against women and girls in the respective countries.

### **b) New Opportunities**

#### **Women Deliver 2023 Conference**

While planning activities for the year ahead, an opportunity emerged for Spotlight Initiative to participate at Women Deliver (WD23) from 17 - 20 July 2023. Women Deliver 2023 and Global Dialogue conference is one of the largest multi-sectoral convenings to advance gender equality, “co-created by grassroots advocates, multilateral governments, the private sector, philanthropies, and youth, including from and representing communities facing systemic discrimination<sup>3</sup>”. Spotlight Initiative Secretariat has submitted abstracts for the Conference. Themes for this year’s WD23 Conference that are relevant to Spotlight Initiative include, *Gender-Based Violence & Harmful Practices, Gender Equality, Sexual & Reproductive Health & Rights/Bodily Autonomy Catalyze Collective Action to Advance Gender Equality*. This could be a critical opportunity for Spotlight Initiative programmes and partners to learn from the latest evidence-base at Women Deliver, share why the Spotlight Initiative comprehensive model is effective and to engage in fundraising/resource mobilisation opportunities.

#### **What Works to Prevent Violence II and Prevention Collaborative**

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<sup>3</sup> [Women Deliver 2023 Conference](#)

What Works II works to prevent and contribute to eliminating violence against women and girls by identifying evidence-based approaches on prevention on VAWG, designing and piloting new prevention approaches and using evidence to scale-up global response for EVAWG.

Prevention Collaborative is feminist inspired and evidence driven working to prevent violence. It is a global network of practitioners, activists, and researchers working to better equip others with the vision, knowledge, and skills necessary to end violence against women and their children worldwide. There is an opportunity to collaborate with these initiatives by exploring opportunities to strengthen the global online hub to disseminate the evidence across Spotlight Initiative that will support in scaling up efforts.

Furthermore in 2022, the global platform project was revised to include a critical output to support the global civil society reference group. This will be significant for strengthening civil society engagement through the global platform, and designing initiatives that respond to the needs and demands of civil society sector within the EVAWG field.

**The Group of Friends for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls** will continue to be a channel to coordinate action and share information on the elimination of gender-based violence providing a platform to share lessons learned, promoting advocacy efforts, mobilising resources, and supporting on-going initiatives.

### **Next Steps**

- A **Technical Action Plan for 2023** that details the next steps for all technical content related to the Global Platform has been developed (Annex I)
- **Communications and Visibility Plan for the Global Platform 2023** outlines the next steps for all communications and visibility related to the Global Platform

### **Knowledge Exchanges/Convenings**

- A knowledge exchange on the following topics
  - **Leave No One Behind (LNOB)**
  - **Innovative approaches to collecting, analysing, and disseminating data in VAWG** across Spotlight Initiative
  - **Essential Services, Engaging Justice Sector and Law Enforcement.**
  - A knowledge exchange will be held on **Lessons from Spotlight Initiative Regional Programming**
  - **Launch of the technical package** will convene all Spotlight Initiative programmes and partners. This will also be an opportunity to test the platform.

### **Knowledge Production**

- Knowledge briefs on the following will be developed and shared widely:
  - *Essential Services*
  - *Leaving No One Behind*
  - *EVAWG Data and Evidence-based Implementation*
  - *Engaging justice and law enforcement*

- *Lessons from Spotlight Initiative Regional Programming*

- A **technical/'how-to' package on comprehensive EAWG programming** will be developed (set for end of 2023)
- A **compendium of good practices and lessons learned** from Spotlight Initiative will be developed (set for end of 2023)

### **Communication and visibility**

At global, regional, and national levels, Spotlight Initiative's communication and visibility efforts contribute to the Global Platform by raising awareness on issues related to violence against women and girls and by promoting the Spotlight Initiative's impact and results for the communities it serves

In 2022, the Secretariat employed various communications tools including social media messaging and assets, advocacy campaigns to amplify SHINE, an online knowledge hub on EAWG, produced by the UNTF in collaboration with the Spotlight Initiative and various knowledge products on SHINE through video, stories and digital content. This was guided by the Global Platform communications and visibility plan for 2022 (Annex J) This plan will build on assessing the most effective routes to facilitate further outreach and engagement for 2023.

Through the various communications channels utilised by Spotlight Initiative, the main focus for the Global Platform has been SHINE, the Community of the Spotlight Initiative (COSI) email group, social media platforms including Twitter, Instagram and Youtube, MailChimp and the Spotlight Initiative global website. Communications and visibility efforts have been amplified through online discussions hosted on SHINE and COSI. COSI reaches over **590** UN personnel working on the technical, day-to-day implementation of Spotlight Initiative and COSI members further disseminated materials with their partner networks.

Furthermore, a video introducing the Global Platform has been finalised and is ready for a launch of the Global Platform in 2023 (Annex K).

Given that 2021 was a foundational year for the development of the Global Platform, 2022 focused on maintaining the same structures that had supported the process of development. The Secretariat provided regular updates and sought feedback on knowledge exchanges and convenings, knowledge production, and online engagement under the Global Platform from the EU, UN agencies, initiatives and funds, CS-RGs, and Spotlight Initiative programmes and partners.

As mentioned above in the *partnerships* section, regular meetings were held with the **EU** to strengthen the partnership and receive feedback into the activities of the Global Platform. The EU received briefings on the introduction of SHINE, the number of people who registered on SHINE throughout the year, producing a concept note for the European Development Days 2022, upcoming knowledge exchanges including the Global Learning Symposium, the development of the Communications and Visibility Plan for the Global Platform and the publication of all knowledge products in 2022.

Furthermore, a Technical Action Plan was produced that outlined all the technical content related to the Global Platform. This plan included information on knowledge production and evidence-base, the learning

plan that detailed the knowledge exchanges, convenings, discussions and communities of Practice (Annex I).

## Annexes

[Annex A: SHINE Discussion Summary – Sustaining Our Gains for the Future of Ending Violence Against Women and Girls](#)

[Annex B: Sustainability Guidance Note on Civil Society Engagement](#)

[Annex C: Spotlight Initiative Secretariat - 2022 Knowledge Products](#)

[Annex D: Knowledge Platform Mapping - Spotlight Initiative Global Platform](#)

[Annex E: Guidance Note: Sustainability of the Spotlight Initiative](#)

[Annex F: Agenda - Global Learning Symposium](#)

[Annex G: Global Learning Symposium Brief](#)

[Annex H: Global Learning Symposium Resource Package](#)

[Annex I: Technical Action Plan 2022](#)

[Annex J: Draft Communications and Visibility Plan 2022](#)

[Annex K: Global Platform Video](#)