



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

**Spotlight Initiative Malawi**

# Annual Narrative Progress Report

Programme Start Date: **01 January 2019**

Reporting Period: **01 January 2022 – 31 December 2022**

*Initiated by the European Union and the United Nations*



<b>Programme Title &amp; Programme Number</b>	<b>Priority regions/areas/localities for the programme</b>																		
<b>Programme Title:</b> Spotlight Initiative Country Programme for Malawi MPTF Office Project Reference Number:1 00111640	Nationwide with a particular focus on six districts (Mzimba, Nkhata Bay, Ntchisi, Dowa, Nsanje and Machinga), selected based on performance on key indicators, as well as presence of other programmes and UN organizations.																		
<b>Recipient Organization(s)</b>	<b>Key Partners</b>																		
UNDP UNFPA UNICEF UN Women	<b>Government:</b> Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare, Ministry of Local Government, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labour, Youth Sports and Manpower Development, Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Malawi Police <b>Associated Agencies:</b> UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNHCR <b>CSO Partners (during 2021):</b> 39 CSOs: 22 are national CSOs, 12 are community-based organisations, and 5 are international CSOs <b>Others:</b> Media, Academia, traditional leaders																		
<b>Programme Cost (US\$)</b>	<b>Programme Start and End Dates</b>																		
<b>Total Phase I, and Phase II budget as per Spotlight CPD/RPD:</b> 20,990,484 USD <b>Phase I and Phase II Spotlight funding:<sup>1</sup></b> 20,000,000 USD <b>Agency Contribution:</b> 990,484 USD <b>Spotlight Funding and Agency Contribution by Agency:</b> <table border="1" data-bbox="140 1128 764 1451"> <thead> <tr> <th>Name of RUNOs</th> <th>Spotlight Phase I (USD)</th> <th>UN Agency Contributions (USD)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>UNICEF</td> <td>4,077,502</td> <td>169,670</td> </tr> <tr> <td>UNDP</td> <td>4,506,897</td> <td>310,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>UN Women</td> <td>5,850,290</td> <td>70,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>UNFPA</td> <td>5,565,312</td> <td>440,814</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>TOTAL</b></td> <td><b>20,000,000</b></td> <td><b>990,484</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <b>TOTAL: 20,990,484 USD</b>	Name of RUNOs	Spotlight Phase I (USD)	UN Agency Contributions (USD)	UNICEF	4,077,502	169,670	UNDP	4,506,897	310,000	UN Women	5,850,290	70,000	UNFPA	5,565,312	440,814	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20,000,000</b>	<b>990,484</b>	<b>Start Date:</b> 01.01.2019 <b>End Date:</b> 30.09.2023
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	<b>Report Submitted By:</b>																		
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<sup>1</sup> The Spotlight Contribution refers to the amount transferred to the Recipient UN Organizations, which is available on the MPTF Office GATEWAY.

## Contents

List of Acronyms .....	4
Executive Summary .....	6
Contextual Shifts and Implementation Status .....	8
Programme Governance .....	9
Programme Partnerships.....	11
Results .....	13
Rights Holders .....	26
Challenges & Mitigating Measures .....	27
Lessons Learned.....	29
New Opportunities.....	29
Good, Innovative and Promising Practices.....	30
Communications and Visibility.....	31
Sustainability .....	39
Annexes .....	42

## List of Acronyms

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<b>ADC:</b>	Area Development Committee
<b>AGYW:</b>	Adolescent Girls and Young Women
<b>CBO:</b>	Community Based Organisation
<b>CCPJ:</b>	Child Care, Justice, and Protection Act
<b>CMS:</b>	Case Management System
<b>COP:</b>	Community of Practice
<b>CSE:</b>	Comprehensive Sexuality Education
<b>CPW:</b>	Child Protection Worker
<b>CPD:</b>	Caring for Persons with Disability
<b>CSNRG:</b>	Civil Society National Reference Group
<b>CSO:</b>	Civil Society Organisation
<b>CVSU:</b>	Community Victim Support Unit
<b>DaO:</b>	Delivering as One
<b>DDP:</b>	District Development Plans
<b>DEC:</b>	District Executive Councils
<b>DPD:</b>	Directors of Planning and Development (DPDs)
<b>DSWO:</b>	District Social Welfare Offices
<b>ESP:</b>	Essential Services Package
<b>EUD:</b>	European Union Delegation
<b>ETR:</b>	End Term Review
<b>FGD:</b>	Focus Group Discussion
<b>EVAWG:</b>	Ending Violence Against Women and Girls
<b>FSWA:</b>	Female Sex Workers Association
<b>GBV:</b>	Gender Based Violence
<b>GBVIMS:</b>	Gender Based Violence Information Management System
<b>GEA:</b>	Gender Equality Act
<b>GoM:</b>	Government of Malawi
<b>GRB:</b>	Gender Responsive Budgeting
<b>GRL:</b>	Gender Related Laws
<b>GTWG:</b>	Gender Technical working Group
<b>GHV:</b>	Group Village Headman
<b>HIV:</b>	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
<b>HLI:</b>	Higher Learning Institutions
<b>HOA:</b>	Heads of Agency
<b>HP:</b>	Harmful Practice
<b>IMTF:</b>	Inter Ministerial Task Force
<b>ITPs:</b>	Ifenso Tingathe Platforms
<b>IP:</b>	Implementing Partner
<b>IWD:</b>	International Women's Day
<b>JOL:</b>	Journey of Life
<b>KII:</b>	Key Informant Interview
<b>LGBTIQ:</b>	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, and Questioning
<b>LNOB:</b>	Leaving No One Behind
<b>MACOHA:</b>	Malawi Council for the Handicapped
<b>MDA:</b>	Ministry Department and Agency
<b>MES:</b>	Male Engagement Strategy
<b>MHRC:</b>	Malawi Human Rights Commission
<b>MHPSS:</b>	Mental health and psychosocial support services
<b>MoGCDSW:</b>	Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare
<b>MoE:</b>	Ministry of Education
<b>MoH:</b>	Ministry of Health
<b>MoHAIS:</b>	Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security
<b>MoJ:</b>	Ministry of Justice

<b>MoLG:</b>	Ministry of Local Government
<b>MOU:</b>	Memorandum of Understanding
<b>MPI-1:</b>	Malawi Vision 2063 Implementation Plan' (MIP-1).
<b>MPS:</b>	Malawi Police Service
<b>MTR:</b>	Mid-Term Review
<b>NCE:</b>	No Cost Extension
<b>NCHE:</b>	National Council for Higher Education
<b>NCHL:</b>	National Council for Higher Learning
<b>NSC:</b>	National Steering Committee
<b>NSO:</b>	National Statistics Office
<b>NAPHAM:</b>	National Association for People Living with HIV and AIDS in Malawi
<b>OF:</b>	Obstetric Fistula
<b>OoO:</b>	Office of the Ombudsman
<b>PEP:</b>	Post Exposure Prophylaxis
<b>PFA:</b>	Psychosocial First Aid
<b>PMER:</b>	Participatory Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting
<b>PRO:</b>	Public Relations Officer
<b>PTA:</b>	Parent Teacher Association
<b>PVSU:</b>	Police Victim Support Unit
<b>RUNO:</b>	Recipient United Nations Organisation
<b>SADC:</b>	Southern Africa Development Community
<b>SDG:</b>	Strategic Development Goal
<b>SGBV:</b>	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
<b>SI:</b>	Spotlight Initiative
<b>SNH:</b>	School Health and Nutrition
<b>SSIPA:</b>	Spotlight Specific Integrated Protection Approach
<b>SSMP:</b>	Safe Space Mentorship Programmes
<b>SRH:</b>	Sexual Reproductive Health
<b>SRHR:</b>	Sexual Reproductive Health Rights
<b>STI:</b>	Sexual Transmitted Infections
<b>TA:</b>	Traditional Authority
<b>TOC:</b>	Theory of Change
<b>TL:</b>	Traditional Leader
<b>UNAIDS:</b>	The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS
<b>UNDP:</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNESCO:</b>	United Nations Education, Science, Culture and Organisation
<b>UNFPA:</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>UNHCR:</b>	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>UNICEF:</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>UNRC:</b>	United Nations Resident Coordinator
<b>UN Women:</b>	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
<b>VDC:</b>	Village Development Committee
<b>VDP:</b>	Village Development Plan
<b>VAWG:</b>	Violence Against Women and Girls
<b>VAP:</b>	Village Action Plans
<b>VSLA:</b>	Village Saving and Loan
<b>VSU:</b>	Victim Support Unit
<b>WEE:</b>	Women Economic Empowerment
<b>YFHS:</b>	Youth Friendly Health Services

## Executive Summary

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In its final year of implementation, the Spotlight Initiative (SI) Malawi is on track to achieving its targets by June 2023 in line with the No Cost Extension (NCE) approved by the Operational Steering Committee. By 2022 the SI had already surpassed its **targeted number of beneficiaries by 197%**.

The SI is now well established as the country's leading multi-stakeholder programme on ending Violence against Women and Girls (e-VaWG). In addition to regular invitations to present the Programme's work on various high level and technical platforms, **the SI was featured in some 50 media products, including newspaper articles, radio shows, and television productions<sup>2</sup>.**

Ownership by the SI's 2 Line Ministries- the Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare (MoGCDSW) and the Ministry of Local Government (MoLG) is significant and has secured the meaningful engagement of an array of relevant stakeholders. The **UN-EU-GoM alliance, has further positioned the SI** at a strategic level, and secured the visibility of the SI through a series of high-level advocacy initiatives. Key advocacy messages are closely coordinated between the 3 entities, thereby ensuring their effective delivery nationwide.

The **4 United Nations Agencies (UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and UN Women), led by the UN Resident Coordinator (UNRC) worked alongside over 50 SI partners** and stakeholders to e-VaWG in 2022, including 21 CSOs, of which 86% are national actors. With the bulk of the SI implemented at district level, the meaningful engagement of Civil Society is critical, including as Implementing Partners (IPs) and advisors- through the Civil Society National Reference Group (CS-NRG). Other key stakeholders include Ministries of Health, Education, Information, Malawi Human Rights Commission (MHRC), National Council of Higher Education (NCHE), the Media, Private Sector (Airtel), Malawi Police Service (MPS), and many more.

**District authorities continue to steer the Programme interventions on the ground, in close collaboration with critical national and community-based stakeholders.** These include traditional leaders, the media, academia, women's rights advocates, civil society, several governmental and quasi-governmental entities, and more.

As in previous years, SI partnerships strongly reflect the **Leaving No One Behind (LNOB) Principle, embedded throughout the Programme interventions and processes.** Prioritised groups include women and girls with disabilities, widows, key populations, refugees and those living in remote and hard-to-reach areas.

As the Programme approaches closure, the SI Malawi is increasingly focused on ensuring the responsible handover of various interventions, in accordance with the principle of do no harm. Thus, **in 2022, the Sustainability Strategy was updated to reflect the findings of the sustainability consultations and the end-term review.** These consultations methodically obtained the views and perspectives of the communities served by the Programme, in line with the Participatory Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER) principles. The Sustainability Strategy formed the basis for the **consultative development of the Exit Strategy, which delineates the processes continuation and replication of SI interventions by the various stakeholders involved in the SI.**

The momentum gained under the SI in previous years continued in 2022 and resulted in a number of key results. Under Pillar 1, for instance (laws and policies), the **drafting of 36 by-laws abolished or amended at least 52 Harmful Practices (HPs), while formalising the role of Chiefs to protect women and girls** through a legal framework. Through the SI, amendments to the Penal Code, the Gender Equality Act (GEA), and the Child Care, Justice, and Protection Act (CCPJA) were also deliberated and passed, resulting in **increased sentencing for sexual offenders, protection for survivors and**

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2 An example of the coverage of as follows: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Gr72a0WAjUgOST3YPMjBfmtrLyrEpmiM>

**whistleblowers of sexual harassment, and harmonisation in the legal definition of a child- a critical step towards preventing child marriage.**

Under pillar 2 (strengthening institutions), traditional leaders remain indispensable allies, particularly in eliminating HPs. As the Programme continues to formalise the role of Chiefs in e-VaWG through laws and policies, an additional 37 community chiefs forums were formed, comprising approximately 2,232 chiefs. During the year, **Chiefs eliminated over 500 child marriages, and in Mzimba district, Chiefs were responsible for the re-enrolment of at least 2,000 girls.**

**School-based interventions like the Safe School Concept and the One School One Police Officer Initiative under pillar 3 (prevention) increased from 171 cases reported in 2021 to 363 cases reported in 2022. Leading to an increase of 52% in SGBV reporting and improved access to justice for child survivors of SGBV. An additional 13,456 girls graduated from 447 safe spaces established under the Safe Space Mentorship Programmes (SSMP). The empowerment of SSMP girls and young women has yielded important results: 1,314 girls now hold various community leadership roles, including 259 girls who took up positions in Village Development Committees (VDC) and Area Development Committees (ADC) – traditionally male dominated spaces. Male engagement and transforming toxic masculinities remain a central component of pillar 3. Male champions and religious leaders trained under the SI have formed He4She clubs and STAR Circle groups that promoted positive masculinities to 1,989 community leaders and 1,063 community members during the year.**

Interventions under pillar 3 continue to drive help seeking behaviour by survivors of violence, who are being ably supported by SI funded service delivery points (Pillar 4- Services). **In 2022, 39,711 Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) accessed SI supported SGBV and SRH integrated services.** SI's focus on Psychological First Aid (PFA) for survivors of violence **connected 12,623 women and girls survivors of SGBV with PFA services.** The comprehensive approach of the SI, and Malawi's decision to prioritise and mainstream child marriage (following the surge in cases during the Covid-19 pandemic) has prompted a **collective drive to end child marriages, with 1,514 cases identified and referred** during the year. In support of survivor's long term and sustainable recovery, the SI has accelerated efforts around economic empowerment; **over 20,000 women and girls received income generating assistance, including entrepreneurial training, market linkages, start-up capital, and more.**

With the SI's support through Pillar 5 (Data), **Malawi finally benefits from official internationally comparable and disaggregated data on SGBV/ HPs and SRHR.** National and District Observatory Hubs were officially launched, and joint data analysis has commenced.

Following the development and validation of a movement building tool kit (pillar 6 – movement building), the SI has strengthened women's movement building at district level in particular. The kit provides practical guidance on movement building principles, concepts and approaches with an intersectionality lens and was used to **establish/ revamp 127 women's groups (involving 4,137 women and girls).** Women's advocates are now well versed in demanding accountability from service providers; they supported the **resolution of over 187 Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV), Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and HP related cases, using a Community Scorecard developed by the SI in phase 1.**

The various interventions across all pillars are driven by a diverse group of partners who work cohesively to facilitate the comprehensive response to E-VaWG envisioned by the Programme's Theory of Change (TOC). This approach is similarly bolstered by the UN Reform Agenda, as all partners have been brought together to collectively respond to and eradicate VaWG under the SI umbrella- irrespective of donor reporting lines. In practical terms, the SI Communities of Practice (COPs) established in all SI districts ensure that partners regularly coordinate their work through monthly meetings led by district authorities. SI COP meetings provide a platform for SI stakeholders to collaborate and leverage on each other's interventions, expertise, and resources. **The result is a network or movement of actors working towards the same goals, and a holistic Programme that supports GBV survivors from multiple angles.**



While 2022 brought a number of successes for the SI Malawi, several challenges were encountered. In particular, **natural disasters led to the displacement of 1,500,000 people- 765,000 women, including 8,260 expectant women, 153,038 children and 4,284 people with disabilities.** The SI supported women and girls in SI affected districts by strengthening service delivery and ensuring the availability of empowerment programmes in displacement camps.

## **Contextual Shifts and Implementation Status**

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Malawi remains a low-income country, one of the poorest countries in the world, and one of the most densely populated. The new World Bank Poverty Assessment Report (2022) finds that just over half the Malawian population (50.7%) are poor, almost no different from a decade ago. Women and girls living in poverty are more vulnerable to sexual exploitation, including trafficking. And those who experience domestic or intimate partner violence have fewer options to leave violent relationships, due to lack of income and resources. The economic situation continues to be one of the major contributing factors to increased cases of child marriages where 46.7 per cent of girls married before the age of 18 and Malawi's pre-term birth rate is the highest in the world, at 13 per cent. In 2022, several external factors contributed to a deterioration in the situation of women and girls.

The devaluation of the Kwacha by 25% in May was intended to stabilise dwindling foreign currency reserves and return to a market-determined exchange rate regime. However, inflation soared and reached 27% by October, compared to 10% in October 2021. The costs of cooking oil and fertiliser doubled, and petrol and diesel prices increased at least twice during the year. High inflation invariably affects women disproportionately as the primary home makers, as well as girls, who are at risk of being withdrawn from school and forced to marry at an early age in order to reduce household costs.<sup>3</sup>

In early 2022 Malawi was hit by tropical Storm Ana and Cyclone Gombe, which affected approximately 1,500,000 people, 765,000 women, including 8,260 expectant women, 153,038 children and 4,284 people living with disabilities. The disaster exacerbated pre-existing gender inequalities and caused disproportionate impacts on food security, health, education, social protection, livelihoods, and the overall physical and mental wellbeing of women and girls.

Of the 7 most affected districts, 2 are SI districts (Nsanje and Machinga). In Nsanje District, more than 55,000 people were relocated to temporary camps; among them approximately 1,500 pregnant women. Forced to share latrines, and with little privacy, women and girls were at heightened risk of physical and sexual violence. Adolescent girls were particularly affected by limited access to education and SRH services; floodwaters and electricity blackouts affected these services, with the vast majority of health facilities unable to provide services (In Nsanje 21 out of 24 health centers could not provide services). This in turn increased the susceptibility of adolescent girls to teenage pregnancies.

These climatic events resulted in significant crop losses in much of southern Malawi and some central districts. In the worst-affected areas, many households in the very poor and poor wealth groups reported low to negligible cereal and cash crop harvests from the main harvest ending in August. The reduction not only directly affected food and income from crops and crop sales, but also significantly diminished agricultural labour income. Once more, women were disproportionately affected as they make up 59% of the agriculture sector, compared to 44% of men. This reality is further compounded by the large gender productivity gap within Malawi's agriculture sector, reflected in the fact that land farmed by men produces 25% higher yields.

In March 2022, a cholera outbreak was declared. By 31 December 2022 cumulative cases and deaths were at 17,448 and the case fatality rate rose to 3.4%. This continued to overburden the health facilities, which often have limited facilities for such an emergency, let alone medication. Government reports

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<sup>3</sup> [Gendered Impacts of the Rising Cost of Living in Malawi - Discussion Paper.pdf](#)



released in November indicated a 33.5% increase in reported cholera cases in October, compared to September. Although the ongoing outbreak itself affects men disproportionately, women and girls are overburdened with work as the primary caregivers. In addition to increasing their exposure to the disease and therefore their risk of contracting cholera, the additional work of caregiving is negatively affecting girls' education and women's economic empowerment.

Other important contextual shifts in Malawi include Parliament's vote to pass a Penal Code Amendment Bill (#26), which decriminalised consensual sexual relationships in workplaces. While there are other clauses in the Penal code that can ensure access to justice by survivors of sexual harassment, women's rights activists criticised the decision by Parliament, which was said to have been passed under pressure by men.

The reporting year saw the Malawi SI team accelerate its efforts around sustainability. In-depth sustainability consultations were undertaken in all SI districts in close collaboration with SI Line Ministries, and with emphasis on obtaining inputs and recommendations from beneficiaries at community level. The findings of the consultations allowed the Malawi team to further develop a sustainability strategy, developed as part of the phase II Programme proposal.

Towards the end of the year, the SI team used the sustainability strategy to draft an exit strategy during an Inter-Ministerial Task Force (IMTF) meeting, led by the Ministry of Gender. The exit strategy provides details on the precise activity required for the handover and/or conclusion of SI interventions, and includes milestones, timelines and roles and responsibilities. The strategy aims to ensure the application of the Do no Harm Principle, and will be implemented in the first 6 months of 2023.

By the 3rd quarter of 2022, the Operational Steering Committee approved a 9 month no cost extension for the SI Malawi; this would extend the Programme's implementation period to the 30 of September 2023. By the end of 2022, the SI Malawi Programme was on track to achieve its intended results by this date.

<b>Spotlight Initiative – Outcome areas</b>	<b>Implementation progress at 31 Dec 2022</b>
<b>Outcome 1: Legal and Policy Framework</b>	<b>90%</b>
<b>Outcome 2: Institutions</b>	<b>91%</b>
<b>Outcome 3: Prevention and Norm Change</b>	<b>86%</b>
<b>Outcome 4: Quality Services</b>	<b>92%</b>
<b>Outcome 5: Data</b>	<b>79%</b>
<b>Outcome 6: Women's Movement</b>	<b>91%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>88%</b>

## **Programme Governance**

### **a) National Steering Committee**

In 2022, the SI team prioritised the strengthening of technical level governance mechanisms (see details below). While the NSC did not meet formally, several meetings took place between the Co-Chairs- the UN RC and the Minister of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare.

The UN, EU and the SI Line Ministries undertook a number of joint missions throughout the year, as outlined in the communications section. These proved highly strategic in regard to joint advocacy for social behaviour change at all levels. The UN and Line Ministries agreed to convene the NSC in 2023 for a final meeting.

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

The primary multilateral coordination mechanism for the SI Malawi is the IMTF. Membership of the IMTF includes several ministries, quasi-governmental entities, local authorities, the EU, UN and representatives of the CSNRG<sup>4</sup>. This broad membership base is in keeping with, and further strengthens the SI's multidimensional nature, while enhancing national and local ownership in an efficient manner.

In 2022, the IMTF met twice and undertook highly strategic discussions, resulting in important decisions. In the first meeting (July), the six SI district authorities presented progress updates, highlighted challenges in implementation, and agreed on key aspects related to the IMTF's operationalisation (meeting frequency, objectives, etc.) The group similarly agreed on the SI's best practices that should be prioritised for continuation, including through targeted resource mobilisation. The meeting allowed district authorities to illustrate their leadership of the Programme, advocate for scaling up best practices, and brainstorm around how to resolve recurring challenges. The second meeting (November) was primarily focused on designing an exit strategy, based on the existing sustainability strategy. This meeting was critical in engaging local and national authorities in discussions about how the SI interventions would be handed over, and continuity ensured where relevant.

At district level, the SI Communities of Practice remain a constant feature of the Programme. As explained in previous annual reports, COPs are instrumental to ensuring local ownership, and engaging marginalised and rural communities- in keeping with the principle of LNOB.

At a broader level, the SI was highlighted as a best practice during several gender technical working group (GTWG) meetings at both national and district levels. During the national GTWG meetings, the SI was invited to present its progress, while at district level the SI COP reports to the GTWG as a standing agenda item, as well as to the District Executive Councils (DEC) through the GTWG.

### **c) Civil Society National or Regional Reference Group (CSNRG)**

In 2022, the SI Malawi continued to work with the CSNRG, a group of 10 experts (5 males, 5 females) on E-VaWG, SRHR and LNOB. To ensure an inclusive and diverse group and promote the LNOB agenda, the membership of the group includes female sex workers and representatives of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Questioning (LGBTIQ) community.

During the year CSNRG members attended 2 IMTF meetings. These served as a platform for the CSNRG to discuss programmatic progress and bottlenecks with all SI stakeholders and provide strategic recommendations to enhance the SI's delivery. To ensure their meaningful engagement the CSNRG members were positioned to facilitate strategic moments during the meetings.

The CSNRG has an approved and budgeted work plan which is supported under pillar 6 with a total budget of USD 20,000. Key elements include advocacy using the documents that the group developed during the year 2021: White Papers on SGBV against adolescent girls, and the Spotlight Specific Integrated Protection Approach (SSIPPA) in the context of Malawi.

The SI has continued to support the meaningful engagement of the CSNRG and foster mutual accountability for the successful monitoring and implementation of the SI through various means. In particular, the participation of CSNRG representatives in the SI Core monthly core team meetings as well as quarterly pillar coordination meetings have been critical to keeping the group abreast of programmatic developments and gaining their insights on the same. Nonetheless, the delayed submission and approval of the 2022 workplan led to difficulties in completing planned activities for 2022. The Programme team has identified priority activities for 2023 and plans to accelerate support to the group to ensure that the full work plan is implemented by mid-2023.

<sup>4</sup> Membership includes: Judiciary (High Court Judges); Representatives of Ministries of Gender, Local Government, Education and Police; MHRC- Executive Secretary; all RUNO focal persons and SI Coordination team; District Council representatives from all SI Districts (Director of Planning and Development, District Gender Officer; and CSNRG representatives

#### d) Use of UN Reform inter-agency tools

The SI Malawi team continues to use the Delivering as One (DaO) Accountability Framework to measure and track progress on the cohesive and integrated delivery of the SI. Having rolled out the framework in 2020, the Malawi team has a mutual understanding on how to ensure the implementation of a joint Programme approach, in line with UN Reform. This common understanding allows the SI coordination unit to guide the inter-agency team, based on the milestones and targets established under the results framework.

## Programme Partnerships

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### a) Government

The SI Malawi's continues to partner with the MoGCDSW and the MoLG as its lead Ministries. This dual leadership continues to prove strategic, with the MoGCDSW acting as convener for other Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDA)s at the national level, while the MoLG steers the Programme's delivery in the six prioritised districts. Both of these Ministries conduct regular monitoring visits, including high-level visits involving the Minister and Deputy Minister of the MoGCDSW and MoLG, respectively. At district level, Directors of Planning and Development (DPDs) have been positioned to lead GTWGs, mobilise communities, chair SI Communities of Practice, and build capacity of local governance structures (e.g. ADCs, VDCs, Chief's Councils) in close collaboration with District Gender Officers.

In addition to SI's Line Ministries, several other MDAs continue to be engaged in the SI's implementation, in reflection of the multi-dimensional nature of the SI:

**Ministry of Education (MoE):** who has supported school bursaries to survivors, and supported school re-enrolment and retention in 110 schools at district level for survivors of violence and teenage pregnancy

**Ministry of Justice (MoJ):** as co-lead of law reform task force and in support of DNA Forensic analysis training in SGBV matters

**Ministry of Health (MoH):** in ensuring access to SRHR and quality service delivery, as well as the development of a MHPSS manual for schools during the COVID-19 pandemic period

**Judiciary:** with field deployments and forensic analysis training for prosecution of SGBV cases

**National Statistics Office (NSO):** As lead and convener of the SI SGBV Data Observatory hub and 6 district SGBV data hubs

**Malawi Police Service:** for service delivery and ensuring access to justice

**Malawi Human Rights Commission:** in capacitating police investigators with gender and human rights-based approaches in SGBV Cases

**National Council for Higher Learning (NCHL):** supporting the validation of the gender and anti-sexual harassment policies for 22 universities

The engagement of this wide array of Government entities ensures substantial national ownership, which in turns ensures continuity and sustainability of the results achieved under the Programme.

### b) Civil Society

The SI is designed to safeguard full and transparent engagement with civil society throughout the programme cycle. In 2021, the SI conducted a joint IP assessment following the completion of phase I of the programme. This assessment identified capacity building needs of partners, strengths and bottlenecks in implementation, which RUNOs began to address in 2022.

The assessment furthermore reiterated the need to reduce the number of IPs to allow for greater capacity building support from RUNOs and promoted grassroots engagement as part of the SI Malawi sustainability strategy. Consequently, by December 2022, a total of 21 Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) were engaged as IPs. Of these, 11 are national CSOs, 7 are grassroots organisations, and 3 are international CSOs.

One of the biggest challenges experienced with CSO engagement remains the limited capacities of grassroots actors- particularly in results-based monitoring and reporting. To address this, the SI Malawi conducted result base management training with all CSOs and government officials in all 6 districts, as well as at national level. This initiative resulted in a marked improvement in reporting from all CSOs. In upholding the LNOB principle, the Malawi SI partnered with several CSOs focused on E-VaWG and the intersecting forms of discriminations faced by women and girls. Women living with HIV/AIDS were targeted through the National Association for People Living with HIV and AIDS in Malawi (NAPHAM). Women and girls with disabilities were also empowered through Caring for Persons with Disability (CPD), Malawi Council for the Handicapped (MACOHA) and Faith Based organisations like the Anglican Council of Malawi.

### **c) European Union Delegation**

The collaboration with the European Union Delegation (EUD) was boosted during the year through their regular participation in monthly core team meetings as well as quarterly pillar coordination meetings. The EUD's attendance allowed them to gain greater insight into the Programme's progress and bottlenecks, thus enabling them to provide recommendations for its advancement.

The European Union (EU) similarly attended key events and moments related to the Programme's delivery, including commemorations, launches, workshops and multi-lateral meetings. For instance, as part of the 16 days of Activism to end Gender Based Violence (GBV), the UN, EU and Government of Malawi (GoM) undertook a high-level mission to the South, during which a girls' hostel constructed under the Programme was handed over to district and national authorities. The event was a key opportunity for advocacy around girl's education as a mitigating measure against child marriage and other forms of violence against girls.

### **d) Cooperation with other (non-RUNO) UN agencies**

Throughout the year, the SI continued to strengthen its collaboration with UNAIDS and UNHCR as SI associated agencies.

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS) played a key role in the development and validation of the SI supported male engagement strategy, which was validated in 2022. During the year, the SI collaborated with UNAIDS to finalize and validate the male engagement strategy in close collaboration with the GoM and other key stakeholders. The strategy provides guidance on how to support women and girls living with HIV and AIDS through the promotion of positive masculinities. UNAIDS was also an important partner to the SI in furthering work under pillar 2 by mainstreaming HIV/AIDS into District Development Plans.

Similarly, the SI continued to collaborate closely with UNHCR on the prevention of VaWG in Dzaleka Refugee Camp. Together with UNHCR, 12 mentors were trained, and each one subsequently recruited 25 mentees towards their empowerment and social protection (refer to pillar 3). Through the Camp Inter-Agency Coordination, the SI also contributed to the development of revised GBV Standard Operations Procedures as well as a GBV Factsheet for Dzaleka Refugee Camp.

### **e) Other Partners and resource mobilization**

The Media remains an instrumental ally of the SI in promoting the elimination of harmful social norms, attitudes and behaviours that perpetuate VaWG. During the year, the SI led the development of a Survivor Centred Reporting Media Handbook in close collaboration with the MoGCDSW, Ministry of Information, Polytechnic University (Department of Journalism), Association of Women in Media Malawi, the Media Institute for Southern Africa Malawi Chapter, and the MPS (Public Relations Officers

(PROs). This followed an extensive training for journalists and Police PROs from across the country (see pillar 3 results).

In rolling out policies against SGBV and sexual harassment, the SI also partnered with 22 Universities through the National Council for Higher Learning. Dancehall and Afro Pop Artist Eli Njuchi joined the SI in battling toxic masculinities, while traditional leaders and their wives spoke out against harmful cultural practices along the SI team. For more details, please refer to the results section (pillars 2, 3 and 6).

Other strategic allies of the SI included the World Bank, who featured the Spotlight Initiative prominently in its [report on GBV in Malawi](#). The SI team was invited to present its best practices and provide recommendations to bridge the gap to ending VaWG in Malawi during a high-level panel discussion.

In terms of resource mobilisation, the SI team developed a mapping of high impact interventions with a view to mobilising resources for a successor programme. The EUD has thus far committed EUR 12 million for the continuation of several SI activities under a new programme commencing in 2024.

## Results

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### A. Capturing Broader Transformations Across Outcomes

#### Leaving No One Behind

As in previous years and per the SI programme document, the following marginalized and vulnerable populations remain a priority: refugees, women and girls with disabilities, women and girls living with HIV/AIDS, key populations and women and girls living in remote and isolated rural areas. More information on the SI Malawi's work to reach those furthest behind first is included under the outcome areas.

Rural women and girls make up the bulk of the Programme's beneficiaries, with district authorities directing SI interventions in hard-to-reach areas based on communities' needs. The distribution of motorbikes and bicycles to front line service providers was strategic for this reason, as it allowed for enhanced access to service by rural women and girls, whose lower income levels pose an additional challenge to their inclusion in essential service delivery.

As always, disability continues to be mainstreamed throughout the 6 pillars- either through the development of scorecards and data collection tools that reflect and ensure the VaWG response to women and girls with disabilities, inclusive service delivery, mainstreaming disability in district development plans, awareness raising and community sensitization, and the engagement of women and girls with disabilities as rights holders.

#### Implementing the UN Reform Agenda

After three years of joint programme implementation the SI Malawi has a well-established framework for the cohesive delivery of results in alignment with the UN Reform Agenda. The initial trials of implementing a new way of working have proven minor when compared with the long-term benefits of close collaboration of RUNOs, and by extension all implementing partners contributing to the Programme.

#### Comprehensive Programming

The SI's signature comprehensive approach to e-VaWG has generated several critical results. It should be noted that key to operationalising this approach has been the fact that all interventions take place in the same location, as coordinated by the SI COPs.

- **Shifts in Attitudes, Beliefs and Behaviours**

Under Pillar 3, the SI has cohesively driven social behaviour change in a broad array of settings



and in collaboration with an equally broad array of actors. Harmonised messages e-VaWG are reiterated in school settings, among youth- including men and boys, with older women, religious, traditional and community leaders, through various media outlets, and through laws and policies. This consistent messaging at all levels has led to important shifts in attitudes, beliefs and behaviours, as corroborated by beneficiary feedback during community consultations.

- **Child Marriage**

As readers will observe from results reported under the “Capturing results at Outcome Level” chapter, child marriage is being addressed comprehensively across all pillars and there are a number of different actors actively addressing child marriage. Under Pillar 1 the school re-enrolment policy is ensuring that girls can return to school after being withdrawn from child marriages, while Chiefs and other duty bearers continue to identify, refer and address child marriages under pillar 2 including through development plans and responsive budgeting. Meanwhile, behaviour change efforts and enhancing girls’ education under pillar 3 are preventing the marriages from the onset and where prevention was not successful, services, including economic empowerment opportunities are availed to survivors of child marriage to aid in their recovery under pillar 4. The Data Observatory Hub is capturing real time data on child marriage allowing for evidence-based programming and decision making, and finally, women’s activists have prioritised child marriage as part of their advocacy plans as well as. By addressing child marriage cohesively and holistically, a total of 1,514 survivors of child marriages received services in 2022; these were identified and referred through a range of different SI supported stakeholders.

## **Movement and Cross-Movement Building**

Although the SI Theory of Change includes a dedicated pillar to movement building (pillar 6), under the SI Malawi, movement building is taking place under 3 other pillars in particular, and in addition to pillar 6. Under pillar 2, Malawi’s traditional leaders have united to end VaWG through Chiefs Forums at national, district, Traditional Authority (TA), and Group Village Headman (GVH) levels. Under pillar 3 male engagement interventions have also created a network of male allies who have proven themselves indispensable to the achievement of SI’s goals. Mentors/ mentees, students, mother groups, Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) and several other community structures have also come together to jointly drive change in their communities. And finally, under pillar 4 women’s economic empowerment groups are working together to generate income through collective interventions. The above would suggest that movement building is cross cutting to several pillars and is a fundamental feature of any endeavor to eliminate violence against women and girls (VaWG).

### **Gender and e-VAWG responsive District and Village Development Plans**

A key result of the SI is that e-VAWG has been integrated in District and Village Development Plans (DDPs and VDPs). The approach has been to capacitate GTWG members, ADCs and Traditional Leaders (TLs) in the development of gender responsive DDPs and VAPs. Three districts have now finalized their gender responsive DDPs. For sustainability purposes the development of the VAPs and DDPs has been informed by the 10 year ‘Malawi Vision 2063 Implementation Plan’ (MIP-1).

### **Positioning VaWG on the Political Agenda in the Region**

In August 2021, Malawi assumed chairpersonship of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC). In 2022, the Spotlight Initiative supported the Malawi Government’s contributions to the review of the SADC Gender Mainstreaming Resource Kit. The Kit is a sector specific guide to assist in the region’s effort to standardize Member State approaches towards gender mainstreaming with the ultimate aim of contributing to the achievement of gender equality. The guide gives specific guidance on GBV and child marriage.

## **B. Reporting on the implementation of Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation and Reporting (PMER)**

Participatory Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER) has been a salient feature of the SI from the Programme’s inception and design phase to date. This principle ensures the deliberate inclusion of beneficiary voices and perspectives in the Programme’s implementation through various approaches.

One such approach is the regular multi-stakeholder<sup>5</sup> monitoring visits of Programme interventions, conducted by both district and national stakeholders. Community feedback sessions during such visits entail a concerted effort to gather community insights on how to strengthen interventions. This is typically done in the form of Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) divided by age and sex to ensure maximum participation. The sessions have enhanced ownership by beneficiaries and community structures and empowered them to lead and support community efforts to E-VaWG.

At district level, the SI Malawi's innovative Communities of Practice serves as an inclusive governance structure that further the Programme's PMER objectives. In Machinga, the COP was decentralized from the district to the TA level, whereby communities organized themselves in a forum that strictly and closely monitors SI interventions. Members are comprised of Implementing Partners, community leaders and members, and programme beneficiaries. Members report to the forum during monthly meetings and hold each other to account for the quality delivery of results.

Under Pillars 2 and 6, the SI supported programme beneficiaries to develop scorecards and assess the performance of SGBV/ HP/ SRHR service providers. The scorecard assessments allow both communities and service providers to identify and resolve various challenges (further information available under results chapter).

With the SI's closure approaching, sustainability was a priority for the reporting year. An End-Term Review (ETR) was conducted (similar to the mid-term review [MTR] conducted in 2020) to gather feedback from rights holders on good practices and lessons learned, assess sustainability, and obtain recommendations on priorities for a potential successor programme. Like the MTR, the ETR used 3 modalities of data collection: i) FGDs for community stakeholders, ii) key informant interviews (KII) for district authorities, and iii) anonymous surveys for district and national authorities. Over 300 individuals and approximately 100 GoM stakeholders were consulted.

The findings of the ETR, along with those of the MTR and sustainability consultations (2021) proved essential for the refinement of the sustainability strategy and the development of an exit strategy in 2022. Consequently, both of these strategies are grounded in the feedback obtained from community stakeholders, as well as district and national authorities. As a result, all relevant actors- and most importantly, communities- have contributed to outlining how the SI will be handed over and/or phased out. This decision was also based on feedback received from communities during the MTR- when they advocated to have ample forewarning on the Programme's closure so that they would not be taken by surprise, as has happened with other large programmes. This approach also ensured considerable ownership on the closure process and has positioned local actors to start mobilise resources for the continuation of SI best practices.

An important lesson learned is that incorporating PMER throughout the programme cycle ensures the systematic and availability of information regarding the current views of programme beneficiaries. In this way, any decision made about the Programme will always be relevant to the realities on the ground, and will therefore be well received by communities, and need not be delayed by urgent and last-minute efforts to gather information.

## **C. Capturing Change at Outcome Level**

### **Outcome 1: Legislative and policy frameworks**

In 2022, the SI addressed critical gaps highlighted in the independent report on the review of laws, developed in 2020 by the National Task Force<sup>6</sup> on the review of laws and policies established and supported by the SI. During the reporting year, the SI provided technical support to the National Task

5 These monitoring visits always include district authorities, IPs, SI representatives. Every quarter, national authorities (line ministries) also join the visits, along with representatives of the national SI coordination team.

6 The National Task Force is co-chaired by the Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Gender, and it is convened with technical and financial support from the SI. Other members of the National Task Team are the Ministry of Youth, the Malawi Police Service, constitutional bodies like the Malawi Law Commission, the Human Rights Commission and like-minded CSOs.



Force to amend the GEA the Penal Code, and the CCPJA.

The Penal Code (Amendment) Bill was deliberated and passed by Parliament during the 49th session. Other provisions that have been amended relate to enhancement of penalties against sexual offenders especially where the survivor is a child with a mental disability, decriminalizing sexual acts between children below 18 years and whose age difference is two years or less, and replacement of the derogatory terms “idiot” and “imbecile” with less offensive terminology: “ a person with mental disability.

Two other amendment bills relating to the CCPJA and the GEA were finalized and adopted by the Ministry of Justice and await presentation in Parliament. As a result, the GEA now guarantees safety and/or protection for whistleblowers, complainants, or witnesses of acts of sexual harassment in the workplace. The CCPJA amendments have resulted in the harmonisation in the legal definition of a child<sup>7</sup>, and are an important step towards eliminating child marriage and protecting minors from SGBV.

Thirty-six by-laws addressing VaWG were adopted in SI districts while another 14 are under assessment by the Ministry of Justice, and 7 were finalised and will be submitted for assessment. The by-laws focus on SGBV, SRHR and early marriage and together they prohibit and/or amend 52 documented harmful practices. The by-laws are aligned with the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act, Gender Equality Act, Child Care, Protection and Justice Act, Marriage Divorce and Family Relations Act, and Deceased Estates Act.

As part of the preparatory process for the bylaws formulation and adoption, the SI built the capacity of 104 district level officials (73 Men, 31 Women) across the 6 target districts on gender related laws and policies. As a result, they are better able to contribute to law and policy formulation process as well as enforce existing laws and policies at district level. 156 community leaders (121 Males, 35 Females) were also capacitated to monitor and reinforce application of the bylaws. Following the adoption of the bylaws, communities became more actively involved in referring VaWG cases. There was a surge in the number of cases reported between August and September- during this period 209 cases of VaWG were referred by community leaders.

The validation of SGBV guidelines to support the implementation of the Chief’s Policy (by Paramount and Senior Chiefs and Local Government Ministries) is a significant milestone for the SI. The guidelines are a national level ministerial document that guide and formalize the involvement of traditional leaders in handling SGBV matters. The guidelines serve as an SGBV mainstreaming tool throughout all sections of the Chief’s Policy and include gender equality principles like gender parity in chiefs’ appointments.

### **SRHR Reporting: Outcome 1**

Bylaws developed under pillar 1 prohibit and/ or amend 52 documented harmful practices and thus protect women and girls from GBV and HPs, which impinge on their SRHR. The SGBV guidelines that support the implementation of the Chief’s Policy guide and formalise the role of traditional leaders in protecting women and girl’s SRHR.

The SI moreover built the capacity of district level decision makers in the formulation of laws and policies that protect SRHR will ensure an enabling policy environment towards equitable information and access to SRH information and services, particularly for vulnerable groups, at risk populations, and young people in hard-to-reach areas.

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

The SI team continues to strengthen national and sub-national VaWG related coordination mechanisms, namely, the GTWG<sup>8</sup>. The SI provided technical support to the national GTWG to develop its annual

7 The definition conflicted with the Constitutional Amendment of 2017 and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of a Child

8 The National GTWG is comprised of relevant Ministries and Departments, quasi-governmental institutions like the

work plan, and mobilised partners to co-fund the costed work plan.

At national level, the SI strengthened the capacity of 72 law and policy makers (52 men, 20 women) on Gender Responsive Budgeting. At district level, the programme similarly built the GRB capacities of district officers and Area Development Committees in all TAs. To promote accountability and transparency, 280 Women's rights advocates were also included in the GRB training and in the use of a score card to score and identify bottlenecks in SGBV related services.

These efforts have resulted in gendered and costed VAPs and DDPs. DDPs now have a standalone gender section following the SGBV integrated minimum data requirements for developing DDPs (developed in phase 1). Gender mainstreaming was ensured in other relevant sectors like agriculture and education.

Building on the Model Gender Policy for higher learning institutions developed in phase 1, the programme continued its collaboration with and support to the NCHE to elaborate its own gender and anti-sexual harassment policy. The 22 public and private universities that developed gender policies were supported to validate and disseminate the policies. To ensure the operationalisation of the policies, each University appointed a gender desk officer to oversee implementation.

The MHRC remains a vital institutional partner to the SI. The Programme collaborated with the SI to capacitate police investigators at district level as well as investigators of the MHRC and Office of the Ombudsman (OoO) on survivor sensitive handling of SGBV cases and use of human rights-based approaches to avoid re-traumatising survivors and also build their trust for the justice sector. A total of 83 investigators from Nkhatabay and Machinga have been trained so far.

During phase 1, the SI established 6 district chiefs forums. In 2022, an additional 37 community chiefs forums were formed, comprised of approximately 2,232 chiefs. The Forums' TORs developed in phase 1 were used to orient the new Community Forums that have produced action plans; these are the basis for progress reports to the district chiefs forums on their progress. The forums have been widely embraced by Chiefs, reflected in the fact that at least 90% of Chiefs targeted in phase 1 went on to create Chief's Forums at GVH level. In line with action plans, Chiefs conducted awareness campaigns against GBV in their localities and GBV patrols to identify and refer cases, with emphasis on child marriage and HPs.

In support of keeping girls in school and ending child marriage, Chiefs visited schools in their localities to check school registers and identify absent children. They then proceeded with a back-to-school campaign, including summoning all the parents whose children were not in school and obliging them to send their children to school or face fines. This initiative addressed the harmful practice of keeping girls out of school to do household chores or some boys with farming work. Where children were out of school by choice, Chiefs work with women's forums to counsel girl children to stay in school. This practice reinforced localised by-laws and has been instrumental in fostering social behaviour change, particularly considering the widely respected roles of Chiefs as moral and traditional authorities.

As a result of the above, in Mzimba district chiefs were responsible for the re-enrolment of at least 2,000 pupils. In 2022, Chiefs were responsible for the annulment of over 500 cases of child marriage, and 61,427 community members (30,099 men, 31,328 women) accessed messages on ending VAWG/HP through the Chief forums.

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MHRC, CSOs, UN Agencies, development partners, academic institutions, and others. At district level the GTWG is comprised of the various district authorities and CSOs.

### **SRHR Reporting: Outcome 2:**

SI improved the integration of SRHR into chief's action plans. Chiefs have been conducting awareness campaigns against GBV in their localities and carrying out GBV patrols to identify and refer cases, with emphasis on SRH and child marriage. The quarterly joint GTWG workplans developed during the coordination meetings prioritise awareness raising and SRH service delivery for women and girls.

### **Outcome 3: Prevention**

The Spotlight scholarship has advanced access to education for survivors of SGBV and constitutes an important contribution to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 4). Of the 624 scholarship recipients (all girls), 61% completed secondary education and 5% have enrolled in tertiary or higher learning institutions (HLI). An additional 39% are planning to complete secondary education during the 2022/ 2023 school year and express their intention to pursue tertiary education. Improving access to education for girls lowers the risk of child marriage, teenage pregnancy and other forms of abuse and improves their chance of leading healthy and productive lives. Girls' education also improves their prospects of earning a higher income and making valuable contributions to their community's socio-economic development.

In 2022, the SI completed the construction and furnishing of three girls' dormitories in Machinga and Nsanje Districts respectively, with the capacity to accommodate 220 girls in total. The dormitories were formally handed over to the MoE during a high-level handover ceremony (see communications section). Besides improving access to education, this intervention provides a model of a conducive and gender sensitive infrastructure at learning institutions, for further scale up by Government authorities. The opportunity for girls to stay on school premises provides them with a safe space, free from violence, and will allow them to dedicate more time to study and increase their pass rates in secondary education. The dormitories will therefore contribute to girls' school retention rates while reducing their exposure to SGBV, as girls can forego the long trips to their schools that are fraught with risks.

The Ifenso Tingathe (We too Can) Platforms (ITPs) targeting in and out of school adolescent girls and boys support the empowerment of girls and boys to effectively report SGBV and provide a platform for dialogue around issues affecting adolescent wellbeing, life skills and livelihoods. In 2022, the SI established 305 ITPs: 246 in primary schools, 29 in secondary schools, and 29 at the community level. As a result, over 12,000 girls and 8,400 boys who partake in these platforms are empowered with knowledge about their rights, SGBV case reporting, how to say no to child marriage and other HPs and behaviors. The ITP also strengthened accountability, as the girls are actively engaging duty bearers, demanding their rights and contributing to e-VaWG solutions at school and community level.

As a direct result of the ITPs, 251 community members, including 173 boys and girls (95 girls, 78 boys), organized a march to demand social accountability on e-VaWG in Nkhata -Bay. This action led to a commitment by government district stakeholders to continue supporting e-VaWG youth-led interventions, such as district level youth clubs and the ITPs. The ITPs also empowered girls to support 30 other girls to return to school after they left because of pregnancy and an additional 30 girls to return to school after being withdrawn from child marriages.

Through ITPs, 6,000 learners (3,600 girls, 2,400 boys) participated in art activities aimed at increasing awareness and reporting of violence. This was done using the SI developed child-friendly and art-based reporting mechanisms, such as drawings, paintings, and anonymous letters called 'Kalata ya nkhawa zanga' (A letter of my anxieties). As evidenced by the mentioned high number of reports of violence, these methodologies make it safer and friendlier for children to report abuse. It further helps to track SGBV at school level and facilitates alerts to the responsible duty bearers to ensure cases are reported and referred to SGBV services.

SI community driven SGBV awareness raising initiatives reached 20,000 people through songs,

drama, art competitions, open-air meetings, poems, dance, music, radio jingles, and print media. The campaigns educated and oriented in and out-of-school adolescents on how to challenge harmful social norms and report SGBV. The programme achieved this through the support of 120 people (60 women, 60 men) and 2,600 community leaders (1,100 women, 1500 men).

The Safe School Concept and the One School One Police Officer Initiative led to an increase in SGBV reporting in targeted schools, and improved access to justice for child survivors of SGBV. In 2022, 363 cases were reported, compared to 171 cases in 2021, representing a 112 % increase. In total, 52 survivors reported violence to the police through school complaints boxes placed in 135 schools by adolescent girls and boys. Thirty of the cases were related to defilement and child marriage. Linking mobile courts to schools enhanced access to justice for child survivors of violence and promoted a safe learning environment by facilitating police investigations and prosecution. Of the above-mentioned 52 survivors (represented through 37 cases), thirty-seven girls, survivors of SGBV and 1 woman accessed justice through mobile courts convened under the Safe Schools Program and its school-based reporting mechanisms. Of the 37 cases, 25 were completed, of which 17 resulted in convictions and 8 in acquittals; the remaining 12 are still being handled in court. In line with the comprehensive approach of the SI, the police are collaborating with Chiefs and Mother Groups and have involved the District Education Managers in those cases in order to track and withdraw girls from child marriages. The Safe Schools Programme furthermore enhanced the knowledge and skills of more than over 300 police officers (188 men, 112 women) on VaWG. The officers are therefore better able to provide SGBV prevention and response services and to ensure that schools are safe. Through trainings, an additional 1870 members (1105 men, 765 women) of school-based structures (i.e. PTAs and Mother Groups) gained knowledge on how to prevent, identify, refer and respond to VaWG occurring in and around schools and communities. Similarly, the Safe Schools Programme capacitated 277,023 learners (141,453 girls and 135,570 boys) with the necessary knowledge and skills to prevent and protect themselves from violence through legal literacy and active citizenship training sessions. Through the Journey of Life (JOL) intervention, 580 community members (340 women, 240 men) were empowered with the required knowledge and skills to effectively and constructively engage duty bearers to demand accountability. Participants applied their skills and knowledge during 8 dialogue sessions with duty bearers, focusing on various issues related to SGBV. In some instances, immediate change occurred, for example in Mzimba, where girls successfully lobbied community leaders and MPs to construct a CVSU. The girls also successfully lobbied the District Social Welfare Offices (DSWO) to allocate a new Child Protection Worker in TA Kampingo Sibande to attend this CVSU and intensify community sensitization. In 2022, 13,456 girls graduated from 447 safe spaces established under the SSMP. Their empowerment has yielded important results: 1,314 girls hold various community leadership roles, including 259 girls who took up positions in VDCs and ADCs – traditionally male dominated spaces. Their new roles clearly indicate the degree of their empowerment and recognition by the communities. In addition, 330 safe space mentees were selected and admitted to various secondary schools, thanks to their improved school performance following their participation in the SSMP.

The commitment of mentors to the Programme is evident and has improved its sustainability. During the year they proactively launched an additional safe space, despite the absence of the monthly stipends paid to them while mentoring the first and second cohorts.

The SSMP has improved the SRHR of adolescent girls and young women, mitigated their exposure to violence and enhanced their protection. Out of 19,692 SGBV cases followed up in 2022, 3,282 were referred by safe space mentorship girls, a reflection of their assertiveness and empowerment emanating from their participation in the SSMP. In 2022, 8,751 safe space girls were encouraged and supported to access various GBV and SRHR services, thus mitigating their chances of teenage pregnancy and improving their reproductive health and wellbeing. The mentors and mentees also influenced 3,681 girls to go back to school. The girls returning to school included teen mothers, child marriage survivors and other girls who dropped out of school because of various reasons.

The SI supported mentors and mentees from 447 safe spaces to conduct 89 dialogue sessions with 17,654 leaders and influential persons. The girls and young women advocated for issues related to support

of the leaders on e-VaWG and gender equality (including the safe space mentorship programme) and addressed barriers to the redress of SGBV cases and harmful practices.

Working with boys and men is a critical component of the SI and progress was achieved at both policy and operational levels. In regard to the former, the SI finalized and validated the National Male Engagement Strategy (MES) through the MoGCDSW, and in consultation with other key stakeholders.

Operationally, the SI mentored 1,798 men and boys to embrace behaviours and attitudes that correspond to positive masculinities. These men and boys were linked to the SSMP and have so far played a very supportive role of the mentors and mentees, allowing them to do their work without fear of backlash from men and boys in the communities.

Along similar lines, through the tried and tested Barbershop toolkit methodology, 16 Pastors and sheikhs, and 531 HeForShe champions were oriented on male engagement and positive masculinities. These champions and religious leaders in turn formed He4She clubs and STAR Circle groups that reached 1,989 community leaders and 1,063 community members through bawo (a traditional game) competitions and awareness meetings.

### **SRHR Reporting: Outcome 3**

All empowerment and awareness raising interventions mainstream SRH as a critical issue. In particular, the SSMP has been a major influence in advocating for increased access to quality SRHR. Through the SSMP, 8,751 safe space girls were encouraged and supported to access various GBV and SRHR services, thus mitigating their chances of teenage pregnancy and improving their reproductive health and wellbeing.

Ensuring the support of men and boys for women and girls to access SRH services is also critical. As such, the National Male Engagement Strategy includes components on encouraging men and boys to embrace positive masculinities that promote women and girls' access to SRHR services.

### **Outcome 4: Services**

In 2022, 39,711 AGYWs accessed SGBV and SRHR integrated services (i.e. psychological support and counseling, Sexual Transmitted Infections (STI) screening, obstetric fistula (OF) services, family planning, condom access). Of these, 19,962 were SGBV cases reported to service providers supported by the SI and followed up on. Among these SGBV cases, there were 287 cases of child marriage, of which 191 were annulled; the remaining 96 cases are in the process of annulment. A total of 323 court cases were concluded through mobile courts, and 3,681 girls were supported to return to school. The SI continued to provide support to the GBV/VAWG hotline, which resulted in assistance to 19 SGBV survivors.

To increase access to essential services the SI provided financial support through community and survivor funds. In total, 9,156 survivors of SGBV and fistula benefitted from the survivor fund and 3,825 accessed services provided by the CF.

The community fund provides financial support to survivors of violence to travel from their remote homes to service providers and receive the necessary support, such as district magistrate courts, police stations and hospitals. Where necessary the fund also allowed potential witnesses to attend court sessions. The survivor fund complements the community fund by supporting survivors to engage in economic activities towards their long-term recovery and social reintegration in the community. To ensure sustainability of the funds, these are managed as a revolving fund through community management committees. The funds' management by community leaders has the added benefit of regularly tabling SGBV and HP for their consideration. This is crucial as the same leaders are often involved in the development of village and area action plans and their sensitisation results in their prioritising SGBV as a critical related to developmental progress.

Based on lessons learned in previous years, and in line with the principle of LNOB and reaching those



furthest behind first, the SI distributed 120 motorcycles to police formations, judiciary, health centers and social welfare service providers. This strengthened the GBV response in marginalised and typically excluded communities.

In 2022, the SI conducted 26 demand creation activities to raise awareness on available SGBV and SRHR services across the 6 districts. The events served to inform 13,847 people (9,239 female, 4,608 male) who were informed about access channels to various SGBV and SRHR services and applicable confidentiality issues.

The programme advocated for the scale-up of integrated quality SRHR and SGBV essential services for survivors with disabilities. During the awareness campaigns at least 1,414 women and girls that had started accessing the services in phase 1 attested that they now know better how to demand their rights for SRHR related services. For instance, concerns about application of confidentiality principles were addressed by most service providers who were previously shunned by women and girls for failing to respect confidentiality principles and ethics.

The SI procured 37 mobility aids (wheelchairs and tricycles) for adolescent girls and young women to improve their access to SRHR and SGBV services and reduce their vulnerability to violence. Monitoring visits found that the girls are all attending school, thanks to the mobility aides.

A further 264 AGYW with disabilities accessed SGBV and SRHR integrated services. The programme finalized the construction of disability friendly structures in health facilities in Mzimba and Ntchisi districts, improving access to services for women and girls with disabilities. In 2022, 69 obstetric fistula survivors were treated successfully at the Fistula Centre in Lilongwe and another 26 survivors accessed fistula related services at various district hospitals. The SI previously trained the district-based health professionals and nurses and as a result they are better able to identify and refer acute cases for specialised treatment at the Fistula Centre. To ensure adherence of SGBV service delivery to international standards, the SI supported the revision of the Clinical Management of Rape Guidelines, the Essential Service Package (ESP) Handbook, SGBV guidelines and the One Stop Centre guidelines. The latter two are now aligned to the ESP standards and protocols. A Community Scorecard was developed that scores duty bearers' performance in the delivery of SGBV and SRHR services. Forty-eight community-based trainers were certified as trainers following a Training of Trainers delivered at the national level. The scorecard is expected to enhance the accountability of duty bearers to right holders. The trainers each went on to train another 396 trainers (194 men, 201 women) in their respective districts who will in turn train all Area Development Committees across the districts, thus ensuring the sustainability of this capacity building endeavour.

In 2022 the SI conducted an array of training for service providers aimed at strengthening the quality of services in line with international standards. Thus, 270 police officers (188 men, 82 women) are now better able to investigate and prosecute cases of SGBV, and 120 Police Victim Support Unit (PVSU) Officers (67 women, 37 men) have improved capacities in SGBV case management. An additional 43 judicial officers (12 women, 31 men) now have the required core competencies to appropriately and effectively handle cases of VaWG. Similarly, 176 data clerks (126 men, 50 women) are now able to prioritise and report SGBV cases through the court systems.

The absence of complaints regarding community policing members during 2022 compared to 5 received in 2021 is indicative of their improved services through knowledge and skills building interventions. District officials in all 6 districts have also observed stricter sentences on cases of sexual violence; it is envisioned this will act as a deterrent against committing these crimes.

To address the challenge of high turnover in the MPS, and the consequent difficulties in ensuring Police capacities to respond to SGBV, the SI supported the review of the Basic Recruit Curriculum of the Malawi Police Training School and incorporated Protection and SGBV modules. The SI conducted a TOT involving 30 police officers (21 men, 9 women) who are now able to deliver a training on the new topics of the curriculum. This is expected to improve access to justice for survivors of violence, as all newly recruited Police Officers will commence their roles with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively handle SGBV cases.

A total of 390 (210 men, 180 women) personnel from police, social welfare, justice, health, CVUs, education and various CSOs are able to provide PFA to survivors of violence following a training held in 2022. As a result, 18,034 women) across the six SI districts accessed PFA services provided by the trained personnel, of which 12,623 were related to SGBV<sup>9</sup>.

An additional 280 SGBV survivors received psycho-social support through SI supported services through 78 district social welfare officers, gender officers, Police Victim Support officers, and magistrates who were capacitated with skills in psychosocial support.

Social Welfare District Officers trained 783 Children's Corner facilitators (423 girls, 360 boys). As a result, 145,447 beneficiaries (89,081 girls, 48,885 boys) have access to improved protection and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services in the children's corners. In 2022, 794 SGBV cases pertaining to girls were reported through the children's corners. Out of those, 247 were cases of child marriage which have now been annulled.

A total of 3,298 cases of violence against girls were identified and referred through child protection case managers. These cases included 600 cases of sexual abuse/ exploitation, 648 cases of physical abuse, 1,293 cases of emotional abuse, 697 cases of child marriage, and 60 cases of trafficking or abduction. In 2022, 798 (442 women, 356 men) case workers gained skills in handling SGBV cases with support from SGBV stakeholders and community leaders through trainings and mentoring.

To ensure continued capacity building on SGBV case management, 71 Children's Corner Facilitators Networks were established. The networks facilitate the sharing and transfer of skills and knowledge from trained to untrained facilitators and is a sustainable measure to maintain and improve the quality of services in CCs. A total of 2,935 children's corner facilitators, (2,092 women and 843 men) benefitted from the Networks.

Over the past years, 50 CVSUs were operationalised in the 6 SI Districts to support survivors of VaWG. In 2022 service provision through CVSUs was expanded through the formation of partnerships with 20 community-based organisations (CBOs). The 20 CBOs were trained to provide similar and complementary services to those provided by CVSUs and as a result service delivery coverage has improved considerably, with emphasis on those communities living in hard-to-reach areas and with limited possibilities of accessing CVSUs.

The SI accelerated access to justice for 155 survivors by supporting 147 mobile court sessions in hard-to-reach areas, in line with the principle of LNOB. At least 4 SGBV cases are heard during one mobile court session, whereas in normal court a maximum of one SGBV would be heard. Similarly the completion of cases heard in mobile courts are considerably faster than in normal courts, with the latter taking 4-6 months to complete a case and the former taking as little as 1 week and at most 2 months. A total of 140 cases were concluded with varying sentences, ranging from 13 to 16 years for defilement and rape cases.

Access to justice was also improved through 87 legal clinics which provided legal aid to 298 SGBV survivors. This included filing of appeals, applications for child maintenance, custody at Child Justice court and land disputes involving women dispossessed of land. Financial empowerment of survivors is critical for their long-term recovery, as well as for giving them the necessary economic independence that will prevent them from relying on abusive partners and spouses.

As such, 3,587 survivors of VaWG (2,936 women and 651 girls) were financially empowered with technical skills in business management and entrepreneurship and supported to establish viable businesses such as mobile money kiosks and livestock production. Of these, 720 women were linked to agricultural business units, which will connect them to reliable markets and technical support through

<sup>9</sup> As an unintended result over 18,000 men also received MHPSS support as government structures support both men and women. It is hoped that by providing mental health support for men, it will prevent VaWG and ensure a safer and healthier environment for women and girls.



cooperatives. Another 10 best performing women were linked to the National Economic Empowerment Fund, granting them access to loans of up to USD 500 towards their businesses.

Moreover, 9,381 AGYW received entrepreneurship skills and livelihood trainings, including 70 in irrigation farming skills. Another 7,247 survivors were supported with access to financial resources, including input and technical support for small business start-ups such as Village Savings and Loans schemes, mobile money kiosks, animal farming, irrigation farming, and tailoring. The same fund supported 20 survivors with vocational skill trainings.

#### **SRHR Reporting: Outcome 4**

The SI continued efforts towards the sustainable integration of SRHR in SGBV service provision. In 2022 a total of 39,711 AGYW accessed SRH integrated services and further 264 AGYW with disabilities accessed SRHR integrated services. The Community Scorecard developed in phase 1 is used by women's rights advocates and scores duty bearers' performance in the delivery of SGBV and SRHR services, thereby improving the quality of services and increases accountability on the same. Service providers were trained on the scorecard to ensure services are in line with international standards.

#### **Outcome 5: Data**

The SI supported the roll out of SGBV integrated Police and Judiciary digital case management systems. The Judiciary leadership praised the projects digital system for the fact that it will improve transparency and accountability, while curbing corruption that hinders access to justice for most SGBV matters. In 2022 The Police SGBV integrated Case Management System (CMS) (awaiting validation) was incorporated into the crime record system and piloted in the 6 SI districts. This was a vital step towards ensuring the sustainability of the system by creating one single system, thereby easing the burden of work on Police officers who previously were entering data into 2 different systems.

The CMS dashboards will be able to generate reports and evidence regarding the progress of cases registered and as well as about challenges and delays. The CMS will ensure accountability and transparency within the Malawi Police and Judiciary.

In 2022 the National Observatory Hub and District Observatory Hubs<sup>10</sup> (rolled out in 2021), were officially launched during a high-visibility event. To support harmonised and standardised data collection and ensure sustainability of the Data Hubs through the NSO's leadership (the GBVMIS is led by the MoGCDSW), the SI supported the merging of the Gender Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS) to the NSO data hub.

During a data analysis workshop that followed the launch of the Hubs, district officials prepared policy briefs based on data generated from the Hub. Their analysis found that cases of SGBV for the 0-15 and 16-24 age groups accounted for 56.4% of recorded cases in 2022 as compared 36.8% in 2021. Illiteracy was also a common theme among these survivors, corroborating the fact that those with lower levels of education are more vulnerable to violence.

The rise in the number of cases recorded is attributed to several factors. The use of digital technology has improved the recording of cases, whereas the previous paper-based system resulted in the loss of several cases. As the system was only fully rolled out later in 2021, there were several cases that were not recorded; in 2022 the SI team accelerated capacity building for Child Protection Workers (CPWs) by NSO officers, which also led to an increase in case reporting. Finally, the intensification of Chief's campaigns successfully raised considerable awareness on VaWG among communities and urged communities to report violence whenever encountered. Following the analysis workshop, district officials produced policy briefs using data from the Hubs data, including evidence-based recommendations for programming that enhances both prevention and service delivery at grassroot level.

The programme capacitated 10 Ministry of Justice State Lawyers (4 women, 6 men), and 30 Malawi

<sup>10</sup> Please visit the website of the National Observatory Hub at <https://www.nsogbv.mw>

Judiciary Magistrates (13 women, 17 men) who are the first point of handling all sexual violence matters in DNA forensic investigations and analysis in SGBV related cases. Following the training for police officers in 2021, other justice actors requested the same training to allow for a more comprehensive application of the skills in court by prosecutors, lawyers and analysis by the court magistrates of the DNA forensic evidence and thereby enhance access to justice for SGBV survivors.

The SI continues to support the Malawi police to collect and analyse SGBV cases through RapidPro<sup>11</sup>. In 2022 62 data senders (39 men and 23 women CPWs based in CVSUs and Children’s Corners) were trained and are now better able to utilise the data. The data is used to produce data digests that enable evidence-based programming. During the year, 23,031 cases of violence against women and girls were reported to the police, constituting a 100% increase from 2021. The increase is consistent with expectations that successful awareness raising initiatives lead to increased reporting of SGBV and does capacity building of Police Officers on data collection and prioritisation of SGBV cases.

During the year, the SI continued to refine and update the Kuwala Knowledge Management Platform. The platform enhances information sharing, knowledge exchange and cooperation at technical and analytical levels on gender and VaWG related issues that have emerged from the SI’s implementation. To ensure cohesion across SI interventions, the Kuwala Platform was linked to the Data Observatory Hub (by manually uploading SI information to the Hub), while the impending full integration will then allow for real time data updating between the systems<sup>12</sup>.

## 1 / TYPES OF VIOLENCE AND ABUSE

From January to December 2022, a total of 32,902 (5,459 boys, 9,212 girls, 4,442 men and 13,818 women) new cases of violence were reported at police stations across the country. Children constituted 32% of cases, a slight decrease from 34% in 2021.

The most common type of violence reported was marital and interpersonal conflict (33%), followed by economic violence (18%), sexual violence (17%), physical violence (16%), and conduct likely to cause breach of peace (12%). In comparison to the 2021 the share of the human trafficking has slightly increased from 0% (100 cases) to 1% (158 cases), and percentage of sexual violence has increased from 14% (333 cases) to 17% (598 cases). The portion of the marital and interpersonal conflict has greatly increased from 20% (631 cases) to 32.2% (6,234 cases). The cases of suicide remain similar between 2022 (154 cases) and 2021 (162 cases). Violence of any form was experienced most commonly amongst girls and women (76% females, 24% males), a trend consistent over the years

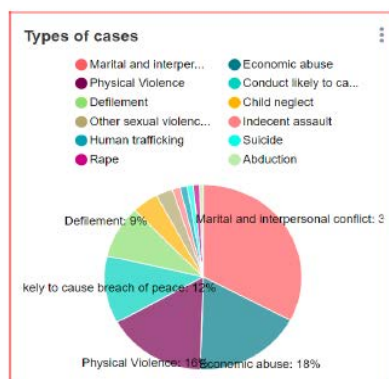


Figure 3: Types of cases

The highest number of cases in 2022 was recorded as 8,817 in between March and July and the lowest record was in December at 1,354. A comparison of the data for the same period in 201 shows that the a different trend where the highest number of cases were recorded as 4,159 between October and December in 2019 and the lowest record was in December at 658. Police formations are coordinated by four regional offices, and the trend has remained steady over the period of

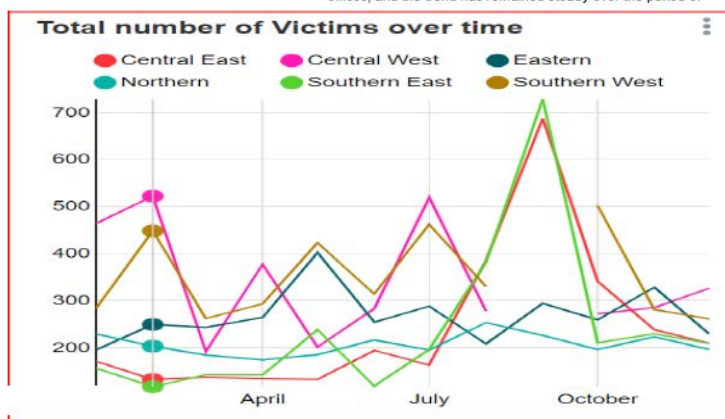


Figure 4: Total number of victims over time

11 Rapid Pro is a mobile-based data collection system to collect national administrative data. The data collected is real-time administrative data for police, judiciary, social welfare and One-Stop Centers

12 [www.kuwala.tech](http://www.kuwala.tech)

### **SRHR Reporting: Outcome 5:**

The National Observatory Hub and District Observatory Hubs now collect SGBV and SRH related data systematically, following the inclusion of SRHR in data collection tools in previous years. Readily available SRH data will allow for evidence-based decision making that will strengthen the protection of SRHR.

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

The SI strengthened Women's movements in the 3 regions (North, Central and Southern regions) and initiated the formation of a national level movement by supporting the development of **"The Women's Manifesto"**, coordinated by CSOs. Sixty-five leaders of the movement were equipped with knowledge and skills in conducting community score cards, formulation of action plans, evidence-based advocacy, and dialogue. In line with the principle of LNOB and inter-sectionality, the leadership is comprised of rural women with an age range from 22 to 49 years of age; among them are survivors of violence, persons with disabilities and persons with albinism.

The movement has so far prioritized early child marriages as an issue for advocacy and campaigning. The scorecards have served as a key advocacy tool for the women's movements, for the improvement of the quality of SGBV and SRHR services. Some of the areas of concern raised by the women's rights advocates include service providers' attitudes towards survivors, the availability of private spaces to ensure confidentiality, unavailability of drugs and pregnancy testing kits at hospitals, and unavailability of trained personnel- resulting in cleaning staff dispensing drugs, for instance. These concerns were discussed with service providers and elevated to district officials for handling.

In 2022, the SI finalized and validated the movement building tool kit and translated it to Tumbuka, a language spoken in the Northern region. The kit provides practical guidance on movement building principles, concepts and approaches with an intersectionality lens. The kit was used to revamp and/or establish 116 women's groups, and 11 girls' groups (1,426 women and girls) who developed work plans to guide their work. To date 20 leaders of 20 groups have been trained on the toolkit. In Machinga District, female sex workers were among the groups revamped, and as part of their work plan they conducted a sweeping exercise to remove under-age girls from sex work venues; 16 girls benefitted from this exercise.

Over 187 SGBV, SRHR and HP related cases were resolved by women's rights advocates who used a scorecard to hold district officers accountable on delays in SGBV case handling in schools, and inadequate service delivery in hospitals. Consequently, the District Commissioner in Nkhatabay issued a directive to the rural hospital to ensure privacy to enable people access SRHR services without problems.

### **SRHR Reporting: Outcome 6**

The SI capacitated district level women's movements on the use of score cards that allow them to advocate for improved SGBV and SRH service delivery. Over 187 SGBV, SRHR and HP related cases were resolved, following the interventions of women's rights advocates that held district officers accountable through the use of the scorecard.

## Rights Holders

Indicative numbers	Direct for 2022	Indirect for 2022	Comments/Justifications <sup>13</sup>
Women (18 yrs. and above)	104,814	524,070	<p>Women traditional leaders, women rights advocates, government officers from various departments, justice sector, higher education institutions and CSOs, Community members attending interface and Accountability Sessions, YFHS, Psychosocial support, GBV SRH service referrals, Teachers, Parents and Religious leaders.</p> <p>How the calculation was conducted: The estimated indirect reach calculation assumed that for any women directly reached, they reached 5 more people. Each teacher or head teacher is assumed to have reached 72 more children (based on average school figures), and the formula for calculating indirect reach for service providers was used counting staff from the courts, child protection workers, police. The total population reached covered more than the total population of the area and the assumption is that some people were reached more than once.</p>
Girls (5-17)	303,750	1,518,750	<p>The data includes girls rescued from child marriages and supported through mobile courts, girls supported with scholarships, girls' cases of violence reported through police, CVSUs and Ifenso platforms, girls who underwent legal literacy sessions, girls who underwent martial arts program, mentors and mentees.</p> <p>How the calculation was conducted: The estimated indirect reach calculation assumed that the areas of operation for the girls directly reached is the community and for every one girl reached directly, 5 additional people were reached indirectly through the girl. Therefore, the total direct reach for all the girls was multiplied by 5 to get the estimated indirect reach figures.</p>

<sup>13</sup> All calculations for rights holders is based on beneficiary counting guidance developed for the SI Malawi. The guidance is aimed at ensuring harmonisation in the calculation methods by all RUNOs.

Men (18 yrs. and above)	56,698	283,490	<p>The data include, Men traditional leaders, Community members attending interface and Accountability Sessions, Service providers including Police Officers, Court Clerks, magistrates, Education advisors, Head teachers, Teachers, PFA providers, CSO's, Faith community, School and community structures, Parent associations, Members of School Management Committees, barbershop tool kit groups, HeforShe champions, male champions and religious leaders.</p> <p>How the calculation was conducted: The calculation for indirect beneficiaries assumes that for any young and older men directly reached, 5 more people received the information. For each teacher or head teacher, the assumption is that an additional 72 people will be reached (based on average number of students in a school). The formula for calculating indirect beneficiaries for service providers was used counting staff from courts, CPWs, police. The total population reached covered more than the total population of the area and the assumption is that some people were reached more than once.</p>
Boys (5-17 yrs.)	229,517	1,147,585	<p>The direct includes male youths participating in E-VAWG campaigns, youth friendly health services (YFHS), Psychosocial Support, GBV SRH service referrals boys who are Role models, trainings in GBV, police outreach programs, Children's corners, out of school programs for adolescents, reported boys' cases of violence reported through police, CVSU's and Ifenso platforms, boys who participated in the Transformation Training Programme, boys who underwent legal literacy sessions, boys who underwent martial arts program, boys who were reached through barbershop toolkit, HeforShe, Male champions and boys mentorship.</p> <p>How the calculation was done The estimated indirect reach calculation assumed that the areas of operation for the boys directly reached is the community and for every boy reached directly, 5 more people were reached indirectly. Therefore, the total number of direct boy beneficiaries was multiplied by 5 to get the estimated number of indirect beneficiaries.</p>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>694,779</b>	<b>3,473,895</b>	

## Challenges & Mitigating Measures

More information on challenges and mitigating measures is further outlined in Annex B on Risk Mitigation.



**Deceleration in implementation:** With the bulk of SI's funds frontloaded to phase I, there was a natural deceleration in the pace of activities in phase II. This caused authorities to believe that the Programme's commitment had also decreased, while some even believed that the SI was phasing out. This erroneous perception was mitigated by the engagement of district authorities in IMTF meetings, where the programme's status was explained, and a clear exit strategy was jointly outlined.

**Sustaining the LNOB Principle:** Following the devaluation and the ensuing inflation, SI stakeholders struggled to reach marginalised and remote communities. Not only did the cost of fuel increase considerably, there were also extended periods during the year where fuel was entirely unavailable. Similarly, floods made some districts almost entirely inaccessible due to damage to roads and bridges. Missions had to be cancelled and/ or reduced, as stakeholders were unable to travel long distances to reach remote areas prioritised by the SI in line with the principle of reaching those furthest behind first. Finding mitigating measures proved difficult, and stakeholders simply had to make up for lost time once roads became accessible and fuel became available once more.

**Humanitarian Crises:** In 2022 Malawi faced three emergencies: polio, floods, and cholera. All SI districts were affected, though not all were affected by all 3 emergencies. These crises affected the availability of critical staff from all stakeholders (UN, GoM and CSOs), and crucially- prevented access to project sites. Local government priorities in particular shifted to address their constituent's emergency needs.

**Limited Police Capacity & Motivation to e-VaWG:** Frequent transfer of trained police officers disrupts SI supported service delivery. Advocacy efforts are ongoing to have trained officers transferred to engagements where their newly obtained skills can be utilised. The SI has also included modules on SGBV and Protection on the Basic Recruit Curriculum of the Malawi Police Training School (see pillar 4).

Moreover, Police officers are resistant to travelling to hard-to-reach areas in order to address complaints made through Safe Schools complaints boxes- citing transport problems as a justification. The program is piloting using community policing structures to lead the opening of the complaints boxes with the police providing support and quality assurance. The development of the Standard Operating Procedure for safe schools by the Malawi Police Service and the orientation of Officers in Charge and other police officers in the country are expected to institutionalize safe schools in the Malawi Police and enhance ownership.

**The effects of COVID-19-related school closure on girls:** While the SI scholarship improved access to education for girls, the closure of schools due to Covid-19 in 2021, resulted in setbacks for girls, who fell behind academically and missed opportunities for social interaction with their peers and teachers, and for psychosocial support. The returning girls received remedial support through small group tutoring and individualized self-learning to recover lost learning. Teachers also adjusted their instruction to individual students' learning needs and provided printed paper-based materials.

**School Based GBV Prevention & Response:** School platforms are an invaluable entry point for SGBV prevention and response due to the direct with girls and boys. However, there is no formal coordination system for the provision of GBV-related information and support to survivors in schools. To address this gap, the SI identified School Health and Nutrition (SHN) teachers as focal points for i) coordinating referrals with Child Protection Workers at the community level; and ii) reporting GBV matters through the District School Health and Nutrition Coordinators, who are members of the District Gender Technical Working Groups. For this system to be functional, however, roles and responsibilities of the SHN teachers must be clearly defined, particularly vis-a-vis district service providers and other stakeholders. Efforts have now been made to incorporate these elements into the Child Protection guidelines currently under development by the Education Sector (MoE).

**Community Leadership of SI Activities:** Various SI interventions experienced challenges due to unsatisfactory community leadership. In Dzaleka Refugee Camp, for instance, community leaders focused on personal benefits from the program rather than advancing the empowerment of the AGYW.

Similarly, poor management of community funds by some management committees has affected their success. In response, the UN team increased monitoring of these interventions and the involvement of relevant government personnel at the district council.

Reaching those Furthest Behind: Efforts to uphold the principle of LNOB were often thwarted due to the unavailability of key populations, whose stigmatisation and the legal framework made it difficult for this section of the community to come forward. Similarly, the absence of a database for people with disabilities meant their limited representation. The SI is lobbying district authorities to develop tools that can measure and track the inclusion of women and girls with disabilities in particular.

The additional requirement of refreshments poses a challenge to sustainability: There are concerns regarding communities' disposition to participate in activities around VaWG when refreshments are not provided. In response, the SI is engaging village saving and loan (VSL) groups where they are also making monthly contributions to cater for these expenses, in addition to establishing vegetable and other crops gardens for income generation. The programme continues to sensitize communities on its objectives and encourage communities to embrace use of local resources for continuity.

## Lessons Learned

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Registering SI supported groups/ movements with relevant district offices is key to sustaining their work and driving change. For instance, safe spaces were registered with the district youth office and ensured that they would be a key reference point for any youth work related to VaWG beyond the lifespan of the Sil. Similarly, women's movement groups should also be registered with gender officers; thus ensuring they remain primary stakeholders and influences in matters related to VaWG. Mobile Outreach Services are critical for both service delivery and behaviour change. Mobile courts, for instance, are an effective strategy for raising awareness amongst community members on the dangers and consequences of violence against women and girls. Naturally, the courts facilitate access to justice as well, however their conspicuous existence in rural communities also send a clear message to would be perpetrators that justice is available to all. Likewise, mobile GBV and SRHR services debunk erroneous perceptions by communities that VaWG is a normal part of life. Standardised data collection enhances coordination and lessens the burden on survivors: Bringing together service providers as data collectors has provided an important platform for coordination and can ease the stress on survivors that comes from having to repeat their traumatic story to several different service providers. A strong multi-lateral technical governance structure may be the foundation for a successful National Steering Committee: The SI team focused much of its attention on operationalising an National Steering Committee (NSC), before ensuring a solid foundation for it's governance at the technical level. Rather than start with the establishment of an NSC, the SI Malawi may have had greater success had it started

with a high-level technical coordination structure. In the case of Malawi, having the head of the RUNO tasked with technical coherence (UN Women) co-lead an Inter-Ministerial Task Force with the Permanent Secretary for the line Ministry (MoGCDSW) from the onset would have been a strategic starting point. The co-leads in turn could have then galvanised high level support and participation in the NSC.

## New Opportunities

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The collaborative drafting of an exit strategy enhances national and local ownership: The SI team engaged both national and local authorities in determining how activities would be sustained beyond the Programme's closure. This has promoted ownership and encourage authorities to prioritise which activities should be sustained either through government budgets, or by bringing on board other actors for the sake of continuity. The drafting process also left no doubts as to the SI's closure, thereby providing authorities with ample time to prepare to fill remaining gaps.

The NSO Data Observatory Hub is a vital platform to strengthen coordination and enhance efficiencies in the response to VaWG based on evidence: If the Hub continues to convene key actors to discuss the



data, and disseminates the information in a strategic manner, it will ensure that all VaWG actors are working from the same perspective. This in turn, will lead to clearly outlined roles and responsibilities and a highly coordinated sector response.

Greater ownership of school-based complaints boxes and mindset change by the Malawi Police Service and Ministry of Education are essential. Using community policing structures and integrating safe school activities into the normal activities of the police and the Ministry of Education will enhance sustainability considerably.

A recent joint mapping of high impact SI interventions provide the basis for joint resource mobilisation efforts. In 2022 the SI team sat together and outlined which activities should be prioritised for continuation beyond the SI. The team agreed that the complementarity of these activities and their RUNO implementers are a key factor in their success, and have agreed to rally under the Resident Coordinator and raise funds for a successor programme.

## **Good, Innovative and Promising Practices**

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The below practices are only briefly outlined below; for further information about the results achieved, please see Annex D.

### **A. Good Practices**

#### **i. Unified National SGBV Observatory Hub**

The SGBV Observatory Hub is a unified digitalized system that collects SGBV relevant data. As a digital system, it unifies and standardizes data from various stakeholders such as the police, judiciary and social welfare, amongst others.

The SGBV Observatory Hub has drawn commitments of key justice and social services sectors under the SI and aligns existing information and data platforms, such as the Kuwala Platform and Ministry of Gender GBVMIS. This enables users to develop reports with data disaggregated by location, disability status, literacy level, and other categories and to improve information sharing across sectors at various levels.

#### **ii. Community and Survivor Fund Initiative**

The Community Fund addresses the long travel distances which often prevent women and girls with low to no income to access quality integrated SRHR and SGBV services. The fund also has a special focus on strengthening the provision of the essential services package and on awareness raising to create a demand of women and girls for service provision and accountability, with the aim that they are informed and empowered to exercise their rights.

The Survivor Fund supports Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) who have experienced SGBV with women's economic empowerment (WEE) activities. The fund supports survivors to engage in economic activities towards their long-term recovery and social reintegration in the community.

Management of the funds is facilitated through existing community committees at each TA and linked to structures of the ADCs. The committees also oversee the revolving fund intervention.

### **B. Innovative Practices**

#### **iii. Zayela Digital Finance Program**

The 'Zayela Digital Finance Program' for survivors of SGBV is a gender transformative, SGBV risk mitigation and recovery program that seeks to strengthen women's economic empowerment opportunities through digital finance.

Many women still face challenges in accessing financial services. The reasons are multifaceted, such as a lack of identification documents, mobile phones, digital skills, financial capabilities. To improve access to financial services of survivors of SGBV the

Zayela programme uses model digital financial products and services to accelerate the financial inclusion of women and girls. The initiative has empowered the women and girls economically and socially. They are now better placed to prevent and respond to SGBV through conducting of sensitization, awareness, and advocacy campaigns within their communities.

### **C. Promising Practices**

#### **iv. Ensuring Sustainability and Responsible Handover as part of Programme Closure**

The Malawi SI Sustainability Strategy was developed following a series of in-depth community-based consultations dedicated to the topic of sustainability. The process is a promising practice because of the highly participatory approach employed that ensured ownership by both communities and district and national authorities.

Based on the sustainability strategy, an exit strategy was developed in collaboration with district and national authorities, as well as representatives of the CSNRG. The exit strategy takes the form of a results framework, with milestones and timelines, so as to guide the specificities of handing over/phasing out of the SI Programme. For more information, refer to the chapter on sustainability.

## **Communications and Visibility**

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### **a) Overview**

Overall, the SI reached 7.6million people through national radio shows and community radio stations and another 11.7 million people through television. Special content for different formats was developed to promote behaviour change and increase visibility of the SI and its interventions at all levels.

#### **Objective 1.1: To raise awareness on VAWG**

The programme worked with a private media company to raise awareness on e-VaWG. This included the promotion of positive masculinities in the framework of the HeforShe Campaign in the 6 SI districts, including creative arts, music festivals, mobile theatre, sports tournaments, and road shows. To enhance the role of activists in E-VaWG during the 16 days of activism to end GBV, the SI supported 16 community-based activists to share their stories and foster activism across all wakes of society. The 16 activists were interviewed for 15-20 minutes on community and national radio stations. The SI furthermore supported the national launch of 16 days of Activism, as well as 16 Days of Activism commemorations in all SI districts.

#### **Objective 1.2: To illustrate and promote the impact and results of SI interventions**

The SI organised a high-level handover ceremony of a girls' hostel constructed under the SI. The hostels were built to support girls' education as a preventative measure against SGBV and HPs, in particular child marriage and teenage pregnancies. To maximize visibility during the visit, the programme engaged five media houses resulting in 15 published articles in print, electronic and online media. Similarly, the Observatory Hub was launched during the year, thus promoting the SI's achievements around data and information<sup>15</sup>. The handover ceremony of motorbikes and bicycles was another important occasion to showcase the SI's efforts to ensure service provision in remote and rural areas<sup>16</sup>. Senior officials from Government, EU, and the UN graced all events, thereby elevating visibility of SI's work.

#### **Objective 1.3: To provide communication for development support to strengthen SI's programme implementation**

In 2022, the SI made concerted efforts to ensure SGBV survivor centered reporting by the media. Sixty-three participants (26 women, 37 men), including journalists, Police PROs, representatives of the Ministry of Information, MoGCDSW, and CSOs were trained to report news stories using a survivor centred approach. The training formed the basis for the development of a Media Handbook for SGBV

Survivor Centred Reporting, that promotes gender equality and social behaviour change. As part of the International Women's Day (IWD) celebrations, the SI also organised a high-level media networking event, that reiterated the role of the media to drive social norms change, towards the e-VaWG

#### **Objective 1.4: To ensure visibility for the Spotlight Initiative, its donors, and partners**

In 2022, the Malawi SI team published the third edition of the SI Newsletter, which was widely disseminated through the UN Malawi website and Reliefweb- a site accessed by 15 million users. The newsletter highlighted SI best practices around ending VaWG in Malawi and featured various success stories. SI Visibility materials (t-shirts, wrappers, mugs, pens, totes) were distributed to communities and key stakeholders. A documentary on the SI's work with judiciary was produced and aired on YouTube. Over 50 news products about the SI were published/ aired on national newspapers, radio, television, international websites, Twitter, Facebook and YouTube.

#### **b) Messages**

During the reporting period, the SI used findings from its regular community consultations to define the key messages around E-VaWG. Male Engagement, the role of the Media in E-VaWG, and ensuring access to girl's education as a strategy against child marriage came out strongly during these consultations:

**Message 1:** Men and boys are allies in the fight against VaWG; Men and boys engage!

Target Audience: Men and Boys, male community leaders

**Message 2:** Girls' education is a right, when girls stay in school they live healthy prosperous lives and contribute to their communities

Target Audience: Traditional and Community Leaders, girls and parents of girls

**Message 3:** The Media is a powerful ally in driving social behaviour change and gender equality; their reports can increase or reduce incidents of violence

Target Audience: Media actors

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

Launch of the NSO Data Observatory Hub: The SGBV data observatory hub developed under pillar 5 of the SI was officially launched during the year. The Hub tracks incident data on SGBV, SRHR and HPs. The event was attended by the EU, the UN, the Judiciary, Ministry of Gender Officials and development partners and other stakeholders<sup>14</sup>.

**Validation of SGBV Guidelines for traditional leaders:** Following the development of the Chief's policy, guidelines to inform the operationalization of traditional leaders across the country were developed and validated by traditional leaders, Government and Civil Society Organizations<sup>15</sup>.

**Launch of girl's hostels:** This high-level event (described above) was attended by the EU ambassador, UN RC a.i, Recipient United Nations Organisation (RUNO), Heads of Agencies (HoAs), Minister of Gender and senior officials from the MoE<sup>16</sup>.

**Networking event for the media:** This event was part of the IWD commemorations and raised awareness on the role of the media and Police in e-VaWG. The event was a platform for high-level delegates and the media to deliberate on how the media and Police PROs can transform harmful attitudes and behaviours. The event was attended by the Minister of Information, Deputy Minister of Gender, EU Ambassador, UN RC, RUNO HoAs and various media houses.

**National Launch of 16 Days of Activism:** The National launch was attended by the Minister of Gender,

<sup>14</sup> <https://mwnation.com/nso-launches-gbv-national-hub/>

<sup>15</sup> <https://rb.gy/cqeiwl>

<sup>16</sup> [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ES4aCBMUM6g-ZVlyRG\\_9\\_Yo-iIQ0Dth](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ES4aCBMUM6g-ZVlyRG_9_Yo-iIQ0Dth)

the UN Resident Coordinator, RUNO HoAs, development partners and other stakeholders. The launch was widely covered by radio and national television.

**District Level Launches of 16 Days of Activism:** Among the 6 district launches supported by the SI, the event in Dowa District was attended by the Speaker of Parliament and Deputy Minister of Local Government and widely covered by the media<sup>17</sup>.

**Handover of motorbikes:** The SI enhanced access to services for survivors of violence living in remote and hard to reach areas by providing key service providers with motorbikes. The event was attended by the Minister of Gender, Inspector General of Police, EU Ambassador, UN and the media<sup>18</sup>.

#### **d) Campaigns**

##### **16 Days of Activism against GBV campaign**

As part of the 16 days of Activism against GBV, the SI supported the national launch, 6 district launches (including community marches and sports tournaments), and carried out the handover ceremony of the Girls' Hostel (mentioned above). The national launch is particularly important because it is used as an opportunity for stakeholders to lobby for action from policy makers, decision makers and duty bearers to ramp up their efforts to E-VaWG.

##### **16 Days 16 Activists Campaign**

Under the localised theme "UNITE! Activism to end gender based violence"!, The SI engaged 16 community-based activists who shared their stories about how they have supported their communities to end VaWG throughout the 16 days. The 16 activists were interviewed for 15-20 minutes on community and national radio in support of grassroots activism, and in order to promote their work and elevate their voices at community level. On the day of persons with disabilities, a woman activist with disabilities gave her interview, a woman survivor living with HIV Aids spoke on World AIDS Day, while on International Human Rights Day the renowned High Court Judge Justice Fiona Mwale gave an interview on national radio<sup>19</sup>.

##### **Inter-Generational Women's Dialogue**

As part of the 16 Days of Activism against GBV campaign, the SI mobilized female university students to stimulate activism in other girls and women, motivate their involvement in movements and promote feminist civic participation and leadership. Eighty students from the biggest three universities in the northern region led the campaign. As an outcome of the dialogue, various women's groups developed action plans on transitioning from groups to movements in their communities<sup>20</sup>.

##### **HeForShe Campaign:**

The campaign raised awareness and promote positive masculinities, Sexual Reproductive Health Rights in fighting against violence against women and girls in the 6 SI districts. The campaign was done through Creative Arts on HeForShe messages and animations, music festivals, mobile theatre, sports tournaments, and the HeForShe sponsorship song. Approximately 124,606 community members were reached directly through the campaign. Below is one of the photos taken during the campaign.

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

##### **Mobilizing men and boys using the HeForShe Barbershop toolbox.**

Rajab was a witness to gender inequality and the discrimination of women throughout his life. With

17 [https://web.facebook.com/GENETMalawi/posts/happening-nowtoday-we-are-in-dowa-district-where-in-partnership-with-the-district/5646608712087564/?\\_rdc=1&\\_rdr](https://web.facebook.com/GENETMalawi/posts/happening-nowtoday-we-are-in-dowa-district-where-in-partnership-with-the-district/5646608712087564/?_rdc=1&_rdr)

18 <https://www.nyasatimes.com/unfpa-hands-over-k232m-worth-of-motorbikes-to-malawi/> ; <https://malawi24.com/2022/09/01/unfpa-hands-over-120-motorcycles-to-malawi-govt/>

19 Profiles of activists included women's rights activists, female sex workers, survivors, male champions, women with disabilities, woman living with HIV-AIDS, traditional leaders, students, mentor, religious leaders, academics, members of the Judiciary, President of the Association of Women in Media.

20 Women unite against GBV | The Nation Online ([mwnation.com](http://mwnation.com))

support from the SI barbershop kit and training, Rajab started an e-VaWG football group that promotes positive masculinities. <https://malawi.un.org/en/221404-words-rajab-simeon-it-shocking-realize-how-we-normalized-violence-against-women-and-girls>

### **Bringing hope to gender based violence survivors**

The Community Victim Support Units (CVSUs) was the safe haven that Anna Salima needed after experiencing SGBV in her second marriage. With nowhere else to go, the CVSU provided her with immediate support and directed her to other services such as health services and access to justice. <https://malawi.unfpa.org/en/news/bringing-hope-gender-based-violence-survivors>

### **Championing girls' education**

A village headman's commitment, coupled with training by the SI, contributes to changes and progress to e-VaWG and HP at the community level. "I had to go against some deeply held traditions to persuade my people to see girls needed access to education just like boys," he says, sharing his journey to promote education of the girl child in his community. <https://malawi.unfpa.org/en/news/village-headman-champions-girls-education-0>

### **Christina returns to school despite having a baby**

Becoming a nurse, that was Christina's goal, but when she became pregnant, that goal seemed out of reach. She found hope when she learned about the SI Scholarship Program, which supports girls to return to school. Through the support received Christina was able to continue with their education, getting close to her dream of becoming a nurse. Christina returns to school despite having a baby | UNICEF Malawi

### **Making shelters safer for women and girls through 'safe spaces'**

Safe spaces provide a safe place for women and girls in Tengani Evacuation Camp. "Through the 'safe spaces', we are now aware of all types of gender-based violence," says 19-year-old Sarai, adding, "Even the men around the camp know that if they try to abuse us, in any way, we can report them to the police." The situation for people in Tengani Evacuation Camp has been desperate when another tropical storm hit, destroying the tents and shelters of those who had already lost their homes during a previous storm. The situation required more security, especially for women and girls and their heightened risk of SGBV. <https://malawi.unfpa.org/en/news/making-shelters-safer-women-and-girls-through-%E2%80%98safe-spaces%E2%80%99>

### **A data observatory hub is transforming ERAW programming**

VAWG data is essential to help with programming and inform policies related to violence against women and girls. The National Observatory Hub is the first data repository developed in Malawi that collects VAWG data that is consolidated at the district level from different sectors including the CVSUs and VSUs at the community level. The system tracks real-time gender-based violence cases, and is ensuring timely support to cases and supporting evidence-based decision making. <https://bit.ly/3Zqm7Sj>

Traditional Authorities are helping to eliminate child marriage and get girls back to school "There is a big change in my area as far as fighting gender-based violence is concerned," says Chief Mazinga. "The chiefs' forums track the girls in the schools they are sent back to [after their marriage is dissolved], to ensure that they are really back in school." As custodians of culture, traditional leaders have played a key role in ensuring that child marriages are criminalized. <https://bit.ly/3krpeLa>

## f) Testimonials:



John Chanda, Area  
Development Committee  
Chairperson, Timbiri



We did not understand the link between GBV and development in our area, but since the introduction of the SI, we are now able to distinguish the link between the two. We have created bylaws that protect women & girls in our area.



Marshal, Ngoma,  
Headmaster, Kande Catholic  
Primary School Fukamapiri



The parents in the villages have really understood the importance of safe schools. SI kicked the stone that school is important



Deborah John, Menree,  
machinga



Safe space has given me the strength and confidence to stand for the rights when they are violated, and it has improved my self-esteem







Isaac Mkandawire, Former  
DPD, Nkhata-bay



Coordination and good leadership in the implementation of SI in Nkhata Bay played a big role in the successful delivery of the project. All key GBV players and the entities at both district and community levels were working as a team led by respective gender technical working groups.



Marie Mtimabii, Member  
Coalition of Women Living  
with HIV and Aids, Nsanje



With the coming of spotlight Initiative we have been reminded once again that we are human beings too and deserve equal rights just like any other person. We are now more empowered and shall continue to fight what rightfully belongs to us.





## g) Photos



Traditional leaders and members of the Community Victims Support Unit (Chief's forum) during a planning meeting at T/A Nthondo in Ntchisi: Picture taken by Limbani Ngwata



A Child Protection worker in Nkhatabay district recording a defilement case on a tablet, which has helped CPWs to migrate from paper based to digital data collection processes: Picture take by Limbani Ngwata





Nkhata-bay Gender Officer Wyson Bonongwe showcasing the district mini-hub, which collects and consolidates data at the district level before it is sent to the national hub: Picture taken by Limbani Ngwata



Women's group in T/A Malumo, Ntchisi, Picture taken by NOYD (SI IP)

**h) Videos:** please include active links to any videos that have been produced during the reporting period, including any that document the contributions/results of Spotlight, here in the narrative. Please then submit the videos themselves via the VIDEO SUBMISSION PLATFORM

## **Sustainability**

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There are 5 primary components of the SI Malawi Sustainability Strategy, developed in 2021:

### **1. Capacity Building of District Officers**

Ensuring strong institutional capacity to respond to VaWG is critical. In some instances, capacity building has been integrated into relevant institutions' teaching curriculum, for instance, the Essential Services Package and forensics trainings. The placing of district coordinators and GBV services officers in district authorities will ensure smooth transition of the interventions to the district councils.

### **2. Increased Budgetary Allocation to VaWG**

An important component under pillar 2 (institutional strengthening) has been gender responsive budgeting. The programme has facilitated the development of indicators to track the inclusion of GBV in Minimum data requirements for Socio Economic Profiles and the District Development Plans. These plans will be implemented for the next 3-5 years, and the enhanced capacity of district officials, as well as the availability of tools to ensure that plans are gender transformative and disability sensitive- will support the development of subsequent gender/ disability responsive plans.

### **3. Strengthening Local Structures & Mechanisms**

The SI ensures that relevant government institutions and departments take the lead on SI activities, which will be key for the transition. All key coordination mechanisms and community-based structures related to E-VaWG are effective, functional and ready to be handed over to the authorities- both formal and informal. The structures include local Gender Technical Working Groups, Chief's Forums, Area and Village Development Committees, Safe Space Mentorship, women's assemblies, and more.

### **4. Survivor and Women Economic Empowerment**

Linkages between GBV and poverty are clear, as many women experiencing abuse have raised the impossibility of leaving abusive partners because of their financial dependence on them. Empowering women to challenge harmful social norms can only be sustained if the women are economically empowered. Income Generating Activities (e.g. survivor and community funds, WEE activities) are therefore highly relevant to sustaining behaviour changes achieved under the SI.

### **5. Transforming Harmful Social Norms: Male Engagement**

Considering that most VaWG is perpetrated by men and boys, it is of vital importance that men and boys are engaged as champions of gender equality and e-VaWG. The engagement of high-level men, such as traditional and religious leaders is a key approach to driving and sustaining behaviour change. Their commitment and leadership by example has resulted in the reduction of many harmful practices, and it is expected that they will continue to do this work in their communities. Their work will be facilitated by the Chiefs Act and Chiefs Policy, which mandate their role in e-VaWG.

The sustainability strategy was developed following a series of in-depth community-based consultations dedicated to the topic of sustainability. Community voices and perspectives were carefully considered, along with recommendations from national and district authorities.

Based on the sustainability strategy, in November 2022 an exit strategy was developed in collaboration with district and national authorities, as well as representatives of the CSNRG. The exit strategy takes the form of a results framework, with milestones and timelines, so as to guide the specificities of handing over/ phasing out of the SI Programme.

Thus far, the EUD has allocated EUR 12 million for the continuation of selected high impact SI activities.

## Next Steps

The SI Malawi is expected to phase out by July 2023. Between January and July 2023, the Programme will focus on finalising outstanding activities and implementation of the jointly developed exit strategy (as mentioned under sustainability).

Additional areas of focus in the coming months are also highlighted below for each pillar.

### Pillar 1

- Finalise the amendment for the prioritised 4 Laws and 2 Policies and advocate for their adoption by Parliament
- Undertake 2 strategic public interest litigation cases

### Pillar 2

- Provide technical support to chief's forums to monitor the implementation of SGBV/HP and SRHR by-laws, policies, and support community-based responses to VaWG
- Disseminate knowledge materials to key stakeholders on gender related laws (GRLs), Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB), prioritised policies developed under SI and related guidelines
- Finalise the Chief's Policy for Cabinet approval
- Finalise the development of Malawi Police Service Gender and anti-sexual harassment policy
- Finalise the development and validation of DNA guidelines

### Pillar 3

- Track and follow-up on progress of SI scholarship beneficiaries
- Develop a monitoring tool to assist MPS / teachers follow up on complaints boxes (Safe Schools intervention)
- Disseminate and operationalise the male engagement strategy.
- Tracking and follow-up of mentees who graduated from safe spaces and review meetings with Mentors on sustainability activities.

### Pillar 4

- Intensify Service providers meetings and
- Print and disseminate the revised ESP scorecard and handbook,
- Develop SOPs for community and survivor funds,
- Print and disseminate SGBV guidelines, GBV registers and One Stop Centre guidelines to community stakeholders.
- Continued providing legal aid services and mobile court services
- Advocate for allocation of funds to mobile courts within the courts' budget
- Continued support to WEE beneficiaries of startup capital and assets, including linking beneficiaries to financial institutions

### Pillar 5

- Develop data and information sharing protocols for the Data observatory hub.
- Roll out SGBV integrated case management system for police, Judiciary and Observatory hub to regional level
- Capacity of Child Protection Workers as data collectors for Observatory Hubs
- Finalize the installation of the Judiciary and Police case management systems
- Handover Rapid-Pro to the NSO.
- Develop an Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Kuwala roles and responsibilities among partners.

### Pillar 6

- Provide capacity building for women's movements in leadership, advocacy and negotiation skills
- Facilitate linkage of women movements to financial services
- Programme Coordination

- Convene Inter-Ministerial Task Force meeting.
- Convene Steering Committee to discuss: i) sustainability and exit strategy; ii) resource mobilisation/ phase III plans, iii) programme phase out and handover
- M&E/ Knowledge Management
- Continued quarterly joint monitoring exercises & data collection on key results.
- Monitoring and reporting against SI exit strategy
- Communication and Visibility
- Finalize the development, launch and dissemination of a Media Handbook SGBV Survivor Sensitive Reporting.
- Conduct SI Closure Event
- Develop communications materials highlighting good practices and lessons learned as part of SI closure



## **Annexes**

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**Annex A:** [Results Framework](#)

**Annex B:** [Risk Mitigation Matrix](#)

**Annex C:** [CSO Engagement Report](#)

**Annex D:** [Innovative, Promising, and Good Practices](#)

**Annex E:** [2023 Annual Work Plan & Budget](#)





# Spotlight Initiative

To eliminate violence against women and girls

Initiated by the European Union and the United Nations

