UN Spotlight Initiative

Global Platform Project Document

Project Title: **Spotlight Initiative Global Platform**	**Recipient UN Organization(s):** UN WOMEN
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	Project Location: Global, United Nations.
Project Description: The UN and the EU propose to develop the **Spotlight Initiative Global Platform**, a virtual exchange and convening platform that would offer the combined power of a knowledge hub, a community of practice and an advocacy platform, founded in the practical experience of the Spotlight Initiative's 25+ programmes The Global Platform will also **connect and strengthen a coalition of key actors** from the UN, EU, civil society, donors, private sector, practitioners, academia, and others, as well as create direct links between local, grassroots civil society with duty bearers, moving beyond the Initiative's current stakeholders to engage the wider global community for increased decision-making power and impact on ending violence against women and girls.	<mark>**Total Direct Cost 2021-2024**</mark> **Spotlight Initiative:** $927, 837.00 **UN Women:** $927, 837.00
	Project Start Date: 13 April 2021 <mark>**Project End Date:** 30th April 2024</mark>
<mark>**Purpose of this update:** The programme document has been revised to extend the timeline of the project and to reflect a revised budget to account for year 2024.</mark>	

1 Executive Summary

Halfway through its implementation period and to maximize lessons learnt, promising and good practices and new alliances created through the Initiative, the UN and the EU propose to develop the **Spotlight Initiative Global Platform**, a virtual exchange and convening platform that would offer the combined power of a knowledge hub, a community of practice and an advocacy platform, founded in the practical experience of the Spotlight Initiative's 25+ programmes.

With wide reach across 5 regions and actors from government to civil society, the Spotlight Initiative is uniquely placed to advocate at the global level and advance efforts as well as build alliances to facilitate change in the structures, attitudes, and behaviors that enable violence. The knowledge showcased and generated through the UN-EU Spotlight Initiative-led Global Platform will also play a critical role in advancing the GBV Action Coalition as well as provide insights in order to advance discussion within the newly set up Group of Friends for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls framework.

Focusing primarily on knowledge exchange and production as a main output including a technical 'self-starter' package to be developed for countries interested in implementing the Spotlight Initiative-inspired comprehensive approach to address gender-based violence.at a later stage (and pending funding availability, through discussions with the donor) a second output will be considered under the framework of the Global Platform in support of "self-starter" countries.

The Global Platform will be implemented in close consultation with, and will serve, the UN, European Union, academia, the private sector, governments, civil society (including civil society reference groups) and women's rights and feminist organizations, particularly those at local and grassroots levels. Given the diversity of stakeholders the platform will engage with, special attention will be paid to ensuring it can meet the different needs of stakeholders. Practically, this could look like having distinct entry points or tailoring sections of the platform to specific stakeholders. Methods for incentivizing stakeholders to engage with the platform will be adapted accordingly and barriers to accessing the platform will be addressed. Furthermore, feedback from key partners and stakeholders will be continuously solicited in order to modify and improve the platform for all.

The purpose of the Global Platform is to 1) amplify knowledge, lessons, and promising/good practices from the Initiative to inform global policy, programming, and advocacy on EVAWG, and model comprehensive programming, and 2) connect and strengthen a coalition of key stakeholders, including by connecting local, grassroots society with duty bearers for increased advocacy and impact. This will be done both through knowledge platform and global/regional convening spaces. The functionality of the knowledge platform is two-fold: it will a) increase accessibility to existing platforms relevant to EVAWG (and those in development) by creating direct links to these platforms through a centralized space, and b) capture, analyse and upstream the wealth of knowledge that has been generated specifically from Spotlight Initiative implementation, which will be used to inform effective programming and policies on EVAWG across the globe. The Global Platform will analyse and amplify the wealth of knowledge, lessons learned and good practices from the Spotlight Initiative for wider impact beyond existing Spotlight Initiative stakeholders. Broadly, this will be done through

engagement on the virtual platform, multi-stakeholder knowledge exchanges, knowledge production, outreach and visibility efforts, and upstreaming curated knowledge.

The Global Platform will serve as a one-stop-shop for resources and tools on EVAWG developed under the Spotlight Initiative, such as global guidance and knowledge products from across regional and country programmes, as well as create linkages and direct traffic to other platforms relevant to EVAWG. Furthermore, a primary function of the Global Platform is to have community engagement spaces, such as targeted online communities of practice as well as broader convenings and exchanges across stakeholders and networks. The knowledge generated from these community engagement spaces will feed into further knowledge production and inform the uptake of knowledge. Knowledge production will include a comprehensive technical package on EVAWG, which will serve as a practical 'how-to' on implementing comprehensive EVAWG programming informed by the lessons learned, promising/good practices and knowledge generated from Spotlight Initiative implementation. Knowledge generated through the Global Platform will also inform the technical package. Furthermore, the technical package will provide access to other platforms and resources on EVAWG as relevant, such as including linkages to UN Women's EVAW Knowledge Hub and evidence-based knowledge product initiatives from other UN agencies.

To support accessibility and inclusivity for a range of stakeholders, the virtual platform will be available in multiple languages. Efforts will be made to make resources available in multiple languages based on budget availability.

 Sustainability of the Global Platform is critical, and measures are being taken to ensure knowledge from the Global Platform will be embedded in existing structures. In particular, a partnership with the UN Trust Fund on EVAW's **Global Online Collaboration Platform** will be formed for a joint online platform given the shared objectives of the two platforms, to maximize resources and strengthen the sustainability of these efforts.

 Global Reference Group

Throughout the Spotlight Initiative, civil society is systematically engaged at national, regional and global levels through the partnership with Civil Society Reference Groups. The Reference Groups represent civil society at the governance and decision-making bodies of the Initiative and serve a triple mandate: aims to advise the Initiative, to advocate for the realization of its objectives and to hold the Initiative accountable for its commitments. At the Global level, the Civil Society Reference Group is comprised of 20 diverse members, selected by a civil society-led selection committee in April 2019.

The Global Reference Group (GRG) has, since its establishment, been instrumental in providing guidance to the Secretariat and support to national and regional reference groups. The GRG has rolled out the civil society monitoring toolkit, adopted an advocacy strategy and set up a global focal points system. Since 2021, the group has also hired coordinator(s) to support the implementation of its work plan.

Through the Global Platform, the GRG will be supported to undertake critical work including supporting national and regional reference groups with the development of advocacy scorecards; advocating for continued funding for the Initiative in existing and new countries and the decolonization of funding to CSOs; and continue supporting a robust and coordinated reference group system

The work undertaken through the Global Platform will be assessed as part of the Spotlight Initiative end line evaluation.

2 Situation Analysis: Background

The European Union-United Nations Spotlight Initiative to Eliminate Violence Against Women and Girls is the largest ever global effort to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls. Designed as a model of coordination, comprehensive programme delivery and multi-stakeholder ownership, the Initiative is delivering results on one of the most egregious human rights and security challenges globally through comprehensive responses and a focus on prevention, sustainability, and transformative impacts at all levels.

With a strategic vision to uproot the drivers of violence, this Initiative has presented an opportunity to disrupt the status quo in traditional development work and engage women and girls in designing their own futures free of violence. Since its inception, the Spotlight Initiative has fostered a unique space to experiment with new ways of delivering development assistance within the United Nations and with partners, national governments, and civil society, all while working in full partnership with the European Union and donor partners. This has included establishing lines of accountability for programme delivery within UN Resident Coordinator offices, centering civil society to define and monitor Spotlight Initiative development and delivery and putting in place structures for recipient United Nations organizations to move beyond coordination to engage in fully integrated programming.

Efforts to end violence against women and girls have been fragmented across entities, contexts, individual actors. The issue has been further siloed into distinct sub-sectors targeting specific forms of violence - from women, peace and security and women's political inclusion; to humanitarian deployment and conflict-related sexual violence; to counter-terrorism efforts and trafficking of women and girls; to prevention efforts associated with long-term development. There is a critical need to approach all forms of violence against women and girls as multi-dimensional and interconnected. The lack of a coherent, coordinated response to the increase in violence against women and girls during the COVID-19 pandemic has starkly exposed these divisions.

Thus, implementation of the Spotlight Initiative in over 25 countries across 5 regions has generated a wealth of knowledge, lessons and good practices that are well positioned to be modeled widely

and to drive global advocacy., The Spotlight Initiative with its partnership and access to decision-makers at the highest levels, it's wealth of knowledge and lessons generated as well as its wide reach across regions and actors, the Initiative is also uniquely placed to advocate at the global level and advance efforts to facilitate change in the structures, attitudes, and behaviours that enable violence. It is also universally recognized that violence against women and girls exists in every region, country, and society. Therefore, as a model for comprehensive EVAWG programming, it will be particularly critical to share the wealth of knowledge and lessons generated from the Spotlight Initiative to net contributing countries for increased global impact and sustainability. There is also growing interest for others outside of Spotlight Initiative countries to be included as self-starters, replicating the Spotlight Initiative Model and hence producing a how-to technical package from the Spotlight Initiative implementation that will address this need is critical.

Furthermore, platforms and resources on EVAWG are also siloed. A mapping conducted of EVAWG knowledge sharing platforms (which will continuously be expanded) has shown that there is not one centralized space through which other platforms on EVAWG can be accessed. The Global Platform will continue to further this aim by allowing stakeholders to come to a centralized space through which the multitude of existing platforms, resources and tools will be made accessible. This will be updated as others are developed. There will be direct links to access other EVAWG platforms, such as UN Women's Virtual Knowledge Centre/EVAW Knowledge Hub, UNTF's Global Online Collaboration Platform on EVAWG, WPHF's Global Community of Practice, and others. Linkages will be made on a continuous basis with UN Women's platforms, tools and resources on EVAWG.

Political Momentum

Secretary General's Call for Peace in the Home

Earlier this year, 146 Member States signed onto the Secretary-General's global appeal for 'peace in the home' – a rare acknowledgment of the scope of the problem and an opportunity to mobilize needed political will to more emphatically address the issue. This effort has already resulted in 488 recorded policy measures that have been enacted by governments worldwide in response to the escalation of violence against women[1]. Furthermore, a system-wide Political Engagement Strategy on addressing gender-based violence in the context of COVID-19 offers a blueprint for holistic action that maximises the opportunities presented to more robustly address the pervasive violence. It is a defining moment to seize this momentum and garner the support of key influencers and decision-makers to mobilize citizens globally to end violence against women and girls.

Generation Equality GBV Action Coalition

Furthermore, the 25th anniversary commemoration of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 2020, which centers around the UN Women-led Generation Equality campaign, seeks to mobilize action to achieve the human rights of all women and girls. Co-led by the European Union, the Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Action Coalition within Generation Equality identifies a set of

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[1] *COVID-19 Global Gender Response Tracker*. UNDP and UN Women, August 2020.
https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/covid-19-gender-dashboard.html

actions that will define the development sector's orientation to addressing gender-based violence in service to achievement of Beijing's goals. The UN-EU Spotlight Initiative-led Global Platform will play a critical role in advancing the GBV Action Coalition and will further coalesce learning from the Initiatives two-years of programming to catalyze the use of comprehensive approaches to address EVAWG at a global scale.

Group of Friends for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls

The Group of Friends collaborates in support of the Spotlight Initiative, aiming to sustain its gains in delivering the Sustainable Development Goals, the UN development system reforms, and the goal of gender equality and an end to all forms of violence against women and girls. The Group of Friends ensures strategic connections to, promotion of, and follow-up to the Secretary-General's global appeal on gender-based violence in the context of COVID-19 and the Generation Equality Forum's Action Coalition on Gender-Based Violence. The Group of Friends will expand its high-level membership across all UN Member States and Observers with an interest in ending violence against women and girls, relevant UN agencies and other stakeholders of crucial interest.

The Global Platform will capitalize on the advocacy, initiatives and overall political will and momentum of the Group of Friends. Members of the Group of Friends will use their respective spheres of influence to open up advocacy opportunities; support the mobilization of additional funding; provide a forum to bring together expertise and share lessons learned; improve cooperation and coordination amongst different actors; and support the work of Spotlight Initiative**.** This provides a key entry point to link local civil society actors with members of the Group of Friends under the Global Platform.

3   Justification

Global Platform

Spotlight Initiative is uniquely placed to leverage existing partnerships, stakeholders, country programmes and best practices, as well as the current moment and increased awareness on violence against women and opportunities to engage in new conversations. In order to maximize on these lessons learnt/good practices and new alliances created through the Initiative, the UN and the EU propose to develop a knowledge exchange platform.

Implementation of the Spotlight Initiative in over 25 countries across 5 regions with a multiplicity of partners - from grassroots communities to governments at the highest levels – has generated a wealth of knowledge, lessons and good practices that are well positioned to be modeled   widely and to drive global advocacy. With its partnership and access to decision-makers at the highest levels, as well as its wide reach across regions and actors, the Initiative is uniquely placed to advocate at the global level and advance efforts to facilitate change in the structures, attitudes, and behaviours that enable violence. It is also universally recognized that violence against women and girls exists in every region, country, and society. Therefore, as a model for comprehensive EVAWG programming, it will be particularly critical to share the wealth of knowledge and lessons generated from the Spotlight Initiative to net contributing countries for increased global impact and sustainability. There is also

growing interest for others outside of Spotlight Initiative countries to learn from and carry forward the lessons and good practices of comprehensive EVAWG programming from the Spotlight Initiative. As countries express interest in piloting comprehensive EVAWG programming, such as being included as self-starters in the future and replicating the Spotlight Initiative model of programming, the knowledge, resources, and tools coalesced and produced through the Global Platform – such as the technical package - can directly support and inform this work.

Furthermore, to support the uptake of knowledge from the Spotlight Initiative, practice-based knowledge production under the Spotlight Initiative and through the Global Platform will be used to inform/feed into global-level policy discussions, such as side events of the UN General Assembly, Commission on the Status of Women, and/or in other events and negotiations to further promote and support comprehensive approaches to EVAWG, following the Spotlight Initiative model. In collaboration with partners and stakeholders, strategies for the effective uptake of knowledge across contexts will be explored.

Thus, the Spotlight Initiative Global Platform would offer the combined power of a knowledge hub, a community of practice and an advocacy platform, founded in the practical experience of the Spotlight Initiative's 25+ programmes and a coalition of diverse stakeholders, such as UN Country Teams, civil society organizations, Governments, researchers and non-traditional partners to connect and form coalitions around areas of action through communities of practice, knowledge exchanges and convenings. A risk mitigation strategy will be developed for the safety of civil society through engagement with the platform, as well as on data security. This would strengthen strategic partnerships with other country partners beyond the current scope of the Initiative and through documented evidence, would demonstrate to a wider audience the value-add of the Spotlight Initiative to catalyze comprehensive efforts to end violence against women and girls. Building on the existing evidence base, the unique documentation, analysis and amplification of lessons and good practices from the unprecedented investment in the Spotlight Initiative will meaningfully contribute to the global evidence-base on EVAWG and its particular convening power across stakeholders and networks at multiple levels will strengthen cooperation to catalyze sustainable impact.

Funding for the Global Reference Group

Continued funding for the GRG is key to fulfill its triple mandate, to ensure the Secretariat's orientation is in line with the needs and priorities of feminist movements and women rights organizations and to sustain its achievements beyond the duration of the programme. Indeed, the GRG is and will play an increasingly important role in the design and orientation of the sustainability strategy as the programmes transition or phase out. Through the global focal points system in place- whereby Spotlight Initiative National, Regional and Global Reference Group members are connected- as well as via the GRG coordinator's strategic role, the GRG is ensuring that the advocacy efforts for sustained funding to Spotlight Initiative and to the EVAWG agenda, more broadly, are strengthened and amplified at the national and regional level.

Where governments will not have taken on board the full ownership of the programme components, a strong civil society Reference Group mechanism will be essential to ensure that the EVAWG agenda

remains a top priority. In addition, as part of its advocacy agenda to ensure continued funding to the Spotlight Initiative programmes, the GRG has been playing an instrumental role in supporting the resource mobilizations efforts of the Initiative both at the global and national levels via various strategic pathways. As stated in the findings of the meta-review of the Spotlight Initiative: *"key informants described how the involvement of GCSRG has been very helpful in promoting the Initiative and its global reputation. Informants mentioned that the GCSRG went "above and beyond" in advocating for a continuation of the Initiative by lobbying donors and other civil society actors."*

Furthermore, the GRG helps the Secretariat to align its work with the principle of leaving no one behind and ensures that diverse perspectives are meaningfully included and engaged in the programme.

4   Results and Resources Framework

Overall Outcome of the Global Platform
To amplify lessons and good practices from across the Spotlight Initiative's 25+ countries and 6 regions, facilitate knowledge exchange, and create direct links between those at the highest levels and local, grassroots activists to strengthen networks, support uptake of knowledge to inform comprehensive policy and programming on EVAWG and strengthen meaningful engagement with civil society in the Spotlight Initiative

Output 1: *Global, Regional and Country networks of key decision-makers, practitioners and local, grassroots actors are strengthened; lessons, good practices and solutions are made accessible and amplified; and uptake of knowledge across stakeholders supports comprehensive EVAWG programming*

Output 2: The Global Reference Group's (GRG) influence and triple functions of guiding, advocating for Spotlight Initiative's achievements and holding the Initiative accountable are strengthened.

To continue its vital role of advising, advocating and holding the initiative accountable, the GRG has planned to develop a costed work plan for 2023. Budgeting the GRG's work plan will allow for a deeper and more meaningful partnership with civil society. In fact, according to the latest survey sent out to all Reference Groups (June 2022), 91.5% of the Reference Groups have submitted a budgeted work plan or are in the process of developing one to implement activities related to their triple mandate mentioned above. The 2023 GRG work plan will, in broad strokes, focus on supporting national and regional reference groups with the development of advocacy scorecards; advocate for continued funding for the Initiative in existing and new countries and the decolonization of funding to CSOs; and continue supporting a robust and coordinated reference group system

Output 1: *Global, Regional and Country networks of key decision-makers, practitioners and local, grassroots actors are strengthened; lessons, good practices and solutions are made accessible and amplified; and uptake of knowledge supports comprehensive EVAWG programming*	Indicators Targets Baseline	Means of Verification
Deliverables **Development and maintenance of Knowledge Hub** - Selection/development of online Knowledge Hub in partnership with the UN Trust Fund on EVAW - Maintenance of Knowledge Hub throughout project duration and for sustainability of platform/content beyond **Outreach, visibility, and engagement of Knowledge Hub** - Outreach and advertising (specifics TBD in communications and visibility plan to be developed) - Adaptation for different forms of learning (i.e., visibility impairments, multilingual platform) - Coordination of global, regional, and country level symposiums/convenings/knowledge exchanges of the UN, EU, civil society, donors, private sector, practitioners, academia, other relevant stakeholders **Exchange, analysis and uptake of knowledge, promising/good practices, and lessons learned on EVAWG** - Identification and analysis of knowledge generated, lessons learned and good practices at global level and across Spotlight Initiative regional and country programmes - Conduct consultations/interviews with Spotlight Initiative Regional/Country programme teams and key stakeholders for the co-creation of knowledge and continuous feedback to support uptake of knowledge - Develop Spotlight Initiative knowledge products in response to learning needs of	**Indicator 1.1.** Knowledge hub with tools and resources accessible *Baseline:* UN internal extranet available *Target:* Global Platform **Indicator 1.2:** Number of knowledge exchanges *Baseline:* 10 *Target:* 5-12 virtual exchanges, 1-2 in-person exchanges (not cumulative of baseline) **Indicator 1.3** Number of Communities of practice created and/or strengthened *Baseline:* COSI *Target:* TBD **Indicator 1.4** Number of knowledge products developed and/or promoted *Baseline:* TBD	Review of reports on the platform Stakeholder interviews Continuous feedback from UN Country Teams and partners & consultations Review of knowledge products and reports of knowledge exchanges Feedback surveys Knowledge product tracker Development and review of tool to measure uptake of knowledge products Review of inventory tool and technical package

stakeholders/knowledge hub participants, and as outcomes from the discussions facilitated in community engagement spaces. The technical, comprehensive package, which will be an online interactive tool on EVAWG programming is included as part of in knowledge production. Linkages will be explored with the EVAW Knowledge Hub, UN Women's EVAW evidence-based knowledge product initiatives under the new Strategic Plan, and with other entities/platforms. - Develop tools to measure the uptake of knowledge. Support adaptation and use across contexts	*Target:* 10-20 knowledge products **Indicator 1.5** Analysis of promising and good practices, and lessons on EVAWG from available information of Spotlight Initiative implementation **Baseline**: None **Target**: Inventory of good practices and lessons learned and a technical package **Indicator 1.6** Percentage of participants/stakeholders engaged in uptake of knowledge on Global Platform *Baseline:* 0 *Target:* TBD	

Output 2: The Global Reference Group's (GRG) influence and triple functions of guiding, advocating for Spotlight Initiative's achievements and holding the Initiative accountable are strengthened.	Indicators Targets Baseline	Means of Verification
Deliverables **Maintain Global Reference Group's triple mandate and function** Central to the smooth and efficient implementation of the GRG's work plan is the role of the GRG Coordinator. The work under this outcome area also focuses on **renewing existing membership and recruiting new members** for the Global Reference Group (to fill vacancies). This also includes **ongoing**	**Indicator 1.1.** Monitoring and coordination support provided to at least 5 CSRGs. *Baseline: 0*	Independent monitoring global scorecard Continuous feedback and exchange with and from the GRG global coordinator and members Bi-annual consultations and surveys

support to key GRG functions of coordinating civil society advocacy to, and monitoring of, the Spotlight initiative.	*Target:* 5 CSRGs supported in the development of their advocacy scorecards.
Strengthen coordination mechanism with regional and national reference groups	**Indicator 1.2:**
Includes activities to strengthen/create and maintain platforms for collaboration, communication, knowledge sharing and reporting between national, regional and the global reference groups (building on existing mechanisms like the Focal Points System).	Quarterly meetings and an annual retreat are held
	Baseline: 0
	Target: 4 meetings and 1 retreat at least are held.
Undertake collective and solidarity advocacy to key decision makers	**Indicator 1.3:**
Includes activities to hold decision makers accountable at all levels, coordinated between Reference Group members and networks – both proactive/planned activities (such as internal advocacy, or production of briefing papers based on identified gaps and needs), as well as 'responsive' activities (such as letters to EU/UN and possible parallel support for continuation of Spotlight, media releases, etc. on urgent and immediate issues).	The global CSRG focal points system is in place with representation from at least 20 Reference Groups.
	Baseline: 0
	Target: 20
	Indicator 1.4:
	A regional and autonomous focal points system is set up in at least 3 countries
	Baseline: 0
Coordinate civil society monitoring of Spotlight implementation	**Target:** 3
Includes activities such as updating of indicators (building on those developed by the CMI Consortium responding to the [Feminist Recommendations to Spotlight),](#) supporting data collection, collation and sharing, and drafting annual reports.It also includes production of a civil society-led Spotlight Annual Report Card or similar.	**Indicator 1.5:**
	An advocacy action plan and timeline is developed and rolled out in a timely manner.
	Baseline: Draft
	Target: Final version developed
	Indicator 1.6:
	A final GRG independent monitoring scorecard is developed and disseminated.

		Baseline: 0	
		Target: Final version developed	

Outputs	Deliverables	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3				Year 4			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Output 1: Global, Regional and Country networks of key decision-makers, practitioners and local, grassroots actors are strengthened; lessons, good practices and solutions are made accessible and amplified; and uptake of knowledge supports comprehensive EVAWG programming	Development and maintenance of knowledge platform (i.e., technical processes, functionality			x	x	x	X	x	x	x	x	x	x	X	X		
	Outreach and engagement				x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	X	X		
	Exchange of knowledge, lessons learned, good practices (virtual and in person convenings)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	X	X		
	Development of technical package of knowledge, lessons learned, good practices and progressively feature on platform					x	x	x	x	x	x	x		X			

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	Dissemination and track uptake of modules and comprehensive package of lessons learned best practices, solutions and support stakeholder engagement and ownership					x	x	x		x	x	x	X			
Output 2: The Global Reference Group's (GRG) influence and triple functions of guiding, advocating for Spotlight Initiative's achievements and holding the Initiative accountable are strengthened.	Maintain Global Reference Group's triple mandate and function								x	x	x	x				
	Strengthen coordination mechanism with regional and national reference groups								x	x	x	x				
	Undertake collective and solidarity advocacy to key decision makers								x	x	x	x				
	Coordinate civil society monitoring of Spotlight Initiative implementation								x	x	x	x				

TIMELINE

The Global Platform has been planned with a timeline of 2021 (mid)-2024. Consultations are ongoing to streamline the content of the Global Platform into existing structures and ensure the sustainability of efforts.

5   Strategy and Partnerships

Strategy

The first phase of the Spotlight Initiative Global Platform would include:

Provide a knowledge-sharing platform and multi-stakeholder global/regional convenings online and in person with a strategic overarching vision to amplify lessons from across the Spotlight Initiative's 25+ countries and inform global policy[2], including within the Political Engagement Strategy on Gender-Based Violence and COVID-19 and as an outcome of the Generation Equality GBV Action Coalition. Collaboration with the GBV Action Coalition will be central to ensure this platform is leveraged, and the levels of engagement will be expanded on as the Action Coalition mechanisms are developed. Connect key partners from within the UN, academia, the private sector, governments, and women's rights organizations working on ending violence against women and girls focused on Spotlight Initiative's Theory of Change.[3] This platform would also offer a package of good practices to decision makers and practitioners, drawn from Spotlight Initiative programmes and existing and emerging evidence, including from the Annual Reports, the Mid-term Assessments, the Metanalyses, the Programme Evaluations and the Thematic Evaluations. Four years into implementation of the Spotlight Initiative, the in-person global convenings will bring together Spotlight Initiative's stakeholders to cement progress towards ending violence against women and girls, ensure programme sustainability at national, regional and global levels and widen the reach beyond Spotlight Initiative to connect stakeholders with both emerging and documented knowledge, lessons learned, and materials developed thus far.

Though the comprehensive technical package will specifically focus on the knowledge, lessons and promising/good practices generated from the Spotlight Initiative's comprehensive approach to EVAWG, knowledge, tools, and resources from other global initiatives to EVAWG will be integrated to ensure a high-quality knowledge product and reflecting the Initiative's inter-agency and multi-stakeholder nature.

The Spotlight Initiative has built a global community of practice and there is demanded to make spaces more inclusive for partners and stakeholders. A lesson learned from this process and a good practice is that effective communities of practice leverage existing, active platforms to engage and strengthen a community around a common vision. It is thus essential that the Global Platform be developed in a way that builds off existing structures, as well as the lessons and promising practices already learned to facilitate increased knowledge exchange and uptake across Spotlight Initiative partners and stakeholders. The global/regional convening and knowledge-sharing platform will also expand and widen the reach of Spotlight Initiative communities of practice to connect stakeholders

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[2] For example, best practices, lessons learned and evidence that emerges from the Initiative can be packaged and up streamed to inform key messages and recommendations from the highest levels, including in the Secretary-General's reports to eliminate various forms of violence against women and girls. Practically, this critical information can be directed to support the development of resolutions on forms of violence against women and girls as they are negotiated in informal consultations with key Member States.

[3] Including, for e.g., the UK's Department for International Development's What Works to End Violence Against Women programme

with both emerging and documented knowledge, lessons learned, and materials developed thus far, including good practices and lessons learned drawn from the Annual Reports, the Mid-term Assessments, the Metanalyses, the Programmes Evaluations and the Thematic Evaluations.

Development of the knowledge-sharing platform

The initial focus will centre on developing:

- A strategic plan for the platform
- The design and development of the platform's virtual spaces
- Assessing the most effective routes to facilitate outreach and engagement based on the goal of connecting a diversity of stakeholders, including grassroots actors with those at the highest levels
- Strengthening partnership with

Knowledge exchange and production will entail:

- Knowledge products/tools around the six pillars of the Spotlight Initiative Comprehensive Theory of Change
- The exchange of knowledge, lessons learned, and good practices will feed into the development of a technical package. This technical package will be a key knowledge asset, including practical lessons and tools to support comprehensive EVAWG programming and a new way of working in the Spotlight Initiative and beyond.
- Through further exchange and increased Platform visibility, knowledge cultivated through the Global Platform will inform programming, policy, and will contribute to the continuous development of the technical package.

Global Reference Group

- supporting National and Regional Reference Groups with the development of advocacy scorecards;
- advocate for continued funding for the Initiative in existing and new countries and the decolonization of funding to CSOs;
- continue supporting a robust and coordinated Civil Society Reference Group system

Partnerships: This project will be implemented in close consultations with the UN agencies, European Union, civil society actors including civil society reference groups and other key stakeholders. During the preparation of the project proposal, various initial consultations have been undertaken with European Union, core agencies of the Spotlight Initiative to identify synergies with existing platforms and relevant initiatives, Spotlight Initiative teams across all programmes in all five regions as well as with civil society reference groups to interrogate specific needs of civil society and apply it into the development of the platform. The project will also engage with the private sector and other sectors relevant in the rollout of the platform to amplify the lessons and good practices of the Spotlight Initiative and maximize impact on EVAWG across the globe.

Sustainability

Critical for sustainability, knowledge products and other key tools will be streamed into a dedicated page of the Spotlight Initiative website and other existing UN entity platforms, such as UN Women's Virtual Knowledge Centre/EVAW Knowledge Hub, the SDG Knowledge Hub, and/or UNDP's SparkBlue to be retained and used through lasting structures**.**

Synergies will also be drawn with the **UNTF Global Online Collaboration Platform on EVAWG**, leveraging the comparative expertise of UNTF's engagement with grassroots civil society and the Initiative's multi-stakeholder approach with various partners across contexts. There will be strong synergies across platforms, highlighting each area(s) of expertise, and resource-sharing to ensure economies of scale

As there are similarities between the visions for the Global Platform's online hub and the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women's multilingual, interactive, online collaboration tool, a partnership has been formed with the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women to collaborate on the online hub of the Global Platform, called **SHINE** in late 2021. As the tool is for sharing of knowledge on EVAWG as well as for co-creation among CSOs and partners, it was agreed that collaboration should be explored to reduce the risk of duplication and to maximize resources. This partnership is thus advancing the deliverable, development and maintenance of knowledge hub under Output 1. This partnership also helps to ensure the sustainability of the online hub and knowledge generated from the Spotlight Initiative as it is now part of an existing UN structure. Furthermore, this partnership is helping Spotlight Initiative to better implement the leave no one behind principle and support feminist/cross-movement building by expanding opportunities for learning and network strengthening to a wider audience of civil society organisations and advocates through the UN Trust Fund on EVAW's existing grantees and networks.

Furthermore, linkages will be explored with other relevant platforms, such as the Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility Knowledge Hub. Special measures are being taken to ensure the Global Platform is not a duplication of existing platforms, but instead amplifies the knowledge, lessons learned and promising and good practices from Spotlight Initiative programming specifically while simultaneously driving traffic to other platforms on EVAWG for further learning and engagement.

Consultations are being conducted on sustainability from the inception of the Global Platform concept note with key stakeholders, including UN agencies, Civil Society Reference Groups and UN Country Teams to ensure the Global Platform continues to generate impact and will make critical resources available beyond the project period, such as by ensuring resources are streamlined into other platforms. Existing platforms have been identified through which synergies will be made from the onset to ensure the Global Platform is continuously embedded in lasting structures. The virtual platform itself will be developed in a way in which the technology and content is compatible with existing platforms as needed, and stakeholder ownership of the Global Platform will support its relevance and continuation through global, regional and/or country-level platforms and initiatives. The Global Platform will be an important space to leverage work with the Generation Equality Forum Action Coalitions, and this will be strategized as the mechanisms by which the Action Coalitions

operate become clearer. There will be continuous integration and synergies with UN Women's platforms, tools, and resources on EVAWG. Overall, the Global Platform will coalesce and strategically use the wealth of knowledge, promising/good practices and lessons learned from Spotlight Initiative programming, and that generated through the platform itself, to inform programming and policy on EVAWG. As the mechanisms for the Generation Equality Forum Action Coalitions are formulated, this knowledge through the Global Platform will be directed to inform and support actors with upholding commitments and taking action on EVAWG.

With the GRG, efforts will be made to sustain the Civil Society Reference Group mechanism and its impact. A global mapping and analysis will be undertaken in 2023 to assess how this mechanism can be strengthened and sustained for future programming, which will be used to inform actions.

Beneficiaries: Key partners that will be benefit from this initiative include the UN, academia, the private sector, governments, and civil society, women's rights, and feminist organizations, particularly at local and grassroots levels and Spotlight Initiative Global Reference Group. The project will interact with these stakeholders throughout implementation in various ways including through surveys, focal group discussions, interviews, during online and in person consultations and ensure that feedback from target groups is integrated consistently and key interventions of the Global Platform is adjusted.

6 Implementation and Management Agreements

The Technical Unit of the Spotlight Initiative Secretariat will have overall oversight of the project. This will entail managing the funds, overseeing the day-to-day operation, supporting the financial and procurement processes as well as fulfilling the reporting requirements of the project as per Spotlight Initiative standard reporting requirements. Some initiatives of the project will be implemented through the outsourcing of various companies and consultants. Capacity Development and Knowledge Management Specialist in the Technical Unit will have overall oversight of the project, and full-time Knowledge Management Officer will also be recruited within the Technical Unit to lead on the day-to-day management of the Global Platform. GRG Advocacy and Monitoring Coordinator will also be recruited part-time to support the work of the Global Reference Group. Others will be engaged to support with different elements of the platform, such as for the development and maintenance of the virtual platform, knowledge production, outreach and engagement, the development of the comprehensive technical package, and community of practice facilitation, among other areas of work. To support ownership of the Global Platform by partners, there is close collaboration with the Global Civil Society Reference Group and various participants will moderate discussions/exchanges.

Guiding principles: The development of the Knowledge Platform will be guided by the principles of full partnership between the EU and UN in the Spotlight Initiative, in particular with regard to development of knowledge products, visibility as well as governance. The EU will play an important role in the conception and the governance of the Global Platform. The role of the EU in the design and governance of the Platform was discussed and agreed upon in a jointly organized workshop

between the EU and the UN on February 23rd, 2021. The regular technical meetings and the current governance structure for the Spotlight Initiative as it stands now will be used for the Global Platform. The EU will work closely with the Secretariat on the Global Platform and side-meetings on critical decisions for the Global Platform will be held. Furthermore, the EU will work to bring its member-states on board, under the principle of universality, so more countries may benefit from the experience and expertise of Spotlight Initiative. Linkages with the Generation Equality's GBV Action Coalition and the Group of Friends will be made including a mapping of existing platforms relevant to the Global Platform to enhance synergies. The GRG will also work closely with the EU through this project. The workplan to be shared with EU upon finalization and quarterly meetings with EU to take place to brief on state of play and to plan possible GRG participation at the Gender EU CSOs related events in 2023.

Visibility

EU visibility will be guaranteed in line with the Spotlight Initiative's [Communication and Visibility Guide](#) and [Branding Guidelines](#).

7   Evaluation and Learning Plans

Evaluation: As part of the Spotlight Initiative end line evaluation, the work undertaken through the Global Platform will be assessed and relevant findings and lessons learned will be documented. Efforts will be made throughout implementation to identify lessons which will inform key initiatives of the Global Platform on an ongoing basis.

Knowledge Management and Learning: At this stage of implementation, the Global Platform is in a unique position to accumulate what works and what does not work in efforts to EVAWG from Spotlight Initiative implementation as well as from the global evidence-base. Multi-stakeholder in-depth learning and knowledge exchange, production, and dissemination are foundational to the objectives of the Global Platform and will support the sustainability of EVAWG efforts. The work of the Global Platform will thus be critical to strengthening the Initiative's role in providing key stakeholders with knowledge on progress toward and the 'how to' of comprehensive EVAWG programming, and ultimately in service of achieving gender equality across the globe.

With the Spotlight Initiative as the largest comprehensive investment to end violence against women and girls, the Global Platform will be analysing, curating, and disseminating the sheer amount of knowledge that has and continues to be generated throughout Spotlight Initiative implementation, as well as knowledge that is cultivated through the Global Platform. This includes lessons learned, best practices, practice-based knowledge and the latest evidence-base from across all six outcome areas of the Spotlight Initiative Theory of Change, cross-cutting thematic areas (engaging men and boys, *leave no one behind* principle, harmful practices (e.g. FGM/CM), innovation and others), the latest cutting-edge areas of work for EVAWG (such as cyber violence and technology, mental health, innovative financing, economic empowerment, and/or others), alignment with the UN Reform, and accelerating the SDGs, among a variety of other relevant topic areas. This knowledge is being documented throughout Spotlight Initiative programming and will be curated for uptake by a wider audience and will also be documented through engagement with the Global Platform. For example,

all engagement on the virtual platform, communities of practice, convenings and exchanges will be documented, analysed, and continuously shared with the Global Platform network, which will build off the Initiative's existing networks and expanded even further by dedicated outreach and visibility efforts to reach wider audiences. This knowledge will also critically feed into the development of a comprehensive technical package on EVAWG that will support a variety of stakeholders with advancing a comprehensive EVAWG programme as well as efforts across areas of work within the field of EVAWG.

Furthermore, lessons and promising practices on civil society engagement will be documented which will contribute to the learnings on the Spotlight Initiative, in addition to the learning and exchange between Reference Group members that will be facilitated through SHINE.

The Spotlight Initiative Technical Unit will mobilize communications and increase knowledge production through the Global Platform with in-depth analysis, exchange, cultivation, and uptake of knowledge and through dedicated outreach, visibility, and advertising efforts. This will be aligned with the Spotlight Initiative Knowledge Management Strategy and Knowledge Product Guidelines which has deep synergies. More detailed planning for the development of knowledge products and communication of this knowledge, including a communications and visibility plan, will be carried out during implementation of the Global Platform.

8 Budget (Revised to account for year 2024 and reallocation along budget lines)

The Global Platform's Proposed Revised Budget (2021 - 2024)						
DESCRIPTION	**UNDG category**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**Total USD**
Output 1. Provide a hub and a global/regional convening and knowledge-sharing platform						
Contractual services - Knowledge Hub development and maintenance	4	0	20,445	149,596	0	**170,041**
Service company - Technical knowledge package	4	0	0	174,765	30,000	**204,765**
Knowledge exchange side event (x1-2 - sidelines of CSW, GA, SVRI, GLS etc.)	7	0	39,900	0	0	**39,900**
Knowledge Management and Technical Officers (Supported by an SSA/contractual service thus far)	4	0	68,981	128,747	10,000	**207,728**
Output 2. The Global Reference Group's (GRG) influence and triple functions of guiding, advocating for Spotlight Initiative's achievements and holding the Initiative accountable are strengthened.						
GRG Advocacy and Monitoring Coordinator (Part time)	4	0	0	12,000	0	**12,000**

Translations and interpretation for learning exchanges and forums	7	0	0	18,501	0	**18,501**
GRG Strategic meetings and retreat	7	0	0	11,810	0	**11,810**
Civil society meetings and exchange travel	5	0	0	71,610	0	**71,610**
Subtotal		**0**	**129,326**	**567,029**	**40,000**	**736,355**
Direct General costs						
Translation Services for the Global Platform, civil society	7	0	37,763	5,878	0	**43,641**
Travel – Knowledge Exchange Side Events, civil society	5	0	19,948	67,193	0	**87,141**
Subtotal		**0**	**57,711**	**73,071**	**0**	**130,782**
TOTAL DIRECT COSTS		**0**	**187,037**	**640,100**	**40,000**	**867,137**
Indirect Support Costs (7%)		0	13,093	44,807	2,800	60,700
TOTAL BUDGET		**0**	**200,130**	**684,907**	**42,800**	**927,837**

UNDG CATEGORY						Total
1. Staff and other personnel		0	0	0	0	0
2. Supplies, Commodities, Materials		0	0	0	0	0
3. Equipment, Vehicles, and Furniture (including Depreciation)		0	0	0	0	0
4. Contractual services		0	89,426	465,108	40,000	594,534
5. Travel		0	19,948	138,803	0	158,751
6. Transfers and Grants to Counterparts		0	0	0	0	0
7. General Direct Costs		0	77,663	36,189	0	113,852
Total direct costs of the Action		**0**	**187,037**	**640,100**	**40,000**	867,137
Indirect costs (7%)		0	13,093	44,807	2,800	60,700
Total eligible costs of the Action		**0**	**200,130**	**684,907**	**42,800**	927,837

9   Funding

The Spotlight Initiative has provided an estimated amount of 927, 837 USD for this project. The funding provided covers the entire estimated fund requirement of the project.