ANNUAL NARRATIVE PROJECT REPORT

PROJECT TITLE: SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE GLOBAL PLATFORM

PROGRAMME START DATE: 1 APRIL 2021

REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY 2023 – 31 DECEMBER 2023

Programme Title & Programme Number	Priority regions/areas/localities for the programme
Programme Title: Spotlight Initiative Global Platform MPTF Office Project Reference Number:[1] 00128649	Global
Recipient Organisation(s)	**Key Partners**
UN WOMEN	● United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women
Programme Cost (US$)	**Programme Start and End Dates**
Total budget as per the Spotlight Initiative Global Platform Project Document: USD 927, 837.00	**Start Date:** 13 April 2021 **End Date:** 30 April 2024
	Report Submitted By:
	31 March 2024

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Acronym List and Abbreviations

Compendium	Compendium of innovative, promising, good practices and lessons
COSI	Community of the Spotlight Initiative
CS-GRG	Civil Society Global Reference Group
CS-NRG	Civil Society National Reference Group
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DCO	Development Coordination Office
DG INTPA	European Union Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA)
EU	European Union
EUD	European Union Delegation
EVAW	Ending Violence Against Women
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
GBV	Gender-based Violence
GKPT	Global Knowledge Product Tracker
HIVE Joint-Programme	Spotlight Initiative's High-Impact Programme for Violence Elimination by 2030 (HIVE Joint-Programme)
KM	Knowledge Management
SD Direct	Social Development Direct
SVRI	Sexual Violence Research Initiative
TOR	Terms of Reference
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNTF	United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
VAW	Violence Against Women
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
WPHF	Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund

Executive Summary

Drawing upon the wealth of experience gained from the Spotlight Initiative's impactful investments in over 26 countries, the primary focus of the Global Platform in 2023 was to share the successes, insights, and best practices generated by the Initiative, with the foremost objective of sustaining its impact.

This report outlines the progress made by the Global Platform in achieving its three core objectives. From continued engagement on an online knowledge exchange hub on EVAWG to codifying and disseminating critical knowledge in line with strategic moments in the EVAWG space, while continuing to facilitate global exchanges and strategic convenings to advance advocacy efforts, the Global Platform has continued to make valuable contributions to the EVAWG ecosystem. Significantly, the work of the Global Platform has resulted in the investment of additional resources from the European Union to advance these efforts. This additional investment will support the Spotlight Initiative's High-Impact Programme for Violence Elimination by 2030 (HIVE Joint Programme) from 2024 onwards.

In 2023, the following key results were achieved:

The results, lessons, and good practices of the Spotlight Initiative were amplified and awareness on the sustainability of the EVAWG programming and the Initiative was enhanced. These included three online exchanges as well as a Global Convening on '*A High Impact Initiative - Celebrating progress and looking to the future*' that drew over **205 participants** from the UN, government, civil society, and other stakeholders centred around the sustainability of Spotlight Initiative, followed by a technical guidance note on the sustainability of EVAWG programming providing critical insights, tips, and lessons for sustaining and scaling the Initiative, and supported the production of robust sustainability strategies for the Initiative.

Furthermore, 2023 saw an **increased online exchange on EVAWG** through the **SHINE** hub. A collaboration with United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women (UNTF), the SHINE platform, is now accessible in more than 50 languages, serves as a strategic online space for stakeholders to engage in discussions, share expertise, and access the latest resources in the EVAWG ecosystem. Bringing together representatives from government, civil society, the UN, EU, and other practitioners, the platform facilitates co-creation, collaboration, and knowledge amplification on ending violence against women and girls. Engagement on SHINE has become increasingly active and dynamic throughout 2023. With over **2,100 users** thus far, **thirteen online** discussions have been conducted, **four communities of practice** have been set up, and **67 tailored resources on EVAWG** have been widely shared.

During 2023, **five knowledge briefs highlighting key results, lessons, and good practices from the Spotlight Initiative** on various topics related to EVAWG have been developed and shared widely. Several of these knowledge products were released in line with strategic moments such as the Group of Friends for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls event at the margin of the Sixty-Seventh Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 67), and Spotlight Initiative Press Conference at the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28). Overall, the knowledge products have contributed to enhanced knowledge on EVAWG programming providing key insights, lessons, and good practices from the Initiative**.** These include the following:

- [Lessons and Promising Practices of the Spotlight Initiative: Delivery of Quality Essential Services](#)
- [Lessons Learned from Spotlight Initiative Programming: A Comprehensive and Transformative Approach to EVAWG](#)
- [How we address Online violence](#)
- [Integrating gender-based violence prevention into climate action](#)
- [The Enhancement of Women's Political Participation to End Violence Against Women and Girls: Results and Promising Approaches from the Spotlight Initiative](#)

A significant focus of the Global Platform's work in 2023 has also resulted in laying the foundation for **modelling EVAWG programming for the UN system and beyond**. Significant progress was made in the development of the Spotlight Initiative Technical Package, which intends to synthesize the Initiative's wealth of knowledge and successes, innovative and promising practices, and lessons learned **into a definitive guide on how to design and implement comprehensive EVAWG programmes.** A legacy of the Initiative, and a tool in service of global policy, programming, and advocacy on EVAWG, the Technical Package is intended to sustain the learnings of the Spotlight Initiative and ensure its practices can be modelled widely. Developed in close consultation with a User Reference Group encompassing key stakeholders of the Spotlight Initiative, the Technical Package is a capacity development tool by design and will be made available for all EVAWG practitioners by April 2024.

Throughout 2023, the Spotlight Initiative Secretariat also **enhanced coordination on knowledge management on EVAWG across the UN system** This was done through convened regular meetings of the **Knowledge Management Focal Points Network**, as well as the **UN HQ Knowledge Management Group on EVAWG**. Both networks have been pivotal in identifying opportunities for collaboration and strengthening synergy across similar efforts on EVAWG.

The Global Platform project duration was extended by the Spotlight Initiative Operational Steering Committee until the end of April 2024.

Project Governance and Coordination

a) Spotlight Initiative Governance Structure

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

b) Civil Society Global Reference Group

The Civil Society Global Reference Group (CS-GRG) is a key part of the governance structure for Spotlight Initiative at the global level and has been an integral partner in the design, development, and implementation of the Global Platform. The CS-GRG is an established institutional mechanism of 18 peer-selected women's rights activists who advise the Fund and hold the Spotlight Initiative accountable to its commitments to civil society, including through the Global Platform. This level of civil society oversight and accountability is important for the Global Platform to ensure it upholds the Initiative's values of inclusivity and increased decision-making for civil society and is continuously needs-driven and aligns with the principle of *leaving no one behind*.

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

Specifically, members of the CS-GRG were engaged during the SHINE online discussion on Exploring the Spotlight Initiative's contribution to movement building, meaningful engagement with civil society, and its approach to "leaving no one behind". Members shared their experiences which were then captured in the key findings of the Thematic Assessment of the Spotlight Initiative. The contribution of civil society members to this discussion ensured the voices of a range of stakeholders (including women's rights organisations) were captured.

Members of CS-NRG and the CS-GRG are also part of the User Reference Group (URG) which accompanies the development of the **Spotlight Initiative Technical Package** to ensure the platform meets the needs of civil society actors. Members supported the review of substantive content for the Technical Package, and provided critical inputs to its scope, navigability, and visual presentation.

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

HQ Knowledge Management Group on EVAWG

The Spotlight Initiative Secretariat leads the coordination of the HQ Knowledge Management Group on EVAWG, which provides a mechanism for KM focal points at the headquarters level to strengthen synergy on knowledge management activities on EVAWG among different funds and initiatives, including the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF), the UNTF and UN Women. The group has met quarterly to draw concrete synergies between the Global Platform and existing knowledge management initiatives on EVAWG within the UN system.

Spotlight Initiative Knowledge Management Focal Points Network

In 2019, the Spotlight Initiative Secretariat established a Knowledge Management Focal Points Network, which encompasses more than 50 members across Spotlight Initiative programmes. In 2023, the Secretariat hosted meetings quarterly, during which Knowledge Management focal points discussed priorities for the year and explored areas of synergy. In particular, the Focal Points furthered the knowledge management portfolio by supporting the consolidation of the Global Knowledge Product Tracker (GKPT). The GKPT captures all knowledge products produced by programmes in a single repository, and now features around 1,000 products. The Network also presented a key space to strengthen integration of knowledge management into country and regional programming more broadly, with much discussion centering around how best to codify and sustain lessons learned and good practices for the Initiative. Overall, the network has continued to provide critical insights on the needs and experiences of programmes and to illuminate key ideas, challenges and opportunities related to knowledge management.

Project Partnerships

a) Civil Society

The Civil Society Global Reference Group has been the main point of contact in supporting meaningful civil society engagement through the Global Platform. This has included demonstrations on SHINE, an online knowledge hub on EVAWG produced by the UNTF in collaboration with the Spotlight Initiative, which has been presented by over **100** Civil Society National and Regional Reference Group (CS-RG) members from Argentina, the Africa Regional Programme and the Latin America and Caribbean region. Similarly, CS-RG members have provided support to the facilitation of knowledge convenings and online discussions on SHINE (more information on this is available in the *Results* section). As noted previously, members of CS-NRG and the CS-GRG also participated in the Technical Package User Reference Group, which was invaluable in ensuring the platform evolved as a useful tool for civil society actors.

Overall, close engagement with the CS-GRG has advanced the Global Platform's strategic objectives of strengthening coalitions among key EVAWG stakeholders and connecting local and grassroots organisations with duty bearers for increased advocacy and impact.

b) European Union

The implementation of the Global Platform project has been grounded in a vision of full partnership between the EU and the UN. Existing meeting spaces between the Spotlight Initiative and the EU have broadened their focus from technical matters and communications to include regular updates on the progress of the Global Platform. The EU works closely with the Secretariat in the implementation of the Global Platform project, and where necessary, side-meetings have been convened to connect on critical strategies and decisions.

This partnership has been particularly valuable in the development of the Technical Package, and information on upcoming knowledge exchanges, as well as sharing of knowledge products within the EU network.

In 2023, partnership with the EU has been further expanded including with EU delegations. Spotlight Initiative Secretariat was able to provide information on the Initiative's comprehensive approach to GBV programming, including available tools and resources, such as the SHINE platform during the GBV training held for EUD Gender Focal Points in Brussels.

Overall, this strategic partnership has contributed significantly to progress on the Global Platform's objectives and has resulted in the investment of additional resources from the EU to advance this work through the ***Spotlight Initiative's High-Impact Programme for Violence Elimination by 2030*** (HIVE Joint Programme).

c) Cooperation with other UN agencies and funds

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

Given the shared objective of strengthening knowledge exchange on EVAWG, the Spotlight Initiative Secretariat has formed a strong partnership with the UNTF in the implementation of the Global Platform project, particularly as it relates to the SHINE online hub. Advancing the deliverable of the *development and maintenance of a knowledge hub*, the Spotlight Initiative Secretariat and the UNTF have met monthly to facilitate coordination of the SHINE online hub. During 2023, the two teams developed a joint content action plan, and oversaw user engagement. Furthermore, various demonstrations of SHINE were undertaken in collaboration with the UNTF over the course of 2023.

Results

Capturing Change Against the Results Framework

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

Deliverable 1: Maintenance and Engagement of Knowledge Hub

Under this deliverable, the Spotlight Initiative Secretariat ensured **increased online engagement on EVAWG among Spotlight Initiative stakeholders** through the SHINE hub, centred around the sustainability of the Initiative. The Secretariat partnered with the UNTF to collaborate on an online hub, [SHINE](#), for global exchange on EVAWG rolled out in 2022. The platform, which is accessible in more than **50 languages**, provides an online discussion space for co-creation of knowledge on EVAWG, a community of practice for exchange on key thematic areas, and groups for networking. The platform also directs users to other relevant knowledge platforms and provides access to tailored resources to strengthen global policy, programming, and advocacy on EVAWG. Users can create profiles on SHINE and connect with other practitioners from around the world.

By December 2023, the platform had a total of **2,152 users, an increase of 47.3%** from 2022. The increase in users of SHINE indicates a greater awareness of the platform within the EVAWG space. This is a positive development for the EVAWG movement, given SHINE's position as a critical tool for facilitating dynamic engagement, advocacy, and co-creation among EVAWG practitioners. The increase in users of SHINE is attributed to various efforts made throughout 2023 to raise awareness on the platform, including through a demonstration for partners delivered in collaboration with the UN Trust Fund.

DISCUSSION · 1 May - 26 May 2023

Sustaining the impact of the Spotlight Initiative: essential services for survivors of violence

S SHINE team · 19 April 2023 · Community

💬 39 comments   ❤ 11 likes | Follow content |

Details   Revisions   Translate

Increased awareness on sustainability of EVAWG programming through online exchanges: With the first portfolio of Spotlight Initiative programmes (Spotlight Initiative 1.0) implementation culminating in 2023, significant reflection took place throughout the year among Spotlight Initiative programmes on **how to sustain the impact of the Initiative and scale up.** It was thus pertinent to create spaces for

programmes to reflect and exchange on the issue of sustainability. All SHINE discussions planned in 2023 centred around this concept, with a particular focus on civil society engagement, service provision, and the importance of data collection. Specifically, online discussions were conducted on sustaining the impact of essential services for survivors of violence, as well as exploring Spotlight Initiative's contribution to movement building, meaningful engagement with civil society, and its approach to "leaving no one behind".

Specifically, from the 1st - 26th of May 2023, Spotlight Initiative led a discussion on *Sustaining the impact of the Spotlight Initiative: essential services for survivors of violence*, which preceded a global exchange on sustaining essential services. The discussion was facilitated by three moderators and generated active engagement from SHINE users. The discussion explored successful approaches to ensuring continuity in the provision of essential services, considered which stakeholders should be engaged in these efforts, and reflected on common challenges. Following the online discussion, a summary with key highlights was developed. These included the importance of fostering national ownership in relation to sustaining essential services, including embedding in national development plans, the provision of funding for essential services, and ensuring accountability of national governments as primary duty bearers. Participants also highlighted the importance of institutionalising knowledge and tools developed during the implementation of frontline services. Most importantly, the discussion also highlighted the critical role of civil society organisations in monitoring quality of services, upholding the principle of leaving no-one behind, and guaranteeing that essential services truly serve rights holders. The discussion was followed by a virtual peer-exchange on sustaining essential services.

Furthermore, the Social Development Direct (SD Direct), in collaboration with the Spotlight Initiative, led an online discussion from the 18th September - 6th of October 2023 to support data collection for the Thematic Assessment on *Exploring the Spotlight Initiative's contribution to movement building, meaningful engagement with civil society, and its approach to "leaving no one behind*. This discussion reflected on the way in which the Spotlight Initiative has engaged with civil society, its support to women's and cross-movement building, as well as its approach to the principle of *leaving no one behind*.

Throughout 2023, the SI Secretariat and the UNTF engaged in monthly meetings. These sessions provided a space to share regular updates on planned activities for SHINE, in alignment with the jointly developed Content Action Plan, as well as to update the shared Terms of Reference, schedule online discussions, and support the creation of communities of practice. These meetings were particularly critical in coordinating the introduction of new features, such as user polls and video upload functions.

Deliverable 2: EVAWG knowledge production and dissemination

Under this deliverable, the **SI Secretariat ensured increased knowledge curation and production on EVAWG and contributed to EVAWG model programming.**

The Global Platform prioritises knowledge curation and production on EVAWG based on the good practices, results, and lessons generated in over 25 countries across 5 regions by the Initiative. Based on analyses of global, regional, and country reports, as well as mid-term assessments, the Secretariat produced a range of knowledge briefs on strategic themes, with the aim of informing programming and policy decisions and convenings and contribute to the evidence-base.
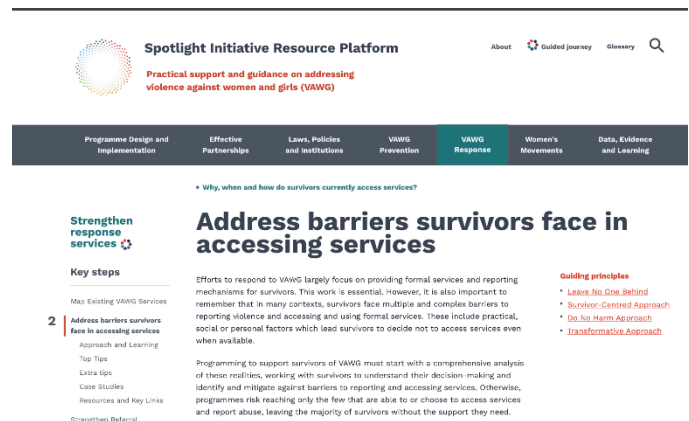
Accordingly in 2023, **five** knowledge briefs, highlighting key results, lessons, and good practices from the Spotlight Initiative on various topics related to EVAWG, have been developed and shared widely (Annex A). These include the following: [Lessons and Promising Practices of the Spotlight Initiative: Delivery of Quality Essential Services](#), [Lessons Learned from Spotlight Initiative Programming: A Comprehensive and Transformative Approach to EVAWG](#), [How we address online violence](#), [Integrating gender-based violence prevention into climate action](#), and [The Enhancement of Women's Political Participation to End Violence Against Women and Girls: Results and Promising Approaches from the Spotlight Initiative](#). Several of these knowledge products were released in line with strategic moments to amplify lessons and good practices from the Initiative, and influence key decisions. For example, the knowledge product on [online violence](#) was published ahead of the Group of Friends for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls event at the margin of the Sixty-Seventh Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 67). Similarly, the knowledge product on [Integrating gender-based violence prevention into climate action](#) was released during a Press Conference convened by Spotlight Initiative at the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference or Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC (COP28). The knowledge product presented three actionable steps to support climate policymakers and practitioners to integrate gender-based violence prevention into climate change mitigation and adaptation initiatives.

Throughout 2023, significant effort was also made to consolidate knowledge products and tools produced by Spotlight Initiative programmes into a *Global Knowledge Product Tracker* (GKPT), available in Annex B. As part of the annual reporting process, all Spotlight Initiative programmes submit an exhaustive list of all knowledge products produced. Information reflected in the Global Knowledge Product Tracker has been taken directly from each programme's Annex D. The Tracker now features over 1,000 products.

To improve the interface and accessibility of the tracker, an online dashboard was developed using Microsoft Power BI. After a series of meetings to determine relevant features for inclusion in the dashboard, such as filter options and a global interactive map tool, the dashboard is currently available through the MPTFO Gateway online portal. The GKPT represents an online repository providing critical tools and resources on EVAWG that can be used by practitioners as well as a new generation of Spotlight Initiative programmes to advance efforts on EVAWG. The dashboard is accessible [here](#).

Technical Package

Furthermore, a significant focus of the SI Secretariat's work in 2023 lay in the development of the Spotlight Initiative Technical Package, which intends to synthesise the Initiative's wealth of knowledge and successes, innovative and promising practices, and lessons learned **into a definitive guide on how to design and implement EVAWG programmes.** A legacy of the Initiative, and a **tool in service of global policy, programming, and advocacy on EVAWG,** the Technical Package is intended to sustain the learnings of the Spotlight Initiative and ensure its practices can be modelled widely.

The Spotlight Initiative in partnership with Social Development Direct is leading the development of the Technical Package. Following an initial consultation with key stakeholders, including programme teams and representatives from the UN, EU, government, and civil society, as well as a review of existing Spotlight Initiative materials and other relevant resources from the wider EVAWG space, an outline for the Technical Package was developed. This was piloted with a User Reference Group, who provided feedback on the proposed thematic content, visual look and feel, and navigability of the Package. Based on the feedback of the User Reference Group and the Secretariat, an outline of seven modules closely aligned to the Spotlight Initiative's six programming pillars, as well as key elements which make the Spotlight Initiative model distinct were developed.

In 2023, three modules were produced including VAWG Response, Effective Partnerships, and Programme Design and Implementation. These modules have been reviewed by the Spotlight Initiative Secretariat in close consultation with members of the User Reference Group. In tandem, the design and navigation features of the Technical Package site, which will be embedded within the Spotlight Initiative website, was developed. The site is designed to be visually appealing and intuitive to ensure maximum uptake among stakeholder groups. The Technical Package project is scheduled to be completed by April 2024.

To further support programmatic learning and contribute to the broader evidence base on EVAWG, the Secretariat simultaneously commissioned a Compendium of Innovative, Promising and Good Practices and Lessons Learned, based on the first phase of Spotlight Initiative programming.

Deliverable 3: Global knowledge exchange and strategic convenings

Throughout 2023, coordination on EVAWG knowledge management within the UN system was strengthened through consultations with the HQ Knowledge Management Group on EVAWG, the Spotlight Initiative UN Agency Focal Points[2], and the Knowledge Management Focal Points Network. In view of the transition period for the Spotlight Initiative, these consultations focused primarily on sustainability and supporting the development of programmes' sustainability plans, which outlined how progress towards programme goals will continue, and be locally owned and carried out by local, national, or regional stakeholders.

Strengthened Sustainability Programme Strategies for the Spotlight Initiative, through convenings and exchanges and technical advisory services.

As noted previously, with Spotlight Initiative 1.0 implementation culminating in 2023, significant reflection took place throughout the year among Spotlight Initiative programmes on how to sustain the impact of the Initiative beyond programme closure. It was thus pertinent to create spaces for programmes to reflect and exchange on the issue of sustainability. Several exchanges were convened throughout the year with a focus on this issue.

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

On February 23rd, 2023, in collaboration with programmes in El Salvador, Malawi, Timor-Leste and Zimbabwe, the Secretariat convened a **knowledge exchange to facilitate a broader dialogue on sustainability**. Attended by 115 participants from across the UN, civil society and other programme stakeholders, the webinar was co-convened with programme colleagues, who shared their respective approaches to the development and implementation of Sustainability Strategies, including considerations around the role of key stakeholders, division of labour and accountability. Broader conversations also took place around how best to facilitate conversations on the key principles of sustainability, including the principle of do no harm, leave no one behind, and taking a survivor-centred approach.

A similar exchange was convened for the Pacific Region on the 15th of March 2023. The exchange showcased Timor-Leste programme's approach to integrating t sustainability throughout their activities, as well as highlights of key lessons from the previous exchanges on sustainability (Annex C). The exchange provided a valuable space for programmes to reflect on their progress thus far.

On 7 June 2023, in collaboration with Spotlight Initiative programmes in Argentina, Mali, and Trinidad and Tobago, as well as UNODC and the UN Women Essential Services Programme, the Secretariat convened a *knowledge exchange on Sustaining the Impact of the Spotlight Initiative: Essential Services for Survivors of Violence*. Attended by 82 participants, the session showcased presentations from programmes and partners on their respective approaches to sustaining the delivery of quality essential services and consolidating community- and government- level ownership of these services. The exchange was preceded by a three-week online SHINE discussion, which similarly interrogated the issue of sustaining essential services for survivors of violence.

All of these discussions culminated into the production of a robust technical guidance on the sustainability of the Spotlight Initiative, and production of more than **27 sustainability strategies across programmes** to date.

Spotlight Initiative as an SDG High Impact Initiative

On the 22nd of November 2023, the SI Secretariat organised a Global Convening titled '***A High Impact Initiative - Celebrating progress and looking to the future***'. In recognition of the Spotlight Initiative's selection by the UN as a High Impact Initiative and an SDG accelerator, the Convening brought together all Spotlight Initiative stakeholders, including programme teams, and representatives from the UN, EU, government, and civil society, to celebrate collective and individual achievements and reflect on lessons learned from the first phase of Spotlight Initiative programming. The session prompted programmes to share key lessons on comprehensive programming to end VAWG. Participants' reflections **exemplified the many breakthroughs and shifts in the EVAWG landscape** that have been made possible through each programme's interventions and provided a timely opportunity to reflect on the future of the Initiative.

Contributed to global convenings on EVAWG.
In 2023, the Global Platform supported global convenings on EVAWG, and ensured amplification of Spotlight Initiative's results and lessons. The Secretariat supported an event led by the Group of Friends for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls (Group of Friends). At the sidelines of Sixty-Seventh Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 67), the group organised an event focused on intersection technology and gender equality as its priority theme on February 3rd, 2023. Ahead of the meeting, the Spotlight Initiative published a knowledge product on ***How we address online***

violence, highlighting the Initiative's commitment to addressing all forms of violence against women and girls, including online violence. Within this sphere, Spotlight Initiative has worked to strengthen laws and policies and implement data-driven, school-based interventions to ensure a more effective response to addressing online violence against women and girls.

In addition, during the 16 Days of Activism, the Group of Friends hosted a meeting on the 16th of December 2023 to discuss strategies and best practices for engaging men and boys in the push to eliminate gender-based violence. The Global Platform supported this meeting through the provision of inputs to the Group's outcome statement on engaging men and boys, facilitating the participation of a member of the Spotlight Initiative CS-GRG, and showcasing the A Brighter Future video, which illustrates the effectiveness of Spotlight Initiative's unique and comprehensive model through five human interest stories in Uganda.

Challenges and Mitigating Measures

One challenge faced during 2023 centred around the accessibility of the Global Knowledge Product Tracker. The Secretariat is continuing to conduct quality assurance on the GKPT to address this. A further challenge centred around the expansion of the scope of the Technical Package, which affected the timeline for the project and resulted in an increase in the project budget. The Secretariat worked closely with procurement colleagues to ameliorate this challenge and ensure the smooth continuation of the project.

Lessons Learned and New Opportunities

a) Lessons Learned

Some lessons have emerged in ensuring that the Global Platform effectively meets the needs of multi-stakeholders working in EVAWG. In view of the process of programme closure, it became critical to create spaces for Spotlight Initiative programmes to exchange ideas, approaches on sustainability including challenges and opportunities. In 2023, the SI Secretariat thus prioritised the facilitation of consultations on sustainability and the development of sustainability strategies. Furthermore, meetings of the Knowledge Management Focal Points Network also served as an opportune space for programme focal points to reflect on the process of developing sustainability strategies and finalizing knowledge products and ensuring uptake, and to discuss how best to facilitate transition and exit consultations with programme stakeholders.

b) New Opportunities

Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI) 2024
During the process of determining activities for the forthcoming year, an opportunity emerged for Spotlight Initiative to participate at the Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI) Forum from 21 – 25 October 2024. SVRI is a global research initiative that promotes high-quality research in the area of sexual violence,

particularly in low and middle-income countries. The SVRI Forum is built with an experienced and committed network of researchers, policy makers, activists, and donors to ensure that the many aspects of sexual violence are addressed from the perspective of different disciplines and cultures and is grounded in the belief that prevention efforts and service provision must be informed by sound research and evidence. The SVRI Forum will bring together over 1000 researchers, gender activists, funders, policy makers, service providers, practitioners, and survivors from around the world who are working to understand, prevent and respond to various forms of violence faced by girls and women. It provides multiple spaces and opportunities for delegates to strengthen existing partnerships and build new ones, as well as providing a platform for new and ground-breaking research in this field. Participation at the SVRI Forum is a strategic opportunity for Spotlight Initiative and its partners to learn from the latest evidence-base, share the effectiveness of its comprehensive model, and to strengthen partnership opportunities.

Moving forward, the **Group of Friends for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls** will continue to serve as a key channel for coordinating action, sharing knowledge, promoting advocacy efforts, mobilising resources, and supporting ongoing initiatives in the movement to end gender-based violence among member states, and it would be crucial to support the group in these efforts.

In planning for the forthcoming year, the Secretariat has also worked to identify new collaborations across the EVAWG ecosystem, which have been captured in a **Collaborations Plan** (Annex D).

As the current Global Platform project concludes at the end of April 2024, as a natural successor programme, most of this follow up and scale up of efforts stemming from the successes of the Spotlight Initiative Global Platform will be done in the framework of the 2024-2026 HIVE programme.

Next Steps

The Secretariat has developed a **Knowledge Production and Exchange Plan for 2024 which will be undertaken through the HIVE Joint Programme**, which outlines the strategic plan for all technical content, as well as all communications and visibility activities.

Knowledge Exchanges/Convenings

- Knowledge exchanges will be convened in early 2024 on the following topics:
  - Launch of the Spotlight Initiative Technical Package
  - Launch of the Compendium of Good Practices and Lessons Learned from the Spotlight Initiative

Knowledge Production
- Knowledge briefs on the following topics will be developed and disseminated widely:
  - Results, promising practices, and lessons on ending female genital mutilation.
  - Thematic briefs showcasing content from the Compendium of Good Practices and Lessons Learned

Communications and visibility

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

In 2023, the SI Secretariat employed various communications tools, including social media messaging and assets, advocacy campaigns, videos, stories, and digital content, to amplify the SHINE platform, as well as multiple knowledge products.

Among the various communications channels utilised by Spotlight Initiative, the main focus for the Global Platform has been the SHINE platform, the Community of the Spotlight Initiative (COSI) email group, social media platforms, including Twitter, Instagram and Youtube, MailChimp, and the Spotlight Initiative global website. Communications and visibility efforts have also been amplified through online discussions hosted on SHINE and COSI. COSI reaches over **600** UN personnel working on the technical, day-to-day implementation of the Spotlight Initiative. Throughout 2023, COSI members have supported further dissemination of materials within their partner networks.

To support communications and visibility activities for the Global Platform, the Secretariat also developed a 2023 Technical Action Plan, which detailed all technical content related to Global Platform activities. This plan included information on knowledge production, as well as a learning plan outlining the schedule and subject of knowledge exchanges, convenings, discussions and Communities of Practice (Annex E).

Annexes

Annex A: Spotlight Initiative Secretariat - 2023 Knowledge Products

Annex B: Global Knowledge Product Tracker

Annex C: Highlights Video -Sustainability of Spotlight Initiative Peer Exchange

Annex D: Knowledge Management Collaborations Plan 2024

Annex E: 2023 Final Technical Action Plan