

**Spotlight  
Initiative**

*To eliminate violence  
against women and girls*



# BELIZE FINAL NARRATIVE PROGRAMME REPORT

Programme title: Spotlight Initiative to Eliminate  
Violence Against Women and Girls

*Programme duration: Jan 2020 - Dec 2023*  
*Reporting period: Entire Programme Duration*

## Programme Title & Programme Number

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Programme Title: Spotlight Initiative to Eliminate Violence Against Women and Girls

MPTF Office Project Reference Number:<sup>1</sup>00119130

## Recipient Organization(s)

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UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA

## Priority regions/areas/localities for the programme

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All Six Districts of Belize

## Key Partners

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Ministry of Human Development, Families and Indigenous Peoples' Affairs

Ministry of Health & Wellness

Ministry of National Defense and Border Security  
Ministry of Education, Culture, Science & Technology

Attorney General's Ministry

Ministry of Youth, Sports and Transport

National Women's Commission

National Commission for Families and Children

CSOs and CSO Networks

Civil Society National Reference Group

Academia

UN Agencies/UN Programme Partners:  
European Union

UN Women

ILO

PAHO/WHO

UNHCR

OHCHR

IOM

<sup>1</sup>The Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) Office Project Reference Number is the same number as the one on the Notification message. It is also referred to as "Project ID" on the project's factsheet page the MPTF Office GATEWAY.

## Programme Cost (US\$)

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**Total Budget as per the Spotlight CPD:** 4,369,552 USD

**Total Spotlight funding:**<sup>2</sup> 3,535,714 USD

**Agency Contribution:** 833,838 USD

**Spotlight Funding and Agency Contribution by Agency:**

Name of RUNO	Spotlight (USD)	UN Agency Contributions (USD)
UNDP	1,208,815	153,791
UNFPA	888,725	263,018
UNICEF	1,378,067	417,029
UN WOMEN	60,107	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,535,714</b>	<b>833,838</b>

**TOTAL: 4,369,552 USD**

## Programme Start and End Dates

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**Start Date:**

(01.01.2020)

**End Date [as approved by the OSC or your N/RSC]:**

(31.12.2023)

**Report Submitted By: Raul Salazar UN Resident Coordinator**

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<sup>2</sup>The Spotlight Contribution refers to the amount transferred to the Recipient UN Organizations, which is available on the MPTF Office GATEWAY.

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# Acronym List

Acronym	Definitions
<b>CSNRG</b>	Civil Society National Reference Group
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organizations
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>GBV</b>	Gender Based Violence
<b>GEWE</b>	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
<b>HoA</b>	Heads of Agencies
<b>MHDFIPA</b>	Ministry of Human Development Families and Indigenous People's Affairs
<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>MNDBS</b>	Ministry of Defence and Border Security
<b>MTA</b>	Mid Term Assessment
<b>NWC</b>	National Women's Commission
<b>NSC</b>	National Steering Committee
<b>OHCHR</b>	Office of the High Commission for Human Rights
<b>RCO</b>	Resident Coordinator Office
<b>RUNOs</b>	Recipient United Nations Organizations
<b>SBCC</b>	Social and Behaviour Change Communication
<b>SI</b>	Spotlight Initiative
<b>SOP</b>	Standard Operating Procedures
<b>SRHR</b>	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
<b>UNCT</b>	United Nations Country Team
<b>VAWG</b>	Violence Against Women and Girls

# Executive Summary

The Final Spotlight Cumulative Report presents key achievements, challenges, and lessons learned during Spotlight Initiative four years of implementation, 2020-2023, and demonstrates how the implementation of a comprehensive approach to VAWG has had a catalytic effect in advancing legislative, policy, and programme interventions to end violence against women and girls across the six (6) programme outcomes. Despite multiple challenges faced, including COVID 19 and its attendant emergencies, as well as natural disasters, strong commitment from the Government of Belize, at the highest level, sustained partnership and technical support from the European Union Delegation, partnership with civil society and coordinated efforts of Recipient UN Organizations, in the implementation of Spotlight Initiative, has resulted in elevating the positioning of VAWG at the national and political level, advancing gender equality and women's empowerment, and the achievement of 100% implementation rate for Belize.

Additionally, continued engagement and direct partnership with 11 civil society organizations (CSOs), particularly at the community level, have provided multiple opportunities to expand prevention and service delivery reaching marginalized and vulnerable populations.

Despite ongoing economic and social challenges and challenges to the implementation of activities posed by COVID-19, the Spotlight Initiative and implementing partners were able to adopt methodologies and approaches to contribute to impacting the national response to violence against women and girls.

Within the context of UN Reform, the new way of working as one UN was enhanced through the implementation of Spotlight Initiative. A Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) was developed and implemented to promote effective coordination among multiple UN agencies involved in Spotlight's implementation. The SOP for Spotlight, finalized within the last quarter of 2020, facilitated effective partnerships among UN agencies, the EU and wider partnerships, including with civil society. The SOP considered the various levels of coordination needed within the UN agencies and between the UN agencies and the various stakeholders involved given the VAWG focus of the SI initiative and ensured that mechanisms were in place to effectively coordinate at all levels.

## **Under Outcome 1:**

The Spotlight Initiative has strengthened four (4) laws and policies and supported the development of one law, that adequately respond to the rights of all women and girls, are evidence-based, in line with international HR standards and guarantee the ability of women's rights groups, autonomous social movements, CSOs and women human rights defenders/feminist activists to advance the human rights agenda. These include the Domestic Violence Act, the Criminal Code, the Cybercrime Act of 2020, the Draft Disabilities Bill and the National Gender Policy. Belize also now has in place a national evidence-based, costed action plan and M&E framework on VAWG, that respond to the rights of all women and girls and are developed in a participatory manner.

Over 600 key government officials, CSOs and community groups have greater knowledge and awareness of human rights obligations and are able to draft laws and/or policies that guarantee the ability of women's rights groups, CSOs and women human rights defenders to advance the human rights agenda.

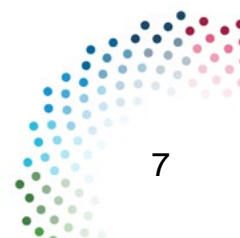


## **Under Outcome 2:**

The institutional capacity of the national machinery for gender equality and women's empowerment, the National Women's Commission, has been strengthened through the participatory development of its strategic plan and capacity building of national and subnational levels committees, to prevent and respond to VAWG including family violence, inclusive of groups of women and girls facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.

Gender and Gender Based Violence is integrated in 3 sector (Social Services, Education, and Justice) development plans that are evidence-based and in line with globally agreed standards and key government officials in all 3 sectors now have strengthened capacities to develop and deliver programmes that prevent and respond to VAWG including family violence, and to integrate efforts to end VAWG including family violence into the development plans of other sectors.

The institutional capacity of the judiciary has been strengthened to improve access to justice for women and men, boys and girls and the institutional capacity of 10 institutions and 78 service providers has been strengthened to develop and deliver programmes that prevent and respond to VAWG.



### **Under Outcome 3:**

Over its four years of implementation Spotlight Initiative reached over 50,000 women, men, boys and girls in homes, schools, workplaces and communities. At the individual level over 35,000 parents and children, including migrant parents and children with disabilities, have increased knowledge and awareness on gender norms, attitudes and practices through parenting interventions and over 12,000 men and boys attended gender-transformative programmes addressing violent masculinities and men's violence towards women and girls.

At the level of the school, CSE for in and out of school adolescents and youth has been strengthened in line with international standards. Additionally, platforms and referral systems for mandatory reporting of child abuse, human trafficking and family violence in school along with and have been strengthened through the implementation of the Mandatory Reporting Protocols for Child Abuse, Human Trafficking and Family Violence in schools across the country, reaching over 3500 teachers and school administrators and indirectly impacting 105,000 children and 26,250 families or households.

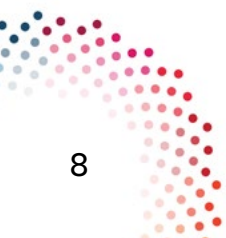
At the level of the community, almost 2,000 key informal decision makers and decision makers in relevant institutions now have strengthened awareness of and capacities to advocate for implementation of legislation and policies on VAWG including family violence and for gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours and women and girls' rights and women and men, boys and girls have increased access to community platforms and programmes promoting gender equitable norms, attitudes, and behaviours, including sessions on family violence.

At the level of the workplace, the institutional capacity of 10 private sector institutions to develop strategies, plans and programmes and respond to VAWG was also strengthened. Additionally, gender inequitable social norms, attitudes and behaviours that contribute to violence against women and girls were challenged by multiple campaigns reaching over 300,000 persons over four years.



### **Under Outcome 4:**

Over 28,000, women and girls' survivors of violence, including women and girls facing multiple and intersecting forms of violence, have increased knowledge of existing quality essential services and increased knowledge of accompaniment services, 54 women and girls were provided access to accompaniment/support initiatives, including longer-term recovery services and three safe houses have increased capacity to provide support to survivors of violence.





Spotlight Initiative also increased the institutional capacity of key service providers, to deliver quality and coordinated essential services to women and girls' survivors of VAWG including family violence through strengthening the Social Services Workforce and the development of Essential Services Package for Belize. Additionally, women and girls' survivors of violence and most risk groups benefitted from improved and coordinated service delivery through key national guidelines and protocols for essential services that specifically address the needs of women and girls facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.



### **Under Outcome 5:**

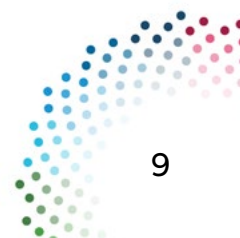
Belize now has access to globally comparable data on VAWG through the completion of the Spotlight Initiative Baseline Study and GBV information systems have been strengthened to increase capacity for data collection, case management and reporting on VAWG.



### **Under Outcome 6:**

Women's rights groups, networks and relevant CSOs have the knowledge and capacities to use the appropriate accountability mechanisms for advocacy; with strengthened capacities to network, partner and jointly advocate for progress on ending VAWG including family violence at the local and national level.

65 Women's rights groups and relevant CSOs, have increased opportunities and support to share knowledge, network, partner and jointly advocate for GEWE and ending VAWG, including family violence, with relevant stakeholders at sub-national, national, regional and global levels and the capacity of 89 state and non-state organizations to use social accountability mechanisms has increased along with increased capacity for networking and alliance building of 36 state and non-state organizations. Finally, over 10 jointly agreed recommendations have been produced as a result of multi-stakeholder dialogues that include representatives of groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.

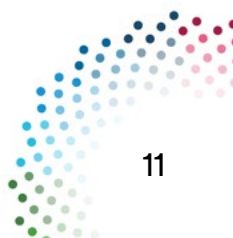


An important focus of the UN, EU, the Government of Belize and the Civil Society National Reference Group (CSNRG), during the final year of implementation was on sustaining the achievements under the initiative and ensuring that the national response was sufficiently strengthened to continue to achieve impact across multiple areas of the response to GBV. A Spotlight Initiative Sustainability Plan was developed in a participatory manner, utilizing lessons learned from Spotlight Initiative's implementation, and closely aligned with national priorities, plans and policies.

The Sustainability Plan features an 18-month road map to support an effective and efficient transition to the national response to GBV. Its development was guided by the EU-UN Guidance Note on Spotlight Initiative Sustainability. The sustainability plan identifies clear actions, in the short and medium term, proposed by the Government of Belize, Recipient UN Agencies, CSOs and the European Union Delegation, that will be undertaken to ensure a robust national response to GBV with concrete actions, roles and responsibilities across key outcome areas.

The table below provides an overview of beneficiaries reached per outcome. Please see Annex A for further details.

Outcome	Number of beneficiaries
<b>Policy and Legislation</b>	241 government and civil society actors
<b>Institutional Strengthening</b>	52 government and CSO institutions 578 government officials
<b>Prevention and norm change</b>	34,281 girls and boys in and out of school 42,260 women, men, boys and girls at the community level 12,075 men and boys 32 private sector organizations 1994 informal decision makers
<b>Service Delivery</b>	87 government service providers with increased capacity to delivery essential service package 26,652 women and girls with increased knowledge of quality essential services 984 women accessed quality essential services at the community level
<b>Data and Evidence</b>	29 government officials with enhanced capacity to collect prevalence and incidence data
<b>Civil Society and Women's Movements</b>	68 women's rights groups with increased influence and agency to work on ending VAWG 98 women's rights groups and CSOs strengthened capacities and support to design, implement, monitor and evaluate their own programmes on ending VAWG





# Significant Contextual Shifts and Overall Implementation Status

Despite major developmental challenges within the broader social, political, economic, and cultural context, Spotlight Initiative continued its successful implementation and is well poised to successfully transition to a full-fledged national response to GBV.

The first two years of implementation were constrained by consistent adjustments to the programme as a result of COVID-19 and its attendant emergency response. This period saw sharp increases in the number of COVID-19 cases, national lockdowns, closure of businesses and key industries and sectors resulting in unemployment, food insecurity and an increased burden on the health and social sector to respond to increasing cases of COVID-19. This stretched existing government capacities to effectively engage in and respond to VAWG as human and financial resources were diverted to respond to COVID-19. Furthermore, the socio-economic fabric of Belize, like many other countries, was hard hit with high levels of unemployment and underemployment, protracted school lock down, increase in poverty levels and the significant spike in COVID-19 positive cases.

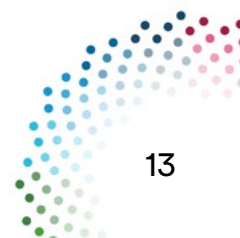
The heightened threat of increase in gender-based violence was a critical area of concern during this period with GBV reports indicating an increase in the number of cases of VAWG during periods of national lockdowns.

Spotlight Initiative quickly responded by leveraging resources to support the government to respond to at-risk groups and survivors of GBV through the integrated service provision of mobile and community level psychosocial support via GBV, HIV and STI counselling, stress management, contraception services in response to the COVID-19 emergency, in partnership with local CSOs. Additionally, SI leveraged resources to establish 4 temporary safe spaces for survivors of GBV, since there was a disruption in the provision of this essential service owing to a national lock down and restrictions in outside travels. Spotlight also provided technical support to strengthen the national referral system to integrate COVID-19 relief response and reprogramme logistical support for training programmes to be used for effective implementation of relief response for most vulnerable families including rural women and girls, survivors of GBV.

Civil Society emerged as a crucial partner to the COVID-19 response, particularly in addressing service delivery gaps at the community level. As previously noted, some GBV services were interrupted as many GOB service providers responded to COVID-19 emergency and other disasters. Spotlight resources for some strategically positioned CSOs were topped up to allow them to support mobile service delivery and to continue to provide essential services to most at-risk women and girls and survivors of GBV. CSOs were motivated to enhance their own knowledge and technological capacity to facilitate these engagements and SI provided CSOs support through re-budgeting to include strengthening their capacity to engage on the different technology platforms (zoom, teams, etc.), providing data to participants to ensure their ability to participate, and access to knowledge products to support developing interactive virtual sessions. Community outreach, especially in the rural areas was unavailable and efforts to ensure safety of both CSO partners and beneficiaries were built into intervention designs, guided by the government's COVID-19 safety protocols. Additionally, although CSOs experienced some setbacks in implementation during the onset of the pandemic, most CSOs demonstrated, and continue to demonstrate, a remarkable capacity to identify and implement innovative ways to remain operational and ensure information and services are reaching beneficiaries at the community level. Some examples of this include e-counselling to ensure sustained counselling support to survivors of GBV, on-line training and sensitization on VAWGs, adoption of COVID-19 protocols for mobile units to ensure continuity of services to communities.

Implementing partners were supported in re-programming funds to facilitate the change in modality and also provided access to secure and sustained meeting and training platforms. Additionally, there were some instances where planned activities already included the contracting of a consultant. However, to accelerate implementation, funds were not transferred to the counterpart and RUNO engaged in direct implementation on behalf of the CSO. One example of this was the contracting of a consultant to support the design of the Mobile Women's Center.

In addition to COVID-19, the first year and third year of implementation were also constrained by natural disasters which saw Belize being impacted by unprecedented levels of flooding associated with Hurricane Eta and Iota in 2020, which resulted in the disruption of services, and Hurricane Lisa in 2022, which made landfall in Belize as a Category One Hurricane. Hurricane Etta and Iota resulted in many implementing partners, including key Government and CSO partners, diverting attention and resources to emergency lifesaving support to affected communities. Some communities could not be reached to continue interventions by other Implementing Partners (IPs), such as CSOs, due to high levels of flood waters, prolonged power outages and displacement. CSO partners and key government personnel who traditionally respond to humanitarian crises utilized the opportunities to combine humanitarian response and interventions of family violence.



Particularly, the delivery of parenting and support services were combined with the distribution of food assistance and early childhood development (ECD) packages to parents. Hurricane Lisa brought strong gusty winds, flash floods, and storm surges throughout the entire coast of the country, and especially battered Belize District, affecting 172,000 people, causing the temporary displacement of at least 5,000 persons who sought refuge in state-managed shelters. In addition to the economic impact, Hurricane Lisa's devastation resulted in key social services being diverted to support recovery efforts in this area. This significantly impacted efforts to reinstate services post COVID-19 country-wide given the already limited human resources available within the social sector.

By the end of 2022, the economy began to rebound and key social services including health, education and GBV services, which were significantly constrained during COVID-19 and other emergencies, slowly increased service delivery, with schools opening for full time face-to-face sessions by the end of the third quarter. However, the impact from the prolonged suspension of routine health and social services such as SRH services, mental health services, GBV case management, referral services, outreach and education created increasing demands on the limited available human resources within those sectors once services were reinstated. This made it extremely challenging for service providers to ensure that services were reinstated to the most vulnerable population who were already experiencing gaps in service delivery even before COVID -19.

Belize's economy slowly rebounded in 2022. According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the rebased national accounts show that, after contracting by 13.4 percent in 2020, real GDP rebounded by 15.2 percent in 2021 and 11.6 percent in the first three quarters of 2022, driven by retail and wholesale trade, tourism, and business process outsourcing. Visitor arrivals reached 74 percent of pre-pandemic levels in 2022 as COVID-19 restrictions eased amid vaccination efforts in Belize and source markets, while the unemployment rate fell from 10.2 percent in 2021 to 5.0 percent in the second half of 2022. Inflation increased to 3.2 percent in 2021 and 6.3 percent in 2022, driven by higher global food and fuel prices despite the fixed rates of domestic diesel and regular gasoline prices at the pump since April 2022.

Throughout its four years of implementation, Spotlight Initiative continued to receive strong political support from the Government of Belize which continuously demonstrated its commitment to the national GBV response through a Domestic Violence Motion supported by the entire Cabinet during the first quarter of 2022. The Motion identified five key action areas for the Cabinet which includes; denouncing and condemning domestic violence, in all its forms, as crime and a violation of fundamental human rights, a call for additional resources to further strengthen the interventions, safeguards and public awareness required to effectively address domestic violence in Belize, undertake legislative review aimed at filling gaps and putting in the necessary reforms for the response to domestic violence; as national leaders, takes a zero-tolerance position with regard to domestic violence, prioritizes domestic violence as a national issue of significance .

The Spotlight Initiative utilized this important motion as an opportunity to engage key leaders in government in identifying key priorities for inclusion in Phase II proposal development to support the Government of Belize in advancing their commitments to the national response to GBV in line with the Motion.

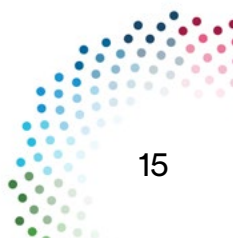
In addition, the Government of Belize continued to provide strong leadership on the National Steering Committee alongside the European Union and the UN. Spotlight Initiative was included as a core component of Belize’s Medium Term Development Strategy 2022-2025, the national machinery for gender equality and women’s empowerment (GEWE), the National Women’s Commission (NWC) was strengthened through

the establishment of the NWC as a statutory body with the legal mandate for GEWE, and the Women’s Parliamentarian Caucus was established. The latter provides an important high-level space for advocacy on advancing the national response to VAWG.

A Sustainability Plan, which was endorsed by the NSC during its final meeting in December 2023, was developed in partnership with the government, the EU and civil society. Priority actions within the Sustainability Plan are aligned with key frameworks such as the National Gender and Gender Based Violence Action Plan, the National Gender Policy and other key plans and policies in order to ensure that actions will be implemented.



Photo credit



# Programme Governance and Coordination

The Spotlight Initiative Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), which was developed in 2020, established key governance structures and mechanisms to support effective governance, coordination and oversight of Spotlight Initiative throughout its implementation. Strategic leadership by the Resident Coordinator (RC) supported the effective implementation of the Spotlight Initiative and coordination of the RUNO Heads of Agencies through bi-monthly meetings to review the progress of implementation and identify areas for action by the HOAs.

Leadership and engagement of the RC and HOAs supported effective coordination of the Spotlight Initiative, ensured collective accountability to

commitments, facilitated spaces for high-level information exchange to strengthen partnerships and to advocate for advancing key actions to strengthen the national response, as well as improving coordination and collaboration of the UN system internally and externally with the EU and implementing partners.

In addition to the oversight and guidance provided by the RC and HOAs, monthly coordination meetings among RUNOs, at the technical level, provided the space for oversight of the programme, strategic decision making, and decision making regarding budget and financial implementation.



Photo credit



# A. National / Regional Steering Committee

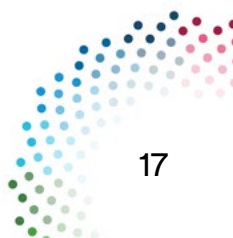
The National Steering Committee functioned as an effective governance mechanism, ensuring strong ownership and leadership from the government as well as fostering coordination and joint advocacy among the government, UN agencies and the European Union. In keeping with the principle of “leaving no one behind”, civil society’s engagement in the NSC ensured that the voice of the most vulnerable populations and those most affected by VAWG were represented in key governance and decision-making spaces.

The National Steering Committee (NSC) functioned as the highest governing body of the Spotlight Initiative and for the first three years was led by two passionate women leaders as Co-Chairs of the NSC, the Minister of Human Development, Families and Indigenous People’s Affairs and the UN Resident Coordinator. The 3rd quarter of 2023, saw a change in the Resident Coordinator for Belize. The European Union Delegation (EUD), in the form of the EU Ambassador, also provided important leadership alongside the 2 Co-Chairs. The Co-Chairs maintained strong partnership with all members of the NSC and with the Spotlight Initiative through continued engagement as demonstrated in ongoing involvement of activities beyond the NSC meetings such as engagement in programme oversight, coordination, monitoring and evaluation, communication and visibility and engagement with civil society.

The NSC met bi-annually and included representation at the highest level from the following: Special Envoy for the Development of Families and Children, Ministry of Finance, Economic Development & Investment, Ministry of Education, Culture & Technology, Ministry of Youth, Sports and E-Governance, Ministry of Home Affairs & New Growth Industries, Ministry of Rural Transformation, Community Development, Labour & Local Government, Ministry of Health & Wellness, Head of the European Union Delegation to Belize, Recipient United Nations Organizations UNICEF, UNFPA and UNDP, and 20% representation from the CSNRG.

Key actions taken by the NSC during Spotlight Initiative implementation included review and approval of Spotlight Annual Work Plan, Budgets and annual reports, and review of Belize’s Mid-Term Evaluation Report findings. The NSC also provided leadership in the development of the Spotlight Initiative Sustainability Plan by deliberating on the priority actions presented and making recommendations for priority actions to be included in the Sustainability Plan.

While the NSC’s function in the governance of Spotlight Initiative ended in December 2023, the Government of Belize has established a Social Sector Caucus of Chief Executive Officers in the Government which will provide a space for oversight and leadership on key social areas inclusive of the national response to GBV. The Caucus’s agenda will include receiving updates, presentations and technical inputs from the UN, Civil Society and other key agencies in the social sector.



## B. Civil Society Reference Group

In 2019, an Interim Civil Society National Reference Group (ICSNRG) composed of 15 members was established to support the design phase of the programme. The group was actively engaged in working sessions with the government, the UN and the EU across all of the programme's outcome areas. In addition to the ICSNRG, multiple CSOs, representing a wide cross-section of beneficiaries, including vulnerable and marginalized groups, were included in the CPD development process. The ICSNRG was replaced by the CSNRG during the last quarter of 2020 and comprised 8 diverse members. In July 2020, a call for nomination went out for participation in the CSNRG. 10 nominations were received. However, only 8 successfully met the specified criteria. Consequently, the CSNRG was formed with these 8 members from national, local and grassroots CSOs. The CSNRG is inclusive and aimed at leaving no one behind, featuring the participation of groups representing women and girls, youth, indigenous groups, LGBTI groups, and CSOs focusing on sexual and reproductive health and rights

During the first three years of its establishment the CSNRG significantly contributed to the governance and oversight of the Spotlight Initiative through monthly meetings and the implementation of its work plan which focused on advocacy and accountability of the Spotlight Initiative. The following are notably achievements of the CSNRG:

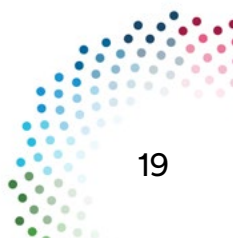
- ♀ The CSNRG ensured a consistent representation of 20% of its membership on the National Steering committee.
- ♀ CSNRG Representatives were nominated to the National Steering Committee (NSC), Youth, Regional and International Reference Groups. Within the NSC, the CSNRG was able to table concerns and participate in the decision-making process at the national level. As members of the Youth, Regional and International Reference Groups, the CSNRG exchanged ideas, discuss best practices and challenges that are encountered. This also provided additional insight regarding the implementation of the Spotlight Initiative at various levels.
- ♀ Development of work plan for Jan 2022 - Dec 2023, an Advocacy Strategy, an M&E Tool and a CSNRG Scorecard.
- ♀ The CSNRG's Information Communication Technology (ICT) capacity was strengthened through the establishment of 3 ICT hubs to support greater functionality of CSNRG members and also to enable the CSNRG to support actions under Outcome 6 geared towards strengthening CSOs and women's movement to advocate and design, implement, monitor and evaluate programmes on family violence.

- ♀ Additionally, the CSNRG played a significant role in supporting the Spotlight Initiative by presenting 4 Case Studies at the Human Rights Capacity Building Session in July/August, 2023. This created a space for meaningful dialogue with a results-based approach and highlighted the important work of the CSNRG and CSOs in leaving no one behind and working toward EVAWG.
- ♀ In support of Outcome 6, the CSNRG supported CSO conversations with social sector CSOs to identify opportunities for increased coordination and networking and contributed to the development of a CSO engagement strategy.
- ♀ The CSNRG played an active role in engaging CSOs to provide valuable contributions to the Spotlight Initiative Sustainability Plan.

During the final year of Spotlight implementation, the CSNRG faced many challenges in maintaining 100% of its membership. In 2023 the CSNRG only comprised of five (5) active members and elections were not held to replace members that were no longer active. The chair of the CSNRG continued to provide key leadership and representation on the NSC, ensuring strong CSO inputs into the Sustainability Plan. However, the CSNRG did not provide full oversight and governance during the final year and tools such as the advocacy plan and CSO Scorecard were not implemented. Multiple efforts were made by the Resident Coordinator, RUNOs and the European Union Technical Officer to provide support for the development of a work plan and to encourage active engagement of the CSNRG.

However, the active engagement noted during the first three years was not evident during the final year of implementation.

The CSNRG as a mechanism for effective governance and oversight was consistently noted by all stakeholders as a good mechanism in design. However, given that the guidelines for CSNRG representation provides for members to participate in their individual capacity and not representing their organization or a specific constituency, the impact of the CSNRG was minimized. Most representatives had full time engagements which limited their availability to participate fully in the governance and oversight of Spotlight Initiative. Given the resources and leadership required to ensure full CSO participation in this role, the Spotlight Initiative Sustainability Plan features actions that seek to strengthen CSO leadership, networking and engagement as part of existing mechanisms such as the Belize Network of NGOs (BNN). This will ensure that CSO representation is linked to CSO constituents and that a dedicated space exist for CSOs to dialogue, plan, monitor and advocate collectively. CSNRG leadership is currently engaged in supporting this transition.



## C. Inter-agency coordination, technical committees and other governance mechanisms

The United Nations Gender and Human Rights Theme Group (UNGHR) served as a key inter-agency coordination mechanism, providing a space for Spotlight Initiative to foster inter-agency coordination, aligned with UN Reform. This UNGHR provided technical guidance and oversight to ensure that gender and human rights were effectively addressed within the Spotlight Initiative and that the gender and human rights focus of SI was aligned with international standards. The UNGHR also has a strategic role in supporting the implementation of Agenda 2030 and SDGs, as per the areas indicated in the Gender Scorecard, Human Rights-based Approach and Leave No One Behind guidance to Development Cooperation.

As part of the efforts to simplify processes and improve opportunities for civil society and women's rights movements to access resources and support through the United Nations and other Development Partners, Spotlight Initiative saw an opportunity to support CSOs in meeting the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) mandate. Spotlight Initiative supported the engagement of 10 CSOs, CBOs, and NGO partners to strengthen their policies and practices on PSEA. Pathlight Belize, as an implementing partner, was identified as having experience in successfully developing and customizing all six Core Standards of

the PSEA Toolkit developed by UNICEF to support Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP). As such, building on their experience and success, the partner was engaged to provide guided technical training and support from other CSO, CBO and NGO partners, helping them to adapt, develop and complete PSEA policies, procedures, training, and processes for the population they serve. 95 (8 males, 87 females) representatives of the 10 organizations were trained in PSEA and Sexual Harassment. 10 PSEA Manuals and Policies were developed and institutionalized to protect communities, staff and volunteers and to outline each organization's zero tolerance on PSEA, including consequences for violating the PSEA policy. Organizations engaged represented beneficiaries from key vulnerable populations, including migrant and indigenous women and children, persons with disabilities, LGBTQIA persons, and rural and hard to reach communities.

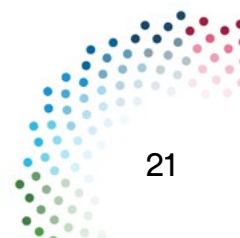
## D. Use of UN Reform inter-agency tools

In line with UN Reform efforts, some aspects of the Business Operations Strategy were implemented by RUNOs. All RUNOs implemented the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT). This included utilization of joint human resources and funds to conduct training for implementing partners to ensure effective utilization of HACT. Where applicable, joint planning and monitoring was also undertaken with implementing partners supported by multiple RUNOs. Additionally, RUNOs engaged in cost sharing through the use of joint office spaces while at least two RUNOs utilize joint financial systems.

The UN Partner Portal, which represents the efforts of UNHCR, UNICEF and WFP to implement the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit' Grand Bargain commitments to reduce duplication and management costs and enhance partnerships with local and national actors, was also utilized by RUNOs to create, vet, assess risks, and select partners for programme implementation.

The UN and IASC Implementing Partner Capacity Assessment is a tool used by the UN to assess Implementing Partners' organizational capacities on the Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA).

Previously, UN Agencies carried out their own assessment of partners and often partners were subjected to several rounds of assessment depending on the number of UN agencies they were engaged with. To avoid multiple assessments, common partners only need to be assessed by one UN entity and other RUNOs are able to access the information through the UN Partner Portal. By promoting a common UN and IASC capacity assessment, the UN and its implementing partners were able to benefit from increased transparency and reduced processes.





# Programme Partnerships

Throughout its implementation, the Spotlight Initiative established and strengthened partnerships with key government and civil society actors. The Spotlight Initiative engaged with six key government entities: The Ministry of Human Development, Families & Indigenous People's Affairs (MHFIPA), the Ministry of the Attorney General, the Ministry of Health and Wellness, the Ministry of National Defence and Border Security (MNDBS), the National Women's Commission (NWC) and the National Commission for Families and Children (NCFC). These partnerships were critical in securing high-level political buy-in from the government and fostering long-term national ownership of the Spotlight Initiative and EVAWG work more broadly. Partnerships with these key government entities were also important in ensuring the sustainability of Spotlight Initiative activities as actions undertaken sought to build capacity and integrate EVAWG into various national plans, policies and programmes. These partnerships were also critical in strengthening the legal and policy environment for EVAWG as well as strengthening the capacity for prevention and service delivery to ensure that solutions were generated to expand reach to the most marginalized, including in times of emergencies.

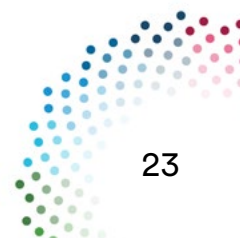
Partnerships were also established and strengthened with 11 Civil Society Organizations. These included the Belize Family Life Association (BFLA), Spouses of CARICOM Leaders Action Network (SCLAN), Child Development Foundation (CDF), Pathlight International, Youth Enhancement Services (YES), Productive Organization for Women in Action (POWA), Toledo Institute for Development and Environment (TIDE), the Human Rights Commission of Belize, GoJoven Belize Alumni Association (GO Belize), the Belize National Indigenous Council (BENIC), and the Belize Association of Planners (BAP). CSOs were key strategic partners in expanding prevention interventions and service delivery to the most affected populations and hardest to reach communities. CSO engagement was also critical in strengthening Belize's network of CSOs to ensure a strong platform for social sector CSOs to coordinate actions, advocate with government, support efforts towards social accountability and actively engage in the national response to VAWG.

During the last 2 years of implementation, CSOs with strong financial management capacity and requisite legal capacity to receive UN funding, provided an effective channel for sub-granting to grassroots CSOs who would not otherwise benefit directly from Spotlight Initiative funding. During the last year of Spotlight implementation, some 9 CSOs received sub-grants through 3 larger CSOs who have been engaged by Spotlight Initiative since 2020.

Subgrantees included organizations reaching persons with disabilities such as BAPDA, the Deaf Association, and the Inspiration Center, and organizations reaching indigenous women and girls such as Toledo Maya Women’s Council, San Antonio Women’s Group, Humana People to People Belize and RET International as well as organizations working directly with survivors of violence in rural areas such as House of Dorcas.



Photo credit



Strong partnerships with the Government of Belize, including at the highest level, partnerships with CSOs, particularly at the community level, ongoing engagement with the EU Delegation with avid interest, commitment and support from the EU Ambassador and the technical team, as well as cooperation with other UN agencies, contributed to strong programme implementation, impacting the lives of women and girls, men and boys.

Annex C provides details of CSOs and Grassroots organizations engaged in the implementation of Spotlight Initiative. The table below provides an overview of subgrantees.

	<b>Subgrantees</b>	<b>Key activities implemented</b>	<b>Target Group/ beneficiaries</b>
1	Belize Association for Persons with Disabilities	Social and Behaviour Change Communication	Persons with disabilities (country wide)
2	Humana People to People Belize	Social and Behaviour Change Communication	Migrant and indigenous communities (Toledo)
3	Toledo Maya Women's Council	Social and Behaviour Change Communication	Indigenous Rural Women (Toledo District)
4	RET Belize	Social and Behaviour Change Communication	Migrant communities (country wide)
5	House of Dorcas	Social and Behaviour Change Communication	Survivors of violence (Northern districts)
6	SIRDI	Social and Behaviour Change Communication	Cane farmers (Northern districts)
7	The Inspiration Center	Social and Behaviour Change Communication	Persons with disabilities
8	Peini Treasure Trove Learning Center	Social and Behaviour Change Communication	Men, women, boys and girls in Punta Gorda
9	San Antonio Women's Cooperative	GBV prevention intervention, skills training, institutional strengthening	Indigenous Rural Women (Cayo District)



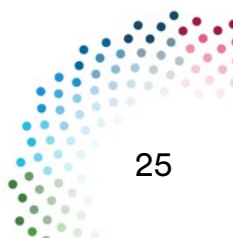
# A. Government

The Spotlight Initiative enjoyed the highest level of partnership and engagement with the Government of Belize. The Minister of Human Development, Families and Indigenous Peoples' Affairs (MHDFIPA) continued to co-chair the NSC while the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in that same ministry continued to serve as the Spotlight Initiative Focal Point for the Government. This provided multiple opportunities for high-level engagement, including with the European Union Ambassador, to review the progress of the Spotlight Initiative, identify and address bottlenecks and secure support in advocating with other key government leaders to address these gaps and bottlenecks to advancing Spotlight Initiative activities. During the final year of implementation, the partnership with the MHDFIPA was important to advance the development of the Sustainability Plan. Given the pivotal leadership role of the ministry beyond Spotlight Initiative it was necessary to ensure strong commitment and leadership of the ministry in guiding the way forward for the national response to GBV. This resulted in multiple engagements at the policy and decision making as well as the technical level to identify priority actions for sustaining the national response and to engage relevant government and CSO partners in agreeing on the way forward.

The MHDFIPA also served as an implementing partner. Through this partnership, the social workforce was strengthened to provide high-quality multi-sectoral services for victims (including in times of emergency) through the sustained capacity of service providers.

The Ministry's capacity for case management was also strengthened through improvements to FAMCARE, which resulted in better case management, provision of longer-term recovery for beneficiaries, monitoring, data collection and reporting on VAWG. This partnership was key to achieving the principle of "leave no one behind" since the Ministry of Human Development is the lead ministry in the country's response to VAWG and provides strategic leadership to all other government ministries and CSOs. In 2023, the MHDFIPA led the development of the Disabilities Bill under the Spotlight Initiative, a key legislative advance in keeping with the LNOB principle.

The main challenge faced in partnering with the MHDFIPA was delays in implementation resulting from the ministry's leadership in emergency response. Given the nature of the MHDFIPA's role and mandate, during emergencies such as COVID 19, Hurricane Lisa, and other natural disasters, the MHDFIPA's management and staff are required to dedicate a significant amount of time and resources to emergency response. In situations where the response is significant, such as during COVID 19 response, implementation of the VAWG response became secondary due to staff constraints. The Spotlight Initiative worked closely with the MHDFIPA to identify strategies for mainstreaming VAWG response into emergency response to ensure continuity of service delivery.



The National Women's Commission (NWC) falls under the purview of the MHDFIPA and functions as the national machinery for gender equality and women's empowerment. The NWC strategically supported strengthening national policies and national plans of action to advance gender equality and end VAWG; as such, it led the revision and updating of the National Gender Policy and the National Gender Based Violence Action Plan and also assumed ownership for coordinating the implementation of the National Social and Behaviour Change Communication Strategy on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls. The leadership of the NWC in these critical areas demonstrated national ownership and contributed to the sustainability of the national response to VAWG. Continued advocacy is required, at the highest level, to ensure that the national policy, action plan and strategy are endorsed by the cabinet.

The Ministry of National Defence and Border Security (MNDBS) supported the revision of key legislation related to family violence under Output 1.1. Additionally, the uniformed services under the Ministries of MNDBS and Home Affairs, namely the Belize Defence Force, Coast Guard, Police Department, and in collaboration with Immigration and Customs Department personnel benefitted from improved policies, protocols and procedures that support a zero-tolerance for violence against women in security forces, as well as a complaint and reporting mechanisms available to address discrimination within the security forces. The Joint Sexual Violence Response Programme, which was endorsed at the highest level by the ministers of the Ministry of Defence and Border Security, and the Ministry of Home Affairs and New Growth Industries was also launched.

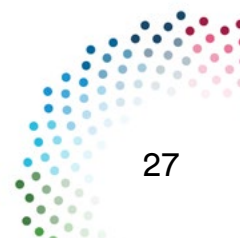
The engagement of these ministries was motivated by increased reports of sexual harassment and abuse within the security forces, and the lack of proper protocols and/or response mechanisms to protect and support victims. These allegations of misconduct increased at the onset of the coronavirus pandemic and became a national concern. While the Ministry demonstrated commitment to a zero-tolerance policy for VAWG, a major challenge is ensuring the existence of dedicated human resources to implement the JSVRP and ensure that it is institutionalized within the sector.

The Ministry of the Attorney General provided leadership in the justice sector, specifically as it relates to strengthening legislation and access to justice. The Attorney General of Belize provided strategic leadership and guidance for legislative reform and was intimately involved in leading Spotlight Initiative activities relevant to her ministry. Partnerships in this area contributed to improving legislative and policy frameworks to address impunity and provided for coordinated action to end violence against women and children. The National Commission for Families and Children (NCFC) is the statutory body with the legal mandate to advocate for and promote the rights of children and families based on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). The NCFC actively engaged in strengthening the evidence base for legislative review of family violence legislation and functioned as a key multi-sectoral body that supports a coordinated approach to prevention and service delivery across the life cycle.

Partnership with the Ministry of Health and Wellness was key to strengthening the provision of comprehensive SRH service delivery and information by ensuring that policies and protocols are in place to guarantee non-discriminatory access to services for adolescents, marginalized and vulnerable populations in keeping with the principle of “leaving no one behind.” In balancing the response to COVID-19, specifically the roll out of the COVID 19 vaccine, the Ministry of Health was significantly constrained in its capacity to implement planned activities. However, the Ministry of Health and Wellness endorsed the exploration of viable options in the policy environment for reprogramming of funds which included the establishment of a Disabilities Bill for Belize with the inclusion of SRH and GBV components as well as the revision of the SRH policy to include vulnerable groups (LGBTQI+, youths and marginalized populations). This support by the Ministry expanded the LNOB focus of Spotlight Initiative and also strengthened partnership with the Ministry of Human Development, Families and Indigenous People’s Affairs who established a Disability Desk in March 2021. The partnership and support from these two Ministries ultimately resulted in the adoption of the Mobile Women’s Center with a government led approach to provide SRH services and information and essential services to vulnerable populations and victims of family violence.

Partnership with the Ministry of Education was constrained in 2022 as shifting priorities in the Ministry of Education resulted in a redirection of focus. To advance on maintaining the gains for the CSE agenda, Spotlight Initiative enlisted support from CSOs to engage adolescent girls and boys in out of school setting with the scale-up of CSE through the revision of a training of trainers’ module on CSE and CSE programming. 2023 ushered in a re-engagement of the partnership with the Ministry to advance Comprehensive Sexuality Education in schools with the revision of the Health and Family Life Education curriculum by incorporating CSE topics into the curriculum and to ensure the effective implementation of CSE topics in the formal educational system. The advocacy efforts of the Special Envoy for Women and Children in promoting the revision of the HFLE Curriculum should be noted as the Special Envoy emerged as a champion in this area based on experiences with the implementation of the Engaging Men and Boys Programme under Spotlight Initiative.

Currently there is no specific law for CSE programs. Without any legal mandate for CSE, there continues to be push back from Faith Based Organizations which constrains the Ministry of Education’s actions in advancing CSE. The Ministry of Health and Wellness is leading on drafting and finalizing a SRH Policy which will provide the framework for CSE programming.



## B. Civil Society

Throughout its implementation, Spotlight Initiative continuously strengthened partnerships with civil society organizations who consistently maintained a strong track record of reaching the hardest to reach, working with marginalized groups and innovation, in keeping with the principle of “leaving no one behind”. A total of 11 CSOs were engaged throughout the four years of implementation as well as 13 grassroots CSOs who benefited from sub-grants during the last two years of Spotlight Initiative implementation.

Seven (7) CSOs supported the implementation of actions under Outcome 3, geared towards the prevention of VAWG, with a strong focus on leaving no one behind while three (3) CSOs supported strengthening of service delivery (Outcome 4) to reach the most marginalized groups, in the spirit of leaving no one behind, and four (4) CSOs supported activities to strengthen CSOs and autonomous women’s movement (Outcome 6).

Under Outcome 3, Productive Organization for Women in Action (POWA), a feminist CSO, Child Development Foundation (CDF), a Faith-Based CSO, Youth Enhancement Services (YES), representing marginalized young girls, Toledo Institute for Environment and Development (TIDE) an environmental CSO, and Spouses of CARICOM Leaders Action Network (SCLAN), a regional CSO were engaged in the implementation of community-based activities focused on empowerment, protection and prevention of family violence.

All organizations worked across multiple groups of beneficiaries including rural and indigenous women, women and girls with disabilities, LGBTQI populations, men and boys, migrant women and adolescent girls, including those in early marriages and unions, in keeping with the principle of “leaving no one behind”.

A key challenge moving forward is ensuring that the CSOs have the necessary resources to sustain programmes initiated under Spotlight Initiative in order to ensure that the impact of these initiatives continue beyond Spotlight’s implementation.

Under Outcome 6, Spotlight Initiative sustained partnerships with 2 CSO networks; Go Belize (representing 7 CSOs) and the Belize National Indigenous Council (BENIC), representing 3 indigenous CSOs as well as the Belize Association of Planners (BAP) which was engaged in 2021. These partnerships were crucial to strengthening networks of CSOs and by extension community-based women’s rights groups, to ensure that the Spotlight Initiative reached and engaged the majority of CSOs and women’s rights groups. Specifically, the umbrella organizations engaged CSOs and organizations representing marginalized groups, including LGBTQI persons and indigenous women and girls, and served as an important platform for mobilizing and strengthening CSOs’ participation across the country. An important next step is ensuring that CSO networks are strengthened, that CSOs develop a joint advocacy agenda, have the capacity to utilize social accountability mechanisms and are able to sufficiently organize themselves to have collective representation in national spaces such as the Belize Network of NGO (BNN).

Partnership with the Belize Association of Planners (BAP) supported capacity building of women’s rights groups, CSOs and informal leaders for decision making, networking to mobilize constituents, and advocate for increased accountability as it relates to the national response to family violence. This capacity strengthening will ensure some sustainability in the interventions beyond the Spotlight Initiative programme cycle and CSOs being able to provide more rounded and holistic service delivery to marginalized populations.

Additionally, it provides for strengthened capacity of CSO partners - and among CSO partners and governments - on GBV case management and in the use of the referral process in services at the national and local levels.



Photo credit



## C. European Union Delegation

Throughout the process of developing and implementing the Spotlight Initiative, the UN Country Team worked closely with the EU Delegation under the guidance of the UN Resident Coordinator. Additionally, the EU and UN jointly advocated with the Government at the highest level to secure political buy-in and support as well as sensitize development partners through their Heads of Missions and technical-level colleagues.

This close collaboration, which started in 2019 with the development of the CPD, continued throughout the implementation of Spotlight Initiative with the EU Delegation being involved in all key elements of the Initiative as follows:

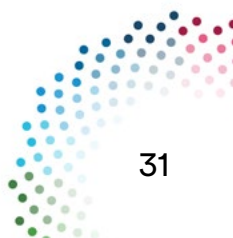
- **Governance Role:** The EU Ambassador actively participated in the NSC since its inception and continuously utilized the space to advocate for the advancement of key areas of the national response to VAWG.
- **Technical Role:** The EU Technical Focal Point met with the Spotlight Initiative technical and coordination team on a monthly basis to review progress on implementation and provide strong technical guidance. These technical discussions provided a space for the SI technical and coordination team to update the EU on progress towards implementation and receive feedback and guidance from the EU in various programme areas including strengthening engagement of CSO and women's movement. The space was also utilized to receive recommendations from the EU on various areas of the SI implementation including providing recommendations on improving programme visibility, revisions and inputs to relevant reports and documents, and identification of areas where the EU can engage in advocacy with the government to advance the SI agenda. As part of its technical role, the EU also provided comprehensive feedback on the MTA Report, highlighting some key recommendations necessary to ensure impact of Spotlight Initiative on intended beneficiaries. The EU also provided comprehensive feedback on all Annual Reports as well as engaged in the development of the Spotlight Initiative Sustainability Plan. Sustained engagement with the EU, at the technical level, strengthened partnerships and communication on Spotlight Initiative between the EU and the UN.

- Supporting Advocacy, Communication & Visibility:** The EU Ambassador and team actively participated in several key advocacy, communication and visibility actions throughout Spotlight Initiative implementation. In 2020, the EU Ambassador actively participated in the launch of the Spotlight Initiative as well as the launch of the 16 Days of Activism later that same year. In 2021, the EU Ambassador and team actively participated in a field mission to view some of the Spotlight Initiative activities and engage with IPs and programme beneficiaries. The EU Ambassador and team also continuously engaged with the RC and HOAs to discuss progress and challenges in the implementation of the Spotlight Initiative as well as participated in the launch of the Spotlight Initiative Baseline Study in that same year. In 2022, a joint dialogue was held with the UN RC and HOAs. The dialogue provided a space to identify key areas for joint advocacy, to showcase the impact of Spotlight Initiative and to communicate the EU’s Ambassador’s continued interest in and commitment to Spotlight Initiative implementation. In 2023, in addition to ongoing engagement with the RC, the EU Ambassador participated in the launch of the National Social and Behaviour Change Communication Campaign on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls “It Ends with Me” and also led a tour of other Ambassadors of the EU to view achievements of Spotlight Initiative during the EU Day in the Park activity, where Spotlight Initiative was prominently featured. The EU also actively participated in the Spotlight Transition Event which provided a platform to showcase Spotlight Initiative achievements and highlight the EU’s major contribution to those achievements.

The ongoing involvement of the EU in the Spotlight Initiative during its implementation served to strengthen relations between the EU, the UN, the Government of Belize and CSOs as well as foster a deeper understanding of the situation of VAWG, the existing gaps and challenges and the programming needs for Belize. The lessons learnt and opportunities presented by the Spotlight Initiative can serve to inform the EU’s continued engagement and technical cooperation as well as that of Government and CSO partners in Belize beyond the Spotlight Initiative.



Photo credit



## D. Cooperation with other (non-RUNO) UN agencies (if applicable)

Spotlight Initiative partnered with several Associate Agencies in the implementation of relevant interventions. During its four years of implementation, Spotlight Initiative engaged UN Women, PAHO/WHO, UNHCR, OHCHR, and IOM as key Associate Agencies. These agencies were jointly engaged in planning and information sharing sessions to ensure a continued collaborative approach to programme implementation.

UNICEF and UN Women partnered to support the institutional strengthening of the Women Parliamentarians' Caucus through a series of technical and operational capacity building initiatives that sought to establish a standardized guidance to support their role as a Joint Standing Committee for Gender Equality. The partnership also resulted in a shared facilitation role in the capacity building session for CSOs on Programme Management.



Photo credit



# Results

## A. Capturing Broader Transformations Across Outcomes

During its four years of implementation Spotlight Initiative significantly elevated the political and strategic positioning of VAWG on the national agenda. The National Gender Policy and the National Gender Based Violence Action Plan, which were revised under the Spotlight Initiative (Outcome 1), have been utilized as tools to raise awareness on gender and the important link between gender and development, among policy and decision makers and other key stakeholders at the highest levels. This also resulted in a renewed commitment to ending violence against women and girls which was affirmed at the highest level by all members of the House of Representatives through a unanimous Motion of Zero Tolerance to VAWG endorsed in the House of Representatives in February 2022. Members of the House of Representatives further collaborated with the Spotlight Initiative to develop and air a public service message promoting zero tolerance to VAWG as part of the National Social and Behaviour Change Communication Campaign on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls under outcome 3.

Additionally, through partnership with the Women's Parliamentary Caucus, which was an unanticipated result, gender and GBV was included as key components of their newly developed Strategic Plan which will ensure that advocacy and awareness continues at the highest level.

Belize's first Gender Analysis, conducted under the Spotlight Initiative also elevated the positioning of gender and gender-based violence at the national level by providing the evidence base needed to support gender mainstreaming in policies and sectoral plans. The gender analysis, which focused on identifying challenges, barriers and bottlenecks, and key gaps, coupled with entry points for introducing gender integration and transformative approaches, not only informed policy and legislation under Outcome 1 but also supported the identification of key areas for institutional strengthening to advance gender equality and equity under Outcome 2. This further informed a Gender Sector Review of three (3) key sectors, Education, Justice and Social Sector, in order to support gender responsive programming. Integration of gender and GBV into the plans along with ongoing capacity building of key staff within these three sectors will ensure sustainability of this intervention and ensure that future plans and strategies developed are gender responsive.

In keeping with the principle of Leave No One Behind, the Gender Analysis identified key intersectionalities and gaps in the response, relevant to outcomes 3, 4, 5 and 6 that must be accelerated to support achievements on gender-relevant SDGs.

While it took some time to gather data and information on key intersectionalities, by its second year of implementation, Spotlight Initiative strengthened its programming to ensure a strategic focus on leaving no one behind. Data collection tools across all Spotlight outcomes were improved to ensure disaggregated data and all interventions were designed to include the most vulnerable and marginalized populations. For example, under Outcome 1, the review of the Domestic Violence Act adopted a bottom-up approach ensuring that the experiences of survivors of violence, migrant and indigenous women, members of the LGBTI population, rural women and other marginalized groups were carefully documented and informed the revision of the DV Act. Additionally, the process of developing Belize's First Disabilities Bill ensured the inclusion of a wide cross section of persons with disabilities at all stages of legislative development. Experiences of LNOB populations in Outcome 1 informed strengthening prevention and service delivery interventions in Outcomes 3 and 4 by ensuring that the expressed concerns and needs were taken into consideration when implementing prevention and service delivery to LNOB populations. As an example, while the SBCC on ending VAWG was rolled out at the national and district level, community level CSOs were sub-contracted to engage specific groups that would not normally benefit from national and district level interventions.

This allowed for a dedicated focus on LNOB populations, engaging them in their own spaces and considering the experiences, concerns and needs expressed through engagement in Outcome 1.

Spotlight Initiative also significantly contributed to strengthening CSO Networking and movement building. It was consistently noted that while individual CSOs have demonstrated strong capacity to innovate, adapt and deliver under outcomes 3 and 4, strong CSO networks and movements were critical for the sustainability of interventions. The Spotlight Initiative partnered with Productive Organization for Women in Action, a CSO with a track record for networking and movement building, to mobilize and reach over 50 CSOs, including grass roots CSOs. This resulted in increased capacity for advocacy among these CSOs and also the development of several nucleus of CSO networks across the country. While these nuclei are still in their nascent stage, partnership has been established with the Belize Network of NGOs (BNN) to support further engagement and strengthening of these networks as part of the BNN's strategic actions. Through this partnership, a Spotlight CSO Transition Event was held to provide a platform to support CSO sustainability and identify priority actions for ensuring continued CSO coordination and collaboration. This will ensure continuity and sustainability of CSO networks.

Spotlight Initiative has demonstrated that a comprehensive approach to ending VAWG, which includes strong focus across all six pillars, is critical for transformative impact and for sustainability. Data and evidence on the experiences of survivors of violence, rural and migrant women and other marginalized groups gathered through the implementation of prevention and service delivery interventions (Outcomes 3 and 4) have informed the revision of the Domestic Violence Act under Outcome 1.

Furthermore, engagement of CSOs and women's groups (Outcome 6) has provided opportunities to build support networks and increase capacity of community advocates to strengthen prevention efforts and support reporting of cases of violence in rural areas where there are gaps in services.

## **Reporting on the implementation of Participatory Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (P-MER)-**

In an effort to promote participatory and inclusive approaches to M&E, RUNOs integrated Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation (PMER) throughout the lifecycle of all interventions. This transition to more PMER methodologies and approaches has been recognized as a progressive process within the SI Belize programme, underpinned with the intent to meaningfully engage key stakeholders and enhance their decision-making power in the process from the design stage to the implementation of corrective actions. Consequently, involving CSO stakeholders and beneficiaries from the national and community levels across Belize from the onset of programming is crucial to strengthening local ownership and the sustainability of results addressing the needs and advancement of the rights of women and girls especially.

Progressively evolving monitoring and evaluation to a more systematic process across the various interventions was realized through two processes (1) revision of activities and methodologies/approaches and ensuring documentation and integration into activities; and (2) Integration of PMER actions into the Spotlight Initiative monitoring and evaluation plan and Civil Society National Reference Group Plans.

## **(1) Revision of activities and methodologies/approaches and ensuring documentation and integration into activities.**

The tools, methodology and/or concrete strategies that have been adopted to actively commence integrating Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation (PME) included Stakeholder Analysis and Beneficiary Assessment (BA). In the Stakeholder Analysis and Beneficiary Assessment (BA), all RUNOs were actively involved in the conceptual design of all activities and alignment with the Spotlight Initiative Monitoring and Evaluation Indicator Framework (beneficiary identification and count) underpinning the stakeholder analysis approach. This has allowed for the inclusion of all relevant stakeholders and the targeting of beneficiaries in a participatory way throughout or at different stages of design, implementation and review of activities.

At the activity level, based on the status of implementation, RUNOs were able to inject some level of PMER methodologies. For example, in 2021, through the implementation of the Mobile Women's Center, a Process Assessment of Mobile Women Centers was conducted. This assessment involved direct engagement with implementing CSOs partners (POWA, HRCB, BFLA, CDF) and Community Leaders (Women Groups, Community Health Workers, Political Representatives, Village Chairpersons) documenting their involvement in the design and implementation of the Mobile Women Centers. CSOs, Community Leaders and beneficiaries (women and girls) provided feedback on the benefits, weaknesses and recommendations which were incorporated in the overall Mobile Women Center Programme Design. This allowed for the Mobile Women Centers to benefit 1000+ women from rural and hard-to-reach communities with lifesaving GBV and SRH information, legal support services, sexual and reproductive health services, as well as psychosocial and counselling support.

Additionally, CSOs and Women's Groups partners and/or beneficiaries participated in community-level dialogues to assess the reach and impact of interventions. Firstly, a series of dialogues and consultations were carried out with Implementing Partners to define and align interventions to the expectations of the Spotlight Initiative outcomes. This process was done several times to understand, articulate, and support the alignment of interventions with the revised results framework and methodological notes (including re-defined field indicators), as well as to support the re-design of interventions to address barriers posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and national response restrictions.

Secondly, CSOs and RUNOs met with target groups/populations to present the proposed intervention and methodologies and gather feedback to strengthen the interventions for a greater impact on women and girl beneficiaries. Thirdly, continued check-ins were held with CSOs, Women's Groups and beneficiaries to measure effectiveness and adjust methodologies to address challenges and/or barriers such as COVID-19 restrictions and humanitarian crises.

## **(2) Integration of PMER actions into Spotlight Initiative monitoring and evaluation plan and Civil Society National Reference Group Plans**

At the national level and directly related to the governance and management of the SI Initiative, PMER actions were conducted through partnership meetings with the Civil Society National Reference Group (CSNRG) through a deep dive and roundtable discussions on the Spotlight Initiative using face to face sessions allowing for a broader understanding of the SI Belize Programme and how recommendations from the CSNRG can help to advocate, advise and enhance actions. These partnership meetings were also supplemented with field visits with the UNRC, RUNOs, HOAs, and CSNRG members on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and how CSOs such as the Productive Organization for Women in Action – POWA engage with the issue regularly. Field visits as such provided hands-on experience in implementing GBV interventions in the southern part of the country by Implementing Partners such as POWA and its effects on the work of the Spotlight Initiative.

The PMER process provided adolescents and youth with agency to advocate, design and implement interventions based on the specific needs, capacities, and interests of their peers. The use of PMER tools help to clearly define lessons learned and best practices, engage beneficiaries as stakeholders and provide evidence to support intervention pivots where necessary.

Across the RUNOs, PMER principles and actions have been integrated into existing interventions, wherever they stood in terms of implementation stages. This, however, presents the challenge of systematizing PMER from design to implementation and sustaining the required time and resources for its effective implementation. Nevertheless, implementing PMER has helped to make corrective action and adjustments via consultations and validations with key CSO stakeholders and beneficiaries, and collective and frequent discussions with all partners involved such as CSO IPs, the CSNRG, RUNOs, the RC and the EU Delegation.

# B. Capturing Change at Outcome Level

## OUTCOME 1: LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

### Outcome 1: Key Results

Access to justice for survivors of violence and other vulnerable groups has been improved through the strengthening of four (4) laws and policies and the development of one law that adequately responds to the rights of all women and girls. These laws and policies are evidence-based, in line with international HR standards and guarantee the ability of women's rights groups, autonomous social movements, CSOs and women human rights defenders/feminist activists to advance the human rights agenda. These include the Domestic Violence Act, the Criminal Code, the Cybercrime Act of 2020, the Draft Disabilities Bill and the National Gender Policy. Belize also now has in place a national evidence-based, costed action plan and M&E framework on VAWG, that respond to the rights of all women and girls and are developed in a participatory manner.

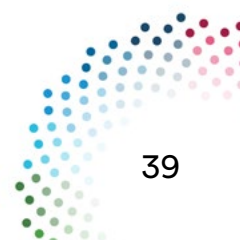
Additionally, over 600 key government officials, CSOs and community groups have greater knowledge and awareness of human rights obligations and are able to draft laws and/or policies that guarantee the ability of women's rights groups, CSOs and women human rights defenders to advance the human rights agenda.

The Spotlight Initiative has strengthened four (4) laws and policies and supported the development of one law that adequately respond to the rights of all women and girls, are evidence-based, in line with international HR standards and guarantee the ability of women's rights groups, autonomous social movements, CSOs and women human rights defenders/feminist activists to advance the human rights agenda. These include the Domestic Violence Act, the Criminal Code, the Cyber Crime Act of 2020 and the National Gender Policy. Belize also now has in place a national evidence-based, costed action plans and M&E framework on VAWG, that respond to the rights of all women and girls and are developed in a participatory manner.

In 2021 Spotlight Initiative supported the revision of the National Gender Policy with accompanying costing and M&E Framework. A cabinet paper was prepared and presented to Cabinet to support the endorsement of the National Gender Policy. The National Gender Policy was endorsed by Cabinet in March 2024. In addition to the revision of the National Gender Policy, the Cyber Crime Act of 2020 was also reviewed, and recommendations were made for its amendment. Additionally, recommendations were made for a review of The Domestic Violence Act and the Criminal Code relevant to sexual offenses.

Recommendations for the review of the Domestic Violence Act were generated through a series of consultations with key populations including rural women and girls, migrants, and LGBTQIA persons, in keeping with the LNOB principle.

Key recommendations were presented based on the shared experiences of women and girls in all their diversities and considering the various intersectional barriers and discriminatory practices, such as the economic impacts of climate change, lack of education and the social and cultural attitudes around the roles of women and girls. The process also considered the views of men and boys through interviews at the Kolbe Foundation, Belize's national prison, which documented the shared experiences of men who were incarcerated due to violations of orders under the Domestic Violence Act. An advocacy brief and Cabinet Paper was prepared based on key recommendations and has been presented to the Government of Belize. Recommendations shared with the government have been incorporated into the Domestic Violence Act. Advocacy with government officials, at the highest level, as well as with women parliamentarians has been taking place to ensure high level support and buy-in for the passage of the Revised Domestic Violence Act as well as to ensure sustainability of this initiative since it is likely that some components will require follow up beyond the life span of Spotlight. The Domestic Violence Act is currently being reviewed by the technical team within the MHDFIPA before being finalized for submission to Cabinet for endorsement.



Belize also has in place a revised National Gender Based Violence Action Plan which is evidence-based, costed and with an M&E framework on VAWG, including family violence, respond to the rights of all women and girls, and developed in a participatory manner. In addition to increasing the country's capacity to plan, monitor and evaluate the GBV response, the revised NGBV Action Plan will contribute to results in Outcome 2 through institutional strengthening, as this key framework will allow for the development of sub-national plans on VAWG and the integration of VAWG into the existing sector plans. The National Gender Based Violence Action Plan was endorsed by Cabinet along with the National Gender Policy in March 2024.

In advancing the LNOB Principle, Belize now has a draft Disabilities Bill inclusive of SRH and GBV components to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment by persons with disabilities, of privileges, interests, benefits, and treatment, on an equal basis with others and to establish the Commission for Persons with Disabilities with charge to oversee the rights and opportunities for persons with disabilities are upheld. Participation of persons with disabilities and other groups were facilitated through nine (9) consultation sessions and validation sessions with key sectors, stakeholders, Faith Based Organizations and civil society. The political positioning of the Disabilities Bill and the LNOB agenda was further elevated as a part of Hon. Dolores Balderamos Garcia, Minister of Human Development, Families and Indigenous Peoples' Affairs' 'Human Rights Agenda'. The Disabilities Bill is undergoing a final round of consultations to ensure comprehensive

reach and participation of persons with disabilities, before it is finalized and presented to cabinet by the 3rd quarter of 2024.

The rights of persons with disabilities will also be advanced through increased institutional capacity of the Ministry of Human Development, Families and Indigenous Peoples' Affairs to implement the Disabilities Bill. The Disabilities Desk has been reorganized and reequipped with the necessary technical personnel to assist in evolving Disabilities Legislation and Policy framework development process. Additionally, MHDFIPA has been focused on ensuring a multisectoral approach to the development of the legislation and policy by engaging with the necessary line ministries with key impact of persons with disabilities and other intersectionality of persons with disabilities (Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Central Building Authority, Ministry of Home Affairs, etc.). Additionally, the Ministry has implemented an inclusive process that engages civil society partners in the process and are in engagement with the Belize Assembly for Persons with Diverse Abilities (BAPDA) and the Chamber of Commerce to support the process of development of a comprehensive bill. In advancing the leave no one behind principle, this Disability Bill will provide the legal framework for the continued protection of this vulnerable population.





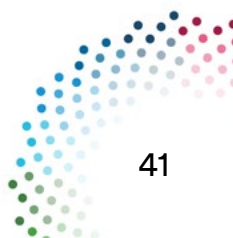
**Over 600 key government officials, CSOs and community groups have greater knowledge and awareness of human rights obligations and are able to draft laws and/or policies that guarantee the ability of women's rights groups, CSOs and women human rights defenders to advance the human rights agenda.**

Over 600 key government officials, CSOs and community groups now have increased awareness of human rights standards and obligations and their capacities to develop laws and policies that guarantee the ability of women's rights groups, CSOs and women human rights defenders to advance the human rights agenda have been strengthened through participation in the process of revising the Domestic Violence Act, development of the Disabilities Bill, the National Gender Policy and the National Gender Based Violence Action Plan, and awareness raising and education of the National Security Forces on sexual violence.

Additionally, CSOs and community groups have increased awareness and capacities to develop laws and policies through their engagement in the processes for the Domestic Violence Act and the Gender Review of Sector Development Plans (linked to outcome 2). The process of developing the National Gender Policy and the National Gender Based Violence Action Plan also increased the capacity of 40 government officials to develop action plans on VAWG. The costed National Gender-based Violence Action Plan's accompanying M&E Framework was developed through a participatory process involving a cohort of 10 government officials who followed the process.



Photo credit



This approach was aimed at building government officers' capacity, transferring knowledge and fostering ownership, which contributed to institutional strengthening under Outcome 2, as these officers can now support the integration of VAWG into their sector plans. Women's rights advocates were consulted during the National Gender Policy Process and the Civil Society National Reference Group (CSNRG) provided inputs to the legislative review agenda. This has contributed to advancing actions under Outcome 6 focused on CSOs and women's rights advocates engaged in advocacy efforts to end VAWG.

Spotlight Initiative also contributed to the development and roll out of a comprehensive programme to respond to issues of sexual violence within the security forces of Belize. The Police, Defence Force and Coast Guard security personnel of Belize collaborated at the highest levels of Government to endorse, institute and launch the Joint Sexual Violence Response Programme in 2022. Through this, Spotlight contributed to the strengthened capacities of 300 personnel from each of the security forces to further educate and raise awareness, as well as establish a robust response plan for incidences of sexual violence within the security forces.



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## OUTCOME 2: INSTITUTIONS

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### Outcome 2: Key results

The institutional capacity of the national machinery for gender equality and women's empowerment, the National Women's Commission, has been strengthened through the participatory development of its strategic plan and capacity building of national and subnational levels committees, to prevent and respond to VAWG including family violence, inclusive of groups of women and girls facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.

Gender and Gender Based Violence is integrated in 3 sector (Social Services, Education, and Justice) development plans that are evidence-based and in line with globally agreed standards and over 200 key government officials in all 3 sectors now have strengthened capacities to develop and deliver programmes that prevent and respond to VAWG including family violence, and to integrate efforts to end VAWG including family violence into the development plans of other sectors.

The institutional capacity of the judiciary has been strengthened to improve access to justice for women and men, boys and girls.

The institutional capacity of ten (10) institutions and 78 service providers has been strengthened to develop and deliver programmes that prevent and respond to VAWG.

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national coordinating mechanisms leading the response. In 2022, the Cabinet endorsed the establishment of the National Women's Commission as a statutory body of the Ministry of Human Development, Families and Indigenous People's Affairs. As a statutory body, the NWC is now empowered to legally address gender issues and to coordinate all national efforts relating to gender equality, equity and women's empowerment, inclusive of the country's reporting on global and regional treaties and commitments. The Spotlight Initiative complemented government's commitment by supporting the development of the NWC's five-year strategic plan, which was a key step in re-orienting the NWC, ensuring a stronger focus on policy, advocacy, coordination and monitoring and evaluation of the national response to VAWG.

The capacity of the national and sub-national institutions that form the National and District Gender and Gender Based Violence Committees, under the National Women's Commission, was also strengthened to plan, fund and deliver evidence-based programmes that prevent and respond to violence against women and girls. The National and District Committees are technical multi-sectoral, results-oriented committees responsible for the efficient and effective implementation of the National Gender Policy (NGP) and the National Gender Based Violence Action Plan (NGBVAP). Over 100 members of the National and District Gender and Gender Based Violence Committees benefitted from country-wide capacity building sessions to enhance gender mainstreaming, coordination, and to inform the drafting of a 2-year action plan aligned with the National Women's Commission's 2023-2027 Strategic Plan.

The National Women's Commission has demonstrated its commitment to sustaining the gains from these initiatives and has appointed a Programme Officer to provide monitoring and evaluation support to the National and District Gender and Gender Based Violence Committees to ensure alignment and support with national level interventions. The action plan is an integral component of the strengthening of the Commission at the local level and to enhance coordination efforts to advance gender equality, women's empowerment with the aim of ending gender-based violence.

In addition to the strengthening of the National Women's Commission, the establishment of the Women Parliamentarians' Caucus as a Joint Standing Committee for Gender Equality, was another key action by the government which demonstrated its commitment to advancing GEWE at the legislative and policy level and which provided Spotlight Initiative with an advantageously positioned platform to champion some of the key legislative and policy level advocacy and actions that seek to address gaps and barriers for women's full participation, including access to key essential services, economic empowerment, and impacts of climate degradation and its impact of women. Strengthening the capacity of Women Parliamentarians' Caucus as a Standing Committee for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment was an unintended but strategic and high-level engagement for the Spotlight Initiative.

Although the membership of the caucus shifts during General Elections cycles, the development of Standard Operating Procedures to accompany the Standing Committee guidelines, and a plan of action for the Caucus, ensures that there remains

a clear focus on the gender equality from a national and sub-national purview and particularly in advocating for appropriate budgeting for the national achievement of SDG 5 – gender equality.



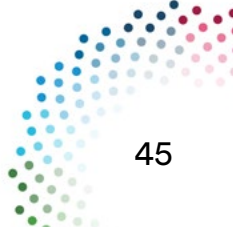
**Gender and Gender Based Violence is integrated in 3 sector (Social Services, Education, and Justice) development plans that are evidence-based and in line with globally agreed standards and over 200 key government officials in all 3 sectors now have strengthened capacities to develop and deliver programmes that prevent and respond to VAWG including family violence, and to integrate efforts to end VAWG including family violence into the development plans of other sectors.**

The Spotlight Initiative supported a participatory process with the Education, Social Services and Justice Sectors of Belize, to review sector plans to ensure they are positioned to respond to and prevent violence against women and girls. The process of the gender review of sector plans was developed and presented as a model to support each of the remaining sectors as they undertake their reviews post Spotlight Initiative. Over 200 key government officials and key stakeholders (80 women and 122 men) increased capacities to apply a gendered lens to sectoral interventions, particularly considering intersectional barriers for women and girls.

This provided them with precursory knowledge to review sector development plans and make recommendations to strengthen the gender-responsiveness from strategic objectives to activities level.



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The review of the sector plans was evidence based, guided by the first ever comprehensive Gender Analysis for Belize, conducted under the Spotlight Initiative. The analysis cuts across key areas such as women and girls' participation in formal and informal education and learning, formal and informal economy, leadership, climate change and social protection. The analysis was presented to representatives from key ministries, UN Agencies, development partners, and academia, and provides a clear picture of the gaps in gender data with some firm recommendations on how to address these gaps. Key actions proposed by the Gender Analysis to strengthen Belize's gender-responsive approach to gender equality included consistent analysis of data to distill gender and diversity information including resources to support this responsibility.

The analysis also pointed to a great need for a cost analysis of the impact of violence against women and girls on the economy, society and the individual victim and a comparative analysis with the cost of prevention. The Gender Analysis provides government, development partners and CSOs a foundation for gender data context to support design and implementation of responsive interventions to address gender inequalities, intersectional discrimination, to end violence against women and girls.

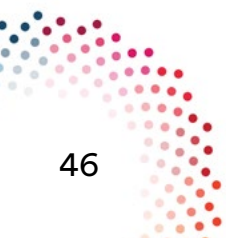
The Spotlight Initiative also increased the capacity of key government officials and CSOs for implementation of gender transformative approaches through Gender Training for some 75 Gender Focal Points, key technical government officials, and relevant CSOs.



**The institutional capacity of the judiciary has been strengthened to improve access to justice for women and men, boys and girls.**

The capacity of the judiciary was strengthened to address family law cases which has resulted in improving access to justice for women and men, boys and girls, particularly those in geographic areas without a family court who have previously not benefited from the same level of services offered to those persons in geographic areas where there is a family court.

In 2021, the Spotlight Initiative collaborated with the Magistrate and Family Court of Belize to strengthen Court Officials' involvement in the hearing of matters dealing with children and families. Four (4) procedural training modules were developed that broadly contributed to ending violence against children and families and to the strengthening of policy and legislation that guarantee increased protection of women and girls.



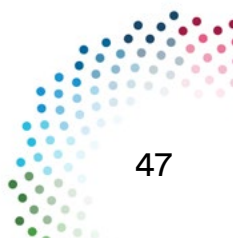
In addition to recognizing the roles of the magistrates, the intervention considered the supporting roles that social workers, prosecutors, clerks of court and intake officers play in the administration and facilitation of justice for children, women, and support to families. The training served to build the capacity of 42 state actors (18 males, 24 females) to respond to family violence, expanding the range of services available, linked to Outcome 4 and addressing social norms and behaviours that promote violence against women and girls, linked to Outcome 3.

To ensure the practical application of knowledge received during the training, 11 Magistrates (3 males, 8 females) benefited from courtroom mentorship to develop their ability to adjust behaviours and practices for more child-friendly and gender-responsive service delivery within the court system. The mentors supported, guided, and advised the magistrates on implementing legislation whilst ensuring that the safety of women and families, and the best interest of children, were considered.

The capacity of the judiciary was further strengthened through the procurement of IT equipment to improve the existing system of data gathering and management. The judiciary was further supported with the modernization and digitization of courts to allow citizens greater access to justice during the COVID-19 pandemic. This IT system upgrades included networking, hardware and mediation hardware to increase access to justice for the most vulnerable. Video conferencing equipment for criminal court enabled continuous hearing of cases during the pandemic in order to avoid an increase in the backlog of cases. This has resulted in an increased capacity of the judiciary to gather and manage data to improve access to justice case management, decision making, inform accountability and inform legislative review which will ultimately strengthen access to justice for survivors of violence. 100% of staff at the family court and 90% of staff at the magistrate's court (96 members of the judiciary) were trained in the use of the new system. The training was designed to be sustainable whereby persons trained will continue the training to magistrates and court personnel countrywide on demand.



**The institutional capacity of 10 institutions and 78 service providers has been strengthened develop and deliver programmes that prevent and respond to VAWG.**



The capacities of 78 service providers (Females - 58, Males - 20) representing 15 government and 19 civil society organizations were enhanced in the five modules of the United Nations Joint Global Programme on Essential Services for Women and Girls Subject to Violence, which is a partnership by UN Women, UNFPA, WHO, UNDP and UNODC, that aims to provide greater access to a coordinated set of essential and quality multi-sectoral services for all women and girls who have experienced gender-based violence. These service providers and institutions were equipped with the capacities needed to lead the process of defining an Essential Package for Belize.

In addition to the 78 service providers, the technical and functional capacities of 10 institutions from the essential service sectors for GBV response (health, justice and policing, social services and coordination and governance of coordination) were strengthened to enhance programme design, implementation, evaluation and reporting, inclusive of normative document design and application, through their participation in a Gender Transformative training.



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## OUTCOME 3: PREVENTION AND NORM CHANGE

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Over its four years of implementation Spotlight Initiative directly reached over 50,000 women, men, boys and girls in homes, schools, workplaces and communities.

At the individual level over 35,000 parents and children, including migrant parents and children with disabilities, have increased knowledge and awareness on gender norms, attitudes and practices through parenting interventions and over 12,000 men and boys attended gender-transformative programmes addressing violent masculinities and men's violence towards women and girls.

At the level of the school, CSE for in and out of school adolescents and youth was strengthened in line with international standards. Additionally, platforms and referral systems for mandatory reporting of child abuse, human trafficking and family violence in schools were strengthened through the implementation of the Mandatory Reporting Protocols for Child Abuse, Human Trafficking and Family Violence in schools across the country, reaching over 3500 teachers and school administrators and indirectly impacting 105,000 children and 26,250 families or households.

At the level of the community, almost 2,000 key informal decision makers and decision makers in relevant institutions strengthened awareness of and capacities to advocate for implementation of legislation and policies on VAWG including family violence and for gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours and women and girls' rights and women and men, boys and girls have increased access to community platforms and programmes promoting gender equitable norms, attitudes, and behaviours, including sessions on family violence.

At the level of the workplace, the institutional capacity of 10 private sector institutions to develop strategies, plans and programmes and respond to VAWG was also strengthened.

Gender inequitable social norms, attitudes and behaviours that contribute to violence against women and girls were challenged by multiple campaigns reaching over 300,000 persons over four years.

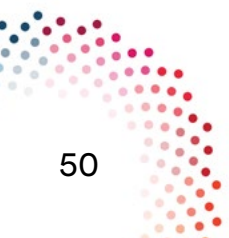
Couched within the implementation of the National Social and Behaviour Change Community Strategy, developed in 2021 and also endorsed by the Cabinet in 2024, Spotlight Initiative implemented prevention interventions to address gender inequitable social norms, attitudes and behaviours change across all levels of the social ecology, to prevent violence against women and girls.

**At the individual level over 35,000 parents and children, including migrant parents and children with disabilities, have increased knowledge and awareness on gender norms,**

attitudes and practices through parenting interventions delivered through civil society and government partners utilizing tested methodologies, such as parenting peer support groups, including through social media (Facebook and WhatsApp), home visits, and community outreach. The Care for Child Development (CCD) Programme, implemented under the MHDFIPA, was designed to address intergenerational manifestations of violence through direct mentorship and counseling of CCD and Parenting Educators. The CCD programme was strengthened with an additional component that focused primarily on violence in the home resulting in 54 new Parenting Educators (2 males, 52 females) with strengthened capacities to deliver and support families with parenting needs. In 2020, in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, with its socioeconomic shocks and two hurricanes (ETA/IOTA), the focus was expanded to ensure parents and families had access to urgent mental health and psychosocial support.

One key lesson learnt is that parents and families are more receptive to discussing family violence when immediate humanitarian needs are being addressed. As such, the parenting interventions in 2021 included some forms of relief for families, including access to counseling, mental health support, referrals to the national social systems, and access to food assistance. Engagement with parents also included the use of SMS and WhatsApp messages, awareness raising sessions and engagement through various television and social media programmes.

Additionally, over 12,000 men and boys attended gender-transformative programmes addressing violent masculinities and men's violence towards women and girls in community centres, schools and other relevant spaces resulting in an increase in knowledge and shifts in attitudes toward men and boys. The Engaging Men and Boys Programme was implemented across the country targeting boys in and out of school settings as well as men, including men in uniformed services and boys in the youth arm of the uniformed services. The programme was also integrated into community clubs in the Toledo District, targeting indigenous youth and communities. The Addressing Gender Equality Tool Kit was developed as a means of standardizing these engagements.

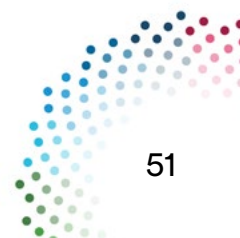




**At the level of the school, CSE for in and out of school adolescents and youth has been strengthened in line with international standards. Additionally, platforms and referral systems for mandatory reporting of child abuse, human trafficking and family violence in school were strengthened through the implementation of the Mandatory Reporting Protocols for Child Abuse, Human Trafficking and Family Violence in schools across the country, reaching over 3500 teachers and school administrators and indirectly impacting 105,000 children and 26,250 families or households.**

The Spotlight Initiative contributed to an increase in the number of young women and girls, and young men and boys who benefited from programmes that promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours and exercise of rights, including reproductive rights. Utilizing the CSE Manual, updated in 2020, in line with international standards for CSE, BFLA expanded its Peer-Education capacity training to 80 community-level peer educators and equipped them with CSE toolkits to support the roll-out of CSE among the out of school young people, particularly from rural communities. These community-level CSE trainers were subsequently able to deliver training to 328 out-of-school young people and an additional 51 teachers, social workers and youth officers in 2021.

With a focus on ensuring the sustainability of the CSE Peer Education Programme and ensuring that the national reach of the CSE community level trainers can be sustained and expanded, the Spotlight Initiative supported the establishment of a National CSE Peer Education Network with an accompanying CSE Action Plan. Most significantly, to ensure that the capacities of the CSE trainers are in line with regional standards, the Spotlight Initiative facilitated the training and certification of 15 (fifteen) of the 80 (eighty) community based CSE Trainers through the Regional Training of Trainers (TOT) Course on CSE delivery under the Spotlight Initiative Caribbean Regional Programme.



Additionally, in keeping with the principle of “leaving no one behind”, almost 900 adolescent boys and girls from schools in migrant communities and from migrant communities have increased awareness on child marriage and early unions and sexual and reproductive health rights and were provided with opportunities for psychosocial support, and information sharing on how and where to access information related to their migratory status through the RISE Girls Club.

Through partnership with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology (MOEcST) the Mandatory Reporting Protocols for Child Abuse, Human Trafficking and Family Violence eCourse is now housed on the Teacher Learning Institute Platform, and accessible to all teachers and school administrators countrywide.

As an added benefit, interagency partnership between MOEcST and Ministry of Human Development, Families and Indigenous Peoples’ Affairs and multi-agency collaboration, has strengthened in the areas of access to the learning platform for frontline workers, and the strengthening of the social workforce systems related to reporting and response. During a high-level field mission to two beneficiary schools, these two areas related to standardization of capacities for teachers and social workers, and gaps or barriers in the reporting system were continuously highlighted as an area for continued strengthening. Over the course of the Spotlight Initiative, over 3500 teachers and school administrators were impacted, with downstream of 105,000 children and 26,250 families or households reached. The impact of this intervention on the lives of teachers, administrators, and ministry personnel has triggered post Spotlight dialogues and strategies and interventions to address the remaining gaps.



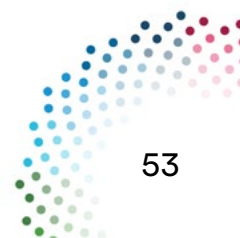
**At the level of the community, over 2,000 key informal decision makers and decision makers in relevant institutions have strengthened awareness of and capacities to advocate for implementation of legislation and policies on VAWG including family violence and for gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours and women and girls’ rights and women and men, boys and girls have increased access to community platforms and programmes promoting gender equitable norms, attitudes, and behaviours, including sessions on family violence.**

Over 1,800 faith-based leaders, community leaders, including indigenous leaders and women mobilizers have been trained to implement interventions to address the root causes of family violence resulting in an expansion of support and services available to women and girls at the community level and capacity for community-led prevention interventions. The Family Violence Toolkit which aims to address the root causes of family violence has strengthened the capacities of key informal decision makers and community advocates. Faith Leaders, Teachers, Community Leaders, Village Councils, Sports Coaches, Justices of the Peace, and Community Mobilizers are now able to engage communities regularly and confidently, including migrant and rural communities, to raise awareness of family violence, including intimate partner, child abuse, and child marriage and early unions. Persons successfully completing the programme have demonstrated abilities to recognize possible incidences of family violence, provide psychosocial support to survivors and support or refer them to relevant persons in their community and/or district for further assistance.

The Spotlight Initiative also contributed to the strengthening of capacities of women's groups to establish and run community programmes that are gender responsive.<sup>78</sup> community platforms to develop strategies and programmes, including community dialogues, public information and advocacy campaigns, to promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours have been established with a focus on rural, indigenous and migrant communities with limited access to information and services.

Linked to outcome 6, 54 women's groups and 74 Women Community Mobilizers, at the community level, including extremely rural communities, host communities for migrants, and communities where it is normal for women and girls to engage in transactional sexual behaviours, participated in workshops to strengthen their abilities to integrate gender-based violence response in existing programmes such as economic empowerment, skills building, protection of environment and HIV/AIDs support for women and girls, and men and boys.

Civil society organizations and women's rights groups strengthened their capacities and accountability to the populations they served through the adoption of strong policies and procedures that demonstrates zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse. Over the course of the programme, CSOs participated in annual training sessions to assess their risk ratings and compliance with the core standards of PSEA. One such CSO, became a champion for PSEA and was supported to train other CSOs and grassroots organizations, including women's groups to strengthen their institutional readiness to respond to possible SEA allegations. 44 CSOs now have in place clear policies on PSEA, reporting and referral pathways, victim assistance procedures, ongoing training for personnel, and investigative procedures. Their beneficiary populations have also increased knowledge of their rights to redress and a clear reporting channel to report possible SEA allegations.





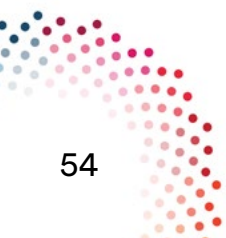
**At the level of the workplace, the institutional capacity of 17 private sector institutions to develop strategies, plans and programmes and respond to VAWG was also strengthened.**

In 2020, the Spotlight Initiative completed an adaptation process for the Belize Gender Equality and Diversity Seal for public and private sector organizations which seeks to 1) champion women's empowerment by addressing the issue of women's limited economic empowerment; 2) strengthen employers' recognition of gender-based violence; 3) promote the elimination of discrimination of all forms within the work environment; and 4) foster zero tolerance to gender-based violence and to end to violence against women and girls. In 2021, building on this result, the Spotlight Initiative, in partnership with the National Women's Commission, was successful in securing the commitment of 17 Private Sector Organizations to strengthen their capacity through the adoption of the Gender Equality and Diversity Seal.

The 17 organizations included a mix of public and private sector organizations such as the Southern Regional Hospital, Belize Water Services, Pathlight Belize, RET International, Belize Red Cross, Belize Family Life Association, Public Service Union of Belize, PETAL, Development Finance Corporation, Ministry of the Public Service, Ministry of Health & Wellness, Women and Family Support Department, Go Joven Belize, the Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Office of the Special Envoy, Labour Department and the Belize Airport Authority.



**Gender inequitable social norms, attitudes and behaviours that contribute to violence against women and girls were challenged by multiple campaigns reaching over 300,000 persons over four years.**



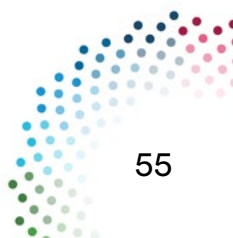
In 2020, at the commencement of Spotlight Initiative implementation, the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (2015/2016) indicated that 5.2 % of women and 5.4 % of men felt that wife beating was justified under certain circumstances. In 2021, the Spotlight Initiative Baseline Study found that 11.2% of the survey sample (8.2% male, 13.4% female) – agreed that a man is justified in beating his partner under certain circumstances. Although the sample populations and methodology varied for both studies, it is clear that VAWG is still largely justified in Belize. The prevailing norms, attitudes and behaviours which contribute towards violence against women and girls were challenged through the implementation of multiple campaigns reaching over 300,000 men, women, girls and boys.

In 2021, Spotlight Initiative, through SCLAN, developed and launched a media campaign challenging social norms and highlighting the important role that men and boys play to advance gender equality. The campaign was carried out in several languages on mainstream media including television advertisements during peak time as well as via social media on SCLAN FB Page, reaching 42,182 men, women, boys and girls. Notably one of the videos produced entitled: “Relay for Change: Mentoring Youths to Prevent Violence in Belize” was prominently featured on the Spotlight Initiative Website.

Additionally, at the peak of the pandemic in 2020, the Spotlight Initiative supported a COVID-19 Public Awareness Campaign led by the National Women’s Commission, which continued into 2021.

During this campaign, which used several mediums to reach masses of Belizeans, an estimated 278,882 were reached. Through text blasts on the local telephone networks, 250,000 persons received messages about where support and help can be accessed by GBV Survivors. Using posters 2,400 persons were informed of the GBV Referral Pathway. An additional 1,200 persons were reached with information cards promoting the GBV complaint mechanism. Flyers promoting the GBV Referral Pathway in English, Creole and Spanish reached 3,600 persons. The airing of a one-minute video ad and two 30 second videos promoting emergency hotlines, GBV Referral Pathway services, the GVB Complaint Mechanism and behaviour change messages against GBV on 12 national and local media houses reached 21,682 persons.

As part of the collaborative approach to advancing the agenda to End Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG), International Women’s Day was observed with a social media “Women’s Month Sheroes” campaign. The campaign was centered on acknowledging 8 women and girls (4 women, 4 girls) who inspire and lead in Belize. The objective was to feature those who were in leadership capacities in unconventional and innovative sectors and who could be a source of inspiration to encourage others to explore their fullest potential. The campaign also addressed perception and sought to position women as essential contributors to society’s development beyond the traditional and expected roles and functions. The 8-day campaign reached over 11,000 Facebook viewers.



Additionally, Belize participated in the Global Campaign themed 'Digital generation. Our generation' which sought to highlight the digital realities that girls face and solutions to excel on their diverse pathways as technologists for freedom of expression, joy, and boundless potential. At the Country level, the campaign reached 455 women and girls.

As part of its interventions to empower couples, POWA hosted a series of live shows entitled "MENTors" virtually via FB Live on Sundays which evolved into a public awareness campaign. The 5 shows combined in both districts (Corozal and Dangriga) had a total of 7,480 viewers. An additional 7,500 persons were reached during the 16 days of activism activities, 4,000 persons reached by Docuseries on VAWG, 2,317 persons reached by #With Her Talks and 987 persons reached by a Panel on Engaging Men and Boys during the 16 days of activism

In 2023, Spotlight Initiative supported the development of a National Social and Behaviour Change Communication Campaign on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls. The communication campaign "It Ends with Me" was designed as part of the implementation of the National Social and Behaviour Change Communication Strategy on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls. A total of 102 communication assets (18 videos created inclusive of different variations to include Spanish subtitles and subs, videos including the sign language and 8 distinct radio ads, 32 posters in English and Spanish, 32 social media banners and 12 Tik Toks) were expertly developed to address family violence in Belize.

The campaign is positioned to challenge gender inequitable social norms, negative attitudes and behaviours at the community and individual levels to prevent violence against women and girls, including family and other forms affecting women's sexual health and reproduction.

Target audiences include some of the most marginalized groups, among them - adolescent girls, indigenous, rural, migrant women and girls, sex workers, women and girls with disabilities, transwomen and lesbian women, women and girls living with HIV and elderly persons. This is in keeping with national goals to leave no one behind.

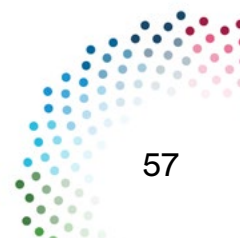
The launch signaled the commitment at the highest level as emphasized by the Hon. Dolores Balderamos Garcia, Minister of Human Development, Families & Indigenous Peoples Affairs who delivered the keynote address. H.E. Marianne Van Steen, EU Ambassador and Brigit Gerstenberg, former UN Resident Coordinator, also delivered remarks emphasizing the importance of collective action in both the prevention strategies and response mechanism to ending violence against women and girls. The launch was attended by government stakeholders, community activists and right bearers.



Spotlight Initiative supported a participatory and inclusive process to challenge gender inequitable social norms, negative attitudes and behaviours at the community and individual levels to prevent violence against women and girls. 207 stakeholders across key frontline sectors and community activists in rural and urban zones benefitted from capacity building and training of trainers' sessions on employing a gender-lens in addressing cases of GBV and integrating preventative strategies in the response to end VAWG. The approach of "It End with Me" Social and Behaviour Change Communication Campaign was a collaboration of national and CSO partnerships that challenged the intersectionality of family violence in Belize and provoked conversations on norms to stimulate behaviour change. Partnerships with CSOs also created a unique space for smaller, less established CBOs and NGOs to support the reach and impact of the campaign. 8 sub-contracted CSOs benefitted from capacity building on programming, strengthening and integrating preventative strategies to combat violence against women and girls. Continued engagements beyond the initial roll out is critical for sustainability and for behaviour change to be shifted.

Supported by the "How to Guide", a resource tool developed to support and guide stakeholders and community players to utilize the full catalog of assets. Stakeholders were engaged in dialogue on gender norms and equipping them with strategies and assets to integrate prevention into activities and sector plans, the general public was reached through social and mass media channels with reach of over 1/3 of the population, and civil society organizations worked at the community level reaching schools, community leaders and communities and engaging them in discussions on social and gender norms.

In addition to the multiple interpersonal, social and mass media channels utilized by Spotlight Initiative to reach a wide range of audiences with messages on VAWG, Spotlight Initiative created opportunities for engaging young people through the development of innovative online and mobile applications and other platforms for young people. Civil society organizations and the government joined forces to create a youth friendly mobile application where sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence information is easily accessible.



81 youths were engaged in 5 focus group sessions and polls to provide feedback on the interface and design of the mobile application and the wider Nexus platform. The Nexus App was officially launched in March 2023. This event celebrated the many youth initiatives of the Department of Youth Services and formalization of private/public sector partnerships with both major telecommunication companies committing to supporting the youth development agenda. The Nexus platform and app is owned by the Department of Youth Services and now forms a key part of their programming which will facilitate the sustainability of the platforms.

The platform was also integrated into the IP's youth program as another strategy for SRH education. Sexual and Reproductive Health/Gender Based Violence channels were created, and these channels now have 14 videos on topics of menstrual health, healthy and unhealthy relationships, sexual consent, among others. With sustainability at the forefront, the DYS and partners continue to raise awareness about the mobile app and to populate it with relevant content that will be monitored by key partners.



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# OUTCOME 4: QUALITY SERVICES

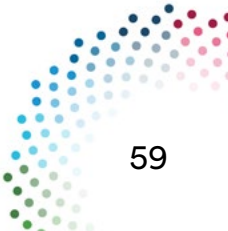
Over 28,000, women and girls’ survivors of violence, including women and girls facing multiple and intersecting forms of violence, have increased knowledge of existing quality essential services and increased knowledge of accompaniment services, 54 women and girls were provided access to accompaniment/support initiatives, including longer-term recovery services and three safe houses have increased capacity to provide support to survivors of violence

Spotlight Initiative increased the institutional capacity of key service providers, to deliver quality and coordinated essential services to women and girls’ survivors of VAWG including family violence through strengthening the Social Services Workforce and the development of Essential Services Package for Belize

Women and girls’ survivors of violence and most risk groups benefitted from improved and coordinated service delivery through key national guidelines and protocols for essential services that specifically address the needs of women and girls facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.



**Spotlight Initiative increased the institutional capacity of key service providers, to deliver quality and coordinated essential services to women and girls’ survivors of VAWG including family violence through strengthening the Social Services Workforce and the development of Essential Services Package for Belize.**



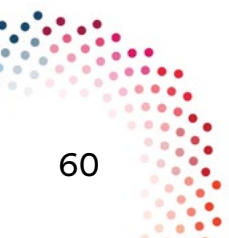
The strengthening of the Social Services Workforce was a significant and impactful contribution of the Spotlight Initiative. In addition to the development of standardized training modules and the training and coaching of 14 senior and middle managers, the institutionalization of a Social Work Supervision Framework is seen as a major contribution with long term impact to the management of social services case management processes for the Ministry of Human Development, Families and Indigenous Peoples' Affairs. The supervision framework underpins the larger response to gender equality, including GBV, child abuse, human trafficking, and sets out a roadmap to continue efforts around multisectoral protocols and the harmonization of gender and GBV data. For the developed modules, 52 frontline social workers and case managers (49 females, 3 males) within the ministry have successfully completed the training and have demonstrated some competence in the application of the revised methodologies, procedures, and formats for managing cases.

An Essential Services Package has been defined for Belize, inclusive of a gender-based violence in emergencies component.

The ESP reflects the vital components of the coordinated multi- and inter-sectoral responses required for women and girls subject to or experiencing violence (whether gender-based violence, intimate partner violence, or non-partner sexual violence). The Package includes a detailed composition of the services provided by the various sectors including health, social services, human services, police, and the legislative and judiciary arms in areas including but not limited to legislative and policy advocacy, human rights, safety, and well-being. The Essential Services Package also includes a synopsis of the strengths, gaps, and recommendations required for the improvement of service provision and accessibility. Further, the document outlines the quality intra- and inter-sectoral service packages and coordination improvements required to increase the protection of women and girls; improve the capacity to respond to family violence; and address social norms and behaviors that promote violence against women and girls in order to ensure a life free of violence, within an inclusive and gender-equitable Belize.



**Over 28,000, women and girls' survivors of violence, including women and girls facing multiple and intersecting forms of violence, have increased knowledge of existing quality essential services and increased knowledge of accompaniment services, 54 women and girls were provided access to accompaniment/support initiatives, including longer-term recovery services and three safe houses have increased capacity to provide support to survivors of violence.**



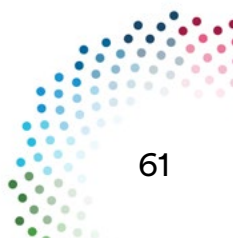
Over 28,000 women and girls have knowledge of existing quality essential services at the national and sub-national levels, including where services are available in their communities. 26,793 mothers received information on the availability of social and child protection services, including mental health and psychosocial support. Over 1500 women and girls benefited from essential services (SRH/Health, Legal, and Psychosocial Support and counseling) in response to GBV through Mobile Women Centers in 33 rural communities. Services were provided by four civil society organizations during the first three years of Spotlight Initiative's implementation and led by the Government of Belize, as part of the model for sustainability, during the last year of Spotlight Initiative's implementation. A further 11 migrant communities also benefited from legal-specific services through partnerships with other UN agencies. In keeping with the principle of Leaving no One Behind, these Mobile Women Centers were able to deliver life-saving information and services to areas with no access to services, especially those areas populated by indigenous Maya (Yucatec, Que'chi, Mopan Maya), indigenous Garifuna, and migrant women.

Additionally, 82 direct beneficiaries of the Spotlight Initiative Programmes received support and accompaniment to access essential services during 2022. 47 women and children, victims of child abuse, commercial sexual exploitation, human trafficking, and domestic violence, were supported and referred to the Human Services Department.

Support was provided for follow-up services for counseling therapy, medical care and rehabilitative services during the investigation period. Two survivors of Human Trafficking were placed in shelters and 30 women survivors of domestic violence who were identified received counseling support and provided with information and assistance to develop safety plans, while 7 women with their children (14) were assisted to safely relocate from domestic violence situations.

A direct result following the execution of the mobiles was an increase in cases of GBV reported by the Women's Department. These cases were inputted in their database for proper case management to provide longer term recovery for beneficiaries. Importantly, a technical consultant documented the experiences of planning and executing mobile service delivery and recorded the challenges and opportunities for an all-of government service delivery of essential services. This report will be used by the ministry to analyze the data and to gain commitment for further investment from key sectors including the Ministry of Health & Wellness and the Attorney General's Ministry.

Almost 74 Women Community Mobilizers in Cayo, Orange Walk, and Corozal Districts received training on family violence, including domestic violence and child protection, and psychosocial support to support women and girls in their communities on issues connected to domestic violence, child abuse and commercial sexual exploitation of children. 1,480 young women and girls received knowledge on essential services and support, including SRH.



As part of the support for building capacity of shelters to support women and girls' survivors of violence and their families and ensure they are informed of and can access quality essential services, including longer term recovery services and opportunities, Spotlight Initiative supported the development and implementation of the standard operating procedures for the management of safe houses for survivors of family violence. In collaboration with the National Women's Commission, two lead government ministries, the Ministry of Human Development and the Ministry of Health developed the standard operating procedures for the 3 safe houses in Belize: Haven House in Belize District, Mary Open Doors in San Ignacio and House of Dorcas in Corozal. The SOPs include Covid-19 protocols, given the country's recent experiences with COVID-19 and the challenges posed for continuing service delivery for survivors of violence.

The capacity of shelter staff, board members and volunteers were further strengthened through training on the implementation of the SOP and the SOP was adopted and implemented by all three safe houses. Additionally, Spotlight Initiative supported the safe houses with equipment and supplies necessary to successfully implement the SOPs. Key to the sustainability of the safe houses was the establishment of a private sector partnership to provide long term support to safe houses. At the end of the first quarter of 2022, formal partnerships were established with five (5) private sector entities who pledged to provide continuous support to safe houses. The National Women's Commission will continue to monitor and engage the three safe houses as it relates to the implementation of SOPs and will continue to work with entities who have agreed to support the shelters as well as engage and lobby other businesses across the country for support.



**Women and girls' survivors of violence and most risk groups benefit from improved and coordinated service delivery through key national guidelines and protocols for essential services that specifically address the needs of women and girls facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.**

The Spotlight Initiative contributed to strengthening institutional capacity for multi-sectoral coordination and the delivery of essential services to women and girls survivors of violence through the development of a GBV Multisectoral Protocol, development of Standard Operating procedures for GBV, development of SOPs for the operation of shelters, and the development of Guidelines and Technical Design for a one-stop sexual and domestic violence unit under to purview of the police department with accompanying draft SOPs.

A draft GBV Multisectoral Response Protocols and accompanying Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the essential services sectors were developed and specifically address the needs of women and girls facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. The Protocol is underpinned by a rights-based, survivor-centered, best-interest-of-the-child approach aimed at advancing gender equality and women's empowerment in a confidential, cultural and age-appropriate, safe, respectful and non-discriminatory manner. The Protocols were designed to ensure comprehensive, coordinated delivery of services with appropriate accountability of the agencies delivering services to each other and to the survivors.

The Protocols provides (I) a structured approach for systematically planning and executing the implementation of services for gender-based violence; (II) a basis for the monitoring and improvement of services for gender-based violence based on local needs and conditions, as well as country-level context; and (III) support to agencies and communities in the establishment of quality controls for harmonization and consistency in the quality of services provided for gender-based violence.

A technical steering committee comprised of members from key sectors including health, justice, security and social sectors has been organized to provide technical oversight, guidance and direction to ensure Protocols are representative of a multi-sectoral, holistic, and coordinated response aimed at harmonizing and correlating programs and actions developed and implemented in the sectors related to police, prosecution and justice, social services, and health of the technical consultant. The oversight of the Multisectoral Protocol Technical Steering Committee demonstrates government's ownership of the process to ensure that the revised consolidated multisectoral protocols will ensure interoperability of the protocol in all coordinating and relevant sectors with the responsibility of ensuring protection against GBV.

In 2019, the Government of Belize, with support from one UN agency working in the area of child protection, began to explore the possibility of creating a Center for Investigation of Sexual Offences, Child Abuse and Domestic Violence to create a holistic, one-stop facility for the identification, investigation, and interview of victims of domestic violence, sexual offences, and child abuse to address the challenges encountered by victims in navigating multiple agencies has resulted in delays in investigations as well as victims abandoning legal proceedings. Following a study tour to Jamaica to explore the work being done, a technical working group was formed to explore the establishment of such a centre in Belize. The technical design for the Center builds on the recommendations of the working group and seeks to remove challenges connected to the stigma faced by women and children in accessing justice, health, and social services. Further, to protect victims and provide proper and adequate services, the Center proposed protocols for service delivery for the treatment of victims to be done in a collaborative, efficient and confidential manner.

The technical design has been accepted by the government and funding has been secured by the government for its piloting. The Spotlight Initiative leveraged an existing convening space to incorporate these protocols for analysis and feedback through its Multi-Agency Technical Sessions. Agencies such as the Magistrate and Family Courts, Community Rehabilitation Department, Human Services Department, Women and Family Services Department, and Police were able to review these protocols and make recommendations for strengthening them for more seamless service delivery. These recommendations are intended to feed into the strengthening of the technical design. This cohesive approach to the roles and responsibilities of agencies working on all these forms of gender-based violence provides an opportunity for developing trauma-focused expertise amongst officers from various agencies.



Photo credit



## OUTCOME 5: DATA

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Belize now has access to globally comparable data on VAWG.

GBV information systems strengthened to increase capacity for data collection, case management and reporting on VAWG.

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Under the Spotlight Initiative, a Baseline study was completed and launched providing Belize with globally comparable data on the prevalence of VAWG, including family violence. The modality for the collection of this administrative data underwent significant changes mainly due to the limitations posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and its subsequent impact on access to women and girls. The entire data collection process was done using virtual methods, including KAP Survey. The ethical considerations of such a method required the exclusion of some questions that could potentially put women and girls' survivors at increased risk. The availability of data on the prevalence of VAWG provides an opportunity to scale up awareness and advocacy to support enforcement of legislation, accountability of service providers and improved access to quality essential services, especially in hard to reach and marginalized communities.

Civil society organizations and grassroots women's movements have long been responding to VAWG at the community level, the baseline study provides validation of the work they have been doing, and an opportunity for civil society to design interventions to scale that specifically targets the gaps where government resources are short-handed. Actions were undertaken to socialize the evidence of baseline study data in digestible formats and language for women's rights groups and relevant CSOs to have strengthened capacities to design, implement and monitor their own programmes on ending VAWG, including family violence. This included the design and dissemination of user-friendly products developed to socialize and raise awareness of the data and findings from the Knowledge, Attitudes and Practice (KAP) survey which formed part of the baseline study.

Spotlight Initiative continued to provide technical support to strengthen the country's capacity to collect and report on comprehensive GBV data. The Spotlight Initiative also continued advocacy for increased strengthening of the national gender-based violence surveillance system in order to ensure that Belize has a coordinated, comprehensive system for data collection, reporting and case management. Ongoing technical support was provided to the MHDFIPA, a key stakeholder in reporting and case management, to strengthen its internal capacity for data collection, reporting and case management, FAMCARE. The capacity of 29 staff (26 females and 3 males) of the MHDFIPA was increased through training on the implementation of the GBV Dashboard which was designed as part of the GBV module in FAMCARE.

Strengthening of FAMCARE and the ministry's capacity for data collection, reporting and case management will facilitate the MHDFIPA's leadership and coordination of the national gender-based surveillance system.

The Caribbean Regional Spotlight Programme and the Belize Programme collaborated to train 13 CSOs and women's groups on project management that included a focus on developing strong monitoring and evaluation frameworks and processes. This engagement provides opportunities for more rigorous and robust monitoring and evaluation processes and practices that align with national reporting requirements.



Photo credit

## OUTCOME 6: WOMEN'S MOVEMENT

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Women's rights groups, networks and relevant CSOs have the knowledge and capacities to use the appropriate accountability mechanisms for advocacy; with strengthened capacities to network, partner and jointly advocate for progress on ending VAWG including family violence at the local and national level

65 Women's rights groups and relevant CSOs, have increased opportunities and support to share knowledge, network, partner and jointly advocate for GEWE and ending VAWG, including family violence, with relevant stakeholders at sub-national, national, regional and global levels

Increased capacity of 89 state and non-state organizations to use social accountability mechanisms and increased capacity for networking and alliance building of 36 state and non-state organizations

Jointly agreed recommendations produced as a result of multi-stakeholder dialogues that include representatives of groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination

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Given the Civil society landscape in 2020, at the start of Spotlight Initiative, it was clear that significant efforts needed to be undertaken to strengthen allyship and coalition building among civil society actors. After four years of engagement civil society and women's groups have made significant progress towards building allyship and coalition. This is most evident at the sub-national level with CSOs and women's groups collaborating on projects.

The programme has contributed to providing technical capacity engagement on networking, coalition building and project management, as well as convened spaces for honest and open dialogue to expose and address systemic and intrinsic barriers to collaboration and partnership.

.Resulting from these dialogues, there has been notable changes in attitudes of the government seeing CSOs and Women's Groups as partners and not competitors, provided opportunities to strengthen capacities of Women's Groups, opportunities for greater participation in decision-making spaces, and freedom to address gaps and barriers for women and girls within these key spaces.

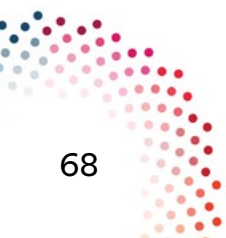
CSOs, in collaboration with the Belize Network of NGOs developed a draft Theory of Change to address sustained partnership with the government and networking among key CSOs and Women's groups. A core committee has been formed to support the finalization of the ToC and the development, monitoring and implementation of a plan of action.



**Women's rights groups, networks and relevant CSOs have the knowledge and capacities to use the appropriate accountability mechanisms for advocacy; with strengthened capacities to network, partner and jointly advocate for progress on ending VAWG including family violence at the local and national level**

The Spotlight Initiative supported women's groups and relevant civil society organizations in coalition building and allyship through the formation of seven district level hubs comprising 35 women's group and at least 1 CSO per hub. The aim is to provide local level spaces for accountability regarding ensuring rural and marginalized communities have access to quality essential services. The formation of these district hubs advocates for strengthened partnership with local government, civil society, and private sector to ensure that critical response and protective services are available and delivered in quality and equitable ways at the community level. The next steps will be to expand the connection between districts and with the national mechanism for CSOs – the Belize Network of NGOs.

During 2022, Spotlight Initiative increased weight and intensity in actions and advocacy to support civil society and women's groups access to sub-national and national networks, opportunities for partnership and joint advocacy to support ending violence against women and girls. This continued to be challenging because of existing barriers and reach particularly for rural groups and those representing key populations, such as migrant women, Les/bi groups, and women in informal employment such as sex workers. However, Spotlight Initiative scaled up its actions in organizing municipal level nucleus of women's groups and CSOs that seeks to provide a local platform for support and advocacy, building of allyship and partnership with key stakeholders including local government and area representatives. Spotlight



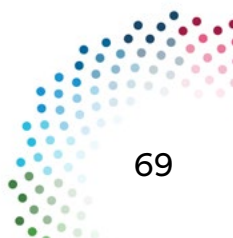


**65 Women’s rights groups and relevant CSOs, have increased opportunities and support to share knowledge, network, partner and jointly advocate for GEWE and ending VAWG, including family violence, with relevant stakeholders at sub-national, national, regional and global levels**

Initiative, under Outcome 6, continued to convene opportunities for networking and partnerships, and technical peer to peer support among Civil Society and Women’s Groups. Several interventions targeting institutional and organizational capacity strengthening, mapping of groups, and creating spaces for engagement and dialogue were implemented at both national and sub-national levels to ensure a greater reach of movement builders. The main objective was to define an approach to strengthening the engagement of civil society to enable their effective contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Spotlight Initiative and other national investment opportunities for Gender Equality and Women Empowerment and ending Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). This included supporting the identification of a common objective as an established platform for collective advocacy.

As part of the efforts to strengthen CSO Allyship and Coalition Building during 2022, several dialogue spaces were convened to engage civil society in identifying support and resources, gaps and barriers that hinder the realization of partnership and networking to address GEWE and VAWG.

During the last quarter of 2022, the second engagement had as its objectives laying a foundation for the establishment of a platform to build a strong coalition around ending violence against women and children and gender equality; and to foster strategic partnerships with existing networks and coalitions to amplify voice. It was important to demonstrate and glean best practices from other factions of the social sector who have been able to successfully form coalition around common ground. These included the Maya Leaders Alliance, a collective of Mayan communities who partnered to advocate for Land Rights and have successfully advanced both in the national and global arena; and the environmental NGOs who have formed ad hoc coalitions around critical environmental issues such as offshore drillings, and were instrumental in holding government accountable for the installation of the 13th Senator responsible for Non-governmental Organizations in Belize.



Over 30 CSOs and women's groups were represented at this engagement, the largest number of CSOs engaged at one single event to date. Discussions were advanced around priority themes, how CSOs with difference can work together to achieve a common goal; opportunities and mechanisms for diverse coalitions, including those representing marginalized populations, to participate in the policy process; identifying CSO leadership to leverage collective bargaining power to build and maintain strong, constructive relationships with relevant policy makers and decision makers who have authority and responsibility for policy change; and transparency and accessibility of information shared between and among government departments and civil society groups. These discussions were extremely useful in helping social services CSOs to understand their own context.

However, there is a need for deeper discussion and coordination to ensure that the desired results are achieved.

In addition to strengthening CSO engagement, the capacity of 35 CSOs and women's groups was strengthened to network, partner and jointly advocate for increased accountability. The 'Urban and Rural Women Rights Ambassadors Project' (URWRAP) was designed to develop and support a cadre of youths, women and civil society leaders to unite across groups and issue lines, to use evidenced based data to anchor women and girls' rights movement and grow their influence to shape policy and budgets at the national and local levels such that their unique challenges can be addressed. The goal is "to build the Capacity for

Women, Youth and Civil Society for Engagement and Self, Community and Organizational Empowerment".

During 2022, 10 women's groups and 2 CSOs were directly engaged to strengthen the network of state and non-state actors participating in social accountability and increase the capacity of women and youths to lead social accountability for women and girls' rights. Through this engagement an additional 22 women's groups from neighbouring communities participated in capacity building opportunities that seek to strengthen the network of women's groups with increased access to knowledge on social accountability, networking, and advocacy.

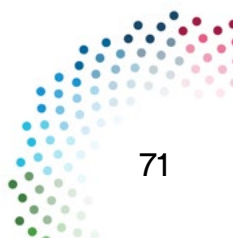
Spotlight Initiative worked with the Belize National Indigenous Council (BENIC) to strengthen the institutional capacity of its members (3 CBOs) to function as social accountability channels for indigenous women and girls. This was accomplished through the development of individual and collective strategic plans that ensured a gendered lens to ensuring the rights of indigenous people, including rights to land, political participation, and economic stability. As a network with a mandate for indigenous populations it ensures that even within this group no one is left behind.



**Spotlight Initiative continued to support women’s rights groups and relevant CSOs to use social accountability mechanisms to support their advocacy and influence on prevention and response to VAWG, including family violence, and GEWE more broadly. Through this initiative the capacity of 89 state and non-state organizations to use social accountability mechanisms while 36 state and non-state organizations have increased capacity for networking and alliance building.**

89 state (23) and non-state (66) organizations participated in a series of dialogues across the 6 districts, including the Cayes, to discuss and assess the context of violence against women and girls, particularly access to services and social accountability mechanisms. Organizations developed SWOT analysis for each of the districts and these were used to inform the further conversations of wider target communities. Additionally, discussions also sought to highlight the key women and girls’ rights issues disaggregated for urban and rural populations. Some of the issues include lack of cohesive response and support, exploitation and abuse, stigma and discriminatory behaviors and attitudes, and fragmented family structures.

Additionally, in keeping with the LNOB principle, 42 women and girls, representing communities across the 6 districts, including the Cayes, and rural, indigenous, migrant, trans, LGBTQIA and other vulnerable key populations, participated in learning capsules on networking and alliance building; community profiling and mapping women and girl’s rights issues; developing and using products-tools (digital-traditional) for story telling on the impact of violence and conflict, discrimination and deprivation of services and support systems; social accountability tools and budget literacy on women and girls’ rights; and NGO management, registration and joining Belize Network of NGOs.



A total of 36 state (7) and non-state (29) organizations were represented in these learning capsules. Following these learning capsules, 8 women's groups engaged in north-south peer-to-peer sessions to share experiences, lessons learned, challenges and encourage each other in adopting the knowledge gained through the learning capsules. During the discussion, the women also discussed coordination and movement building, including status of women in Belize, opportunities for collaborations/networking that occurred post learning capsules, and identifying potential CSOs they would like to collaborate with.

In 2023, these women's groups facilitated community level dialogues to socialize and sensitize on their individual declarations for improving the lives of women and girls, linked to the Belize Constitution and the Human Rights Declaration. Additionally, based on their own community mapping these groups will develop Joint Accountability Action Plans for sustained advocacy and action to ensure the rights of women and girls in Belize.



**Jointly agreed recommendations produced as a result of multi-stakeholder dialogues that include representatives of groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination**

Civil society organizations, women's groups and human rights defenders engaged in dialogue with the Government as an opportunity to recognize and appreciate the important role that CSOs play in the society as it relates to violence against women and girls, and for CSOs themselves to reflect on their contribution and the factors that enabled them. Coming out of the dialogue a critical element was highlighted that without a common government/CSO GBV response agenda and strategy, collaboration will continue to be limited and/or strained.

There were several recommendations made that have been tabled at the National Steering Committee level for consideration. These were included in the Sustainability Plan for post Spotlight CSO engagement and monitoring of progress towards enhancing the national GBV response.

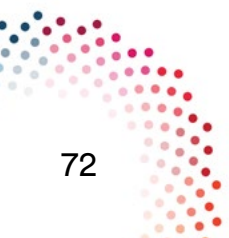






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# Rights Holders

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## SPOTLIGHT PROGRAMME “BENEFICIARIES”

Indicative numbers	Direct	Indirect
Women (18 yrs. and above)	34,188	102,564
Girls (5-17)	5,728	17,184
Men (18 yrs. and above)	25,338	13,170
Boys (5-17 yrs.)	4,390	13,170
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>69,644</b>	<b>183,684</b>

# Challenges and Mitigating Measures

Initial implementation of Spotlight Initiative was significantly constrained by COVID 19 during the first two quarters of 2020, as the Spotlight team as well as implementing partners adjusted to the new measures that were put in place to curb the spread of the virus. These included restrictions in movements, interpersonal interactions, office closures and various working arrangements which featured individuals working from home. One of the main challenges associated with the shift in working modalities, due to COVID 19, was the technological capacity of implementing partners. Most implementing partners, particularly CSOs did not have the technological infrastructure or delivery modalities to continue implementation of programmes online. It took some time to support implementing partners to improve their technological capacity as well as to adjust delivery modalities to facilitate online delivery. In many instances, this meant adapting or designing modules for online delivery of training, workshops and other activities that were already designed or planned for delivery through interpersonal channels. Despite these setbacks, by the end of 2020, the Spotlight team successfully ensured that the majority of implementing partners had made the necessary adaptations and had regained momentum in rolling out activities.

Some key actions by the SI team included meeting with CSOs to identify activities that could be implemented through on-line modalities, provision of resources for purchase of data by participants in order to remove financial barriers to participation, support funding for upgrade of technology where necessary, adjusting timeline for some activities to account for the additional layer of planning needed, and on-going online support and dialogue with implementing partners to troubleshoot and identify effective ways to continue programme implementation.

Another challenge faced was ensuring safe and confidential delivery of information, services and interactions with beneficiaries within the existing restrictions. In keeping with the Do No Harm principle, some innovative approaches were used to ensure safety and confidentiality were maintained. However, household dynamics continued to pose some constraints for which SI continued to identify ways to manage. One example of an innovative approach that was used to ensure safe and confidential interactions with beneficiaries was the use of existing channels such as parenting initiatives to reach girls and women through text messaging.

This resulted in many young women utilizing these existing, safe platforms to report violations or seek information. Many of the IPs in the parenting program are involved in SI implementation which allowed for the use of those platforms to reach beneficiaries. A key lesson learned from this experience, which can be applied to future programmes, is the need for close coordination with other RUNOs as well as IPs in order to quickly identify ongoing interventions that can easily facilitate reach of shared target audiences.

Significant delays in commencing data collection for the Spotlight baseline study, attributed to the constantly changing conditions of COVID-19, had an impact on the mode of data collection, inability of consultants to travel and the recruitment of a local counterpart with the capacity to do the data collection, training and socialization of content. This resulted in the need to revisit the plan for data collection in keeping with the Do No Harm principle. Data collection modality was adjusted to integrate the use of mobile phones and online platforms for data collection and sensitive questions related to exposure to violence were eliminated from the questionnaire due to ethical considerations. This data was sourced from systematic data collection by government agencies responding to VAWG.

Another challenge faced was the impact of Hurricane Lisa which hit Belize in October 2022. Implementing Partners (government and CSOs) prioritized responding to the humanitarian needs both at national and sub-national levels, this impacted both the implementation of activities and funds, as well as responding to the needs of beneficiaries.

In response, the Spotlight Initiative provided support for the incorporation of family violence as part of the humanitarian response including scaling up awareness raising on PSEA. The Spotlight Initiative also adapted to some inflexible changes, such as inability of social workers to participate in the social workforce training since they were deployed to support the humanitarian.

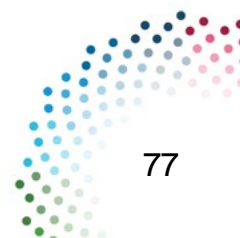
Strengthening women's rights groups, CSO networks and autonomous social networks was critical to ensure that SI could reach a large number of constituents, contribute to ongoing capacity development of these groups, and support advocacy and social accountability efforts to bring an end to VAWG. As outlined in the Country Programme Document for Spotlight Initiative, the number of CSOs with a mandate for responding to violence against women and girls are limited and not effectively represented in the national networks that do exist. Throughout its implementation, Spotlight Initiative actively engaged CSOs, primarily under outcomes 3 and 6. While individual CSOs demonstrated a remarkable capacity to implement interventions, innovate and reach hard to reach populations, major challenges were experienced in establishing cohesive and coordinated networks of CSOs to advance GEWE.

Although the BNN was identified as the formal mechanism for CSO networking, many CSOs were not registered with BNN and the CSOs that were registered with BNN were not actively engaged in collective advocacy and networking around GEWE, under BNN. Throughout its four years of implementation, Spotlight Initiative attempted to identify key entry points to support CSO Networking including engagement of smaller umbrella networks such as Go Belize and BENIC, engagement of CSOs through CSO Dialogues, and capacity building of CSOs at the community and national level through the Belize Association of Planners. Engagement of BNN was also sustained. Although no formal commitment from BNN was secured at the end of Spotlight Initiative, BNN has been fully engaged in actions to strengthen the CSO network and has identified key areas where support can be provided as Spotlight Initiative transitions.

Sustained engagement of CSNRG has also been a challenge. At its inception in 2020, the CSNRG had 8 elected members. However, this number decreased to 7 in 2021 and 5 in 2022. In 2021, support was provided for CSNRG to build its capacity for advocacy and monitoring and the development of its scorecard. In 2022 and 2023 ongoing technical support was provided to the CSNRG to develop its work plan, engaging with RUNOs, the RC and EU technical representatives to chart the way forward for CSNRG.

Implementation of Spotlight during 2022 was limited as the programme transitioned to its second phase. Almost 100% of funds for Phase I was expended by the end of 2021 and 2022 saw the development, review and submission of Phase II programme for approval. During this period implementation was constrained by limited available funding and staff within the RCO. The Programme Coordinator and the Communication Officer could not be retained due to lack of funding. While RUNOs engaged in preparatory activities for Phase II, the delay in the disbursement of Phase II funding had a significant impact on the start of the implementation cycle, particularly for CSO partners who did not have funds to commence implementation and also resulted in a 10-month gap in staffing within the RCO. This also delayed the recruitment of an M&E Officer which was a recommendation of the MTA. Consequently, an M&E Officer was only recruited on a part time basis for 8 months which continued to constraint the programme's M&E capacity.

During this period RUNOs provided some bridge funding to maintain programme staff, support small and institutional activities, including the recruitment of some consultants to establish foundational or first stage of implementation cycle. The Technical Coherence Consultant provided coordination support to the RCO to ensure programme continuity.



Despite best efforts to implement the MTA's key recommendation to strengthen data collection and reporting, with an emphasis on reporting on the programme's impact on the most vulnerable and marginalized populations, Spotlight Initiative was only able to minimally advance this recommendation during its last year of implementation owing to the late recruitment of an M&E Consultant. Advances were made in strengthening data collection tools for use by implementing partners and RUNOs to ensure that data was captured on marginalized and vulnerable population. However, adequate there was limited time for adequate technical support and training for all IPs to ensure effective data capture and reporting. Improvements were noted in reporting in several areas including service delivery under outcome 4 and engagement of women's movements under outcome 6. However, tools to support this important practice was introduced too late in the initiative's implementation to ensure that the programme was in a strong position to report on its full impact on key marginalized and vulnerable populations.

Poor coordination of competing Gender and Gender-based Violence Agendas: During the second phase of the programme, there was a notable increase in programmes that seek to address gender equality in Belize. Some of these programmes were either as a response to situational analysis of SDG 5 or in preparation for the upcoming VNR in 2024. The challenge arising from this, especially as it relates to the Ministry of Human Development, Families and Indigenous Peoples' Affairs, was a marked decrease in engagement due to limited availability of human resources to support the various programmes. Spotlight Initiative, through its institutional strengthening pillar, supported the Ministry to make linkages of external ad hoc programmes to the Sector Strategy and the strengthening of the National Women's Commission as the Gender Equality machinery.

# Lessons Learned and New Opportunities

## Lessons Learned

One key lesson learned is the importance of engaging government stakeholders at the highest level during the planning phase and sustaining those partnerships throughout implementation. The engagement of government partners at the highest level through programme design and implementation resulted in alignment and coordination of the Spotlight Initiative with national policies and plans. This facilitated ease in uptake by national counterparts as implementation partners were able to identify how Spotlight Initiative contributes to strengthening their response to VAWG. The ability of national counterparts to see elements of their programme objectives in the Spotlight programme served to build confidence and commitment by national actors that the initiative will build on existing efforts by CSOs and government. The active engagement of stakeholders and the alignment of Spotlight Initiative with national plans and policies contributed to the development of an effective sustainability plan. It was very easy to identify key areas for continued implementation and ensuring sustainability of the VAWG response, all closely aligned to national priorities.

Another key lesson was also learned relevant to civil society engagement. While rolling out the activities for Spotlight Initiative, a missed opportunity appears to be the capacity strengthening of CSOs to proceed with the implementation of the other pillars. Belize is a small country with even smaller CSO movements. This is also reflected in the number of CSOs who can access or participate as direct implementers in the process because of our own UN systems and national structures. There are many civil society and grassroots organizations that may not be formalized working in the area of GEWE and VAWG, even with limitations. A focus on CSOs capacity strengthening and strengthening of service providers, first, before pushing forward with the prevention and service delivery activities, in consideration of the size of CSOs and their own limited human resources and capacities, would have contributed to bridging some of the gaps that still remain after 4 years of implementation. While there are several CSOs very actively engaged across Spotlight Initiative pillars, it is noted that institutional issues, such as how they are registered, staffing, policies, and other operational factors, should be addressed as part of the initial capacity building as opposed to the later stage of implementation when they are already engaged in implementation.

Moving forward it is important to focus on increasing dialogues with CSOs and supporting them to concretize a roadmap for successful CSO and grassroots movement engagement as implementers in social programming and flagging the importance of them being as strong as possible to continue to attract funding. Key to the success of this is highlighting to CSOs the opportunity presented through the Spotlight Initiative which allows them to continue implementation of key actions on GEWE and VAWG while investing time and resources to strengthen their institutional capacity and position themselves as leaders in this field as well as to mobilize resources to continue the movement started under Spotlight Initiative.

One important lesson learned which was applied during Phase II implementation was the importance of simplifying processes and adopting our approach to facilitate CSOs participation, including grass roots CSOs and community groups in implementation of VAWG interventions. During programme implementation it became clear that not all CSOs had structures or capacity for financial management based on the UN requirements. However, many CSOs that do not meet these requirements are engaged in innovative work targeting hardest to reach communities and vulnerable groups. Through networking, dialogue and coordination with CSOs, CSOs with structures and financial capacities meeting the UN requirements, agreed to serve as lead implementing agencies supporting sub grants to grassroots CSOs while working with those CSOs to strengthen their capacities to receive direct funding.

Annual Work Plans for Phase reflected this way of working as Spotlight Initiative continued to identify ways to ensure that CSOs are included in implementation.

A key lesson learned regarding the CSNRG is that the CSNRG, as a model for ensuring participation of CSOs in governance and decision making on ending VAWG, is a critical component of the national response. However, application of such a model must be preceded by a clear understanding of what is needed to ensure that CSNRG operates as a cohesive, well-coordinated, highly functional body that can mobilize other CSOs and represent the collective voices of CSOs.

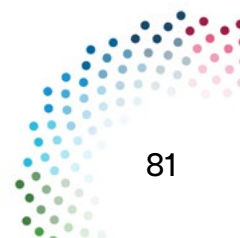
Important lessons were also learnt around Monitoring and Evaluation. Monitoring, and evaluation, including participatory M&E, were incorporated and advanced by all RUNOs with Spotlight Initiative partners. This process included a critical eye to reaching targets, adjusting interventions for greater impact or in response to COVID-19 realities, and documenting and reporting shifts, gaps, and opportunities for cross-agency collaborations. Although this put RUNOs in a great position, the actions required from the Spotlight Initiative M&E role fell short in advancing such collaborations. A lesson learned is the need for periodic review and updates of data collected and progress on the targets that could drive change, prioritizing adjustments, and coordination where targets were lagging. Another lesson learned is the need for a participatory approach to M&E versus the development of tools and templates; this is important primarily because indicators, much like pillars, are shared across RUNOs as are implementing partners.



The implementation of the Mobile Women's Center provided valuable lessons in partnering with CSOs and communities to deliver community-based services to marginalized women and girls. First, adopting a whole community approach by partnering with community leaders (village council, school principal, teachers, neighbourhood watches, women's groups, youth groups) strengthens support for mobilization and increases volunteerism in support of the implementation of the Mobile Women's Center. Because of this approach, it was noted that community-level mobilization yielded high participation of women from all the targeted communities and, as such, led to the successful implementation of mobile centres which require stronger logistics management (e.g. appointment systems, and number system to better manage order and access to multiple services) involving a minimum of 2 days at each Hub for the Centers and an increase in the number of service providers to make the Centers more efficient and able to reach more persons while in the communities. Additionally, it is important to ensure that mobilizers receive adequate information/training on the package of services and mobilization techniques, including documentation and follow-up. Finally, an exit strategy must be implemented at the end of each mobile centre intervention to 1) collect any information deemed relevant to the location and the population; 2) identify opportunities for linkages to existing services for those that will require follow up and support, and 3) enhance the overall design and execution of the Centers.

As it relates to operational lessons learned, the new way of working as one UN under the UN Reform must be effectively guided by clear mechanisms for working together. Given the multiple UN agencies involved in implementation and the various staff involved in implementation at different levels, it became clear that there was a need to establish clear roles and responsibilities as well as dedicated spaces for coordination. These challenges promoted the development of an SOP which allowed the team to consider the various levels of coordination needed within the UN agencies and between the UN agencies and the various stakeholders involved given the nature of the focus on VAWG and the SI initiative. The SOP for Spotlight, finalized within the last quarter of 2020, facilitated effective partnerships among UN agencies, the EU and wider partnerships, including with civil society.

Additionally, opportunities where a One UN approach was adopted continuously demonstrated that a coordinated UN approach advances the achievement of the Spotlight Initiative. One example is the joint UN approach to capacity-building of IPs on PSEA. PSEA has become a critical part of the UN's support to partners (government and civil society) to ensure compliance with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) guidelines. The Spotlight Initiative is a convergence of several government actors, civil society organizations and grassroots women's movements whose engagement with the UN extends beyond the Spotlight Initiative.



An opportunity was seen and seized to raise awareness on PSEA with teachers and school administrators, sporting institutions, and community leaders; and more in-depth training was provided to CSOs including reviewing their individual internal processes with recommendations on how they can improve for optimum compliance with the UN PSEA core standards.

A final operational lesson learned is the importance of joint planning and coordination with IPs across RUNOs. While operational procedures across RUNOs pose some restrictions to joint financial disbursements, a key lesson learned through engagement with IPs is that joint planning, monitoring and technical support to IPs, when multiple RUNOs are engaged in the implementation of activities with the same IP, would result in greater efficiency in implementation by IPs and RUNOs.

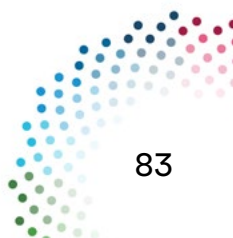
As an example, internet and mobile data were a great inhibitor of access to remote support by persons desirous of accessing the service. However, this challenge provided an opportunity as it was noted that when provided with access to data for participation in virtual sessions, the commitment of women and girls to participate in these spaces were overwhelming and demonstrated the heightened need for increased access to information and services at the community level. Local level solutions identified in response to COVID 19 provided excellent opportunities for SI to continue partnering with CSOs and the government to strengthen these approaches and ensure that communities continue to benefit from information and services. For example, the mobile women's center provided an ideal opportunity to forge formal partnerships for service delivery between government and CSOs.

## New Opportunities

The many adaptations made to continue programme and service delivery in response to COVID 19 provided new opportunities for reaching programme beneficiaries. New on-line and mobile platforms expanded ways of reaching and engaging individuals and communities which were not envisioned at the inception of SI implementation. Throughout its implementation Spotlight Initiative continued to build on these investments while exploring ways to increase access to the use of technology to reach communities with information and services.

Several opportunities emerged for expanding prevention and service delivery, strengthening programmes and policies and building partnerships around ending VAWG at all levels. At the community level, community consultations were planned and implemented to give voice to women and girl survivors of violence, including rural and migrant women, on the laws and policies available to protect them, their knowledge and perceptions, gaps in their protection as rights holder, and recommendations on how these processes and services can be improved. An emerging gap, in addition to the methodology being utilized, was the need for more community-level engagement that seeks to respond to the unique challenges and barriers within the community. Building on an existing intervention, the Spotlight Initiative was able to align existing programmes to implement additional Women's Forums for rural women in the Belize District, including with migrant women. This approach provided an opportunity to introduce the women and girls to family violence legislations, the protective and rights measures included, and in turn hear their experiences accessing services across sectors (police, health, and courts). Finally, the sessions provided opportunities for women and girls to make recommendations on how to improve knowledge, attitudes, practices, and behaviours on legislation and service delivery, including accompaniment specific to rural communities where there is a glaring gap in available services and support.

Another opportunity that emerged was the engagement of the Women Parliamentary Caucus. Many Commonwealth Parliaments feature a Women Parliamentary Caucus as a space for women Parliamentarians from different political parties to unite in solidarity in championing and promoting women's empowerment, advocating for policy and legislative priorities for women, strengthening women's voices in Parliaments, encouraging gender perspectives in the day-to-day operations of the Parliament, and raising awareness of the importance of gender equality and inclusion. It was an important and intentional action to engage the Women Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) as part of the sustainability of legislative and institutional actions and advocacy. The WPC was formed in early 2022 on the strength of their mission to address issues of gender equality, greater participation in legislative process, and the sensitizing of the work of the National Assembly through a gender lens. As such, the WPC were a key advocates in ensuring legislative reform of the DV Act, review and revision of national sector plans to be more gender-response, advocacy for comprehensive data on GBV, and the inclusion and engagement of civil society actors in the national response mechanism for GEWE.



Opportunities for strengthening partnerships and increasing engagement of the EU Delegation also emerged in 2021. Established spaces for technical exchanges between the Spotlight Initiative technical team and the EU Delegation technical team provided opportunities for sharing progress, challenges and lessons learnt and securing technical feedback and inputs from the EU Delegation. Additionally, opportunities arose for the EU Ambassador to engage with the RUNOs, IPS and programme beneficiaries to view first-hand some Spotlight Initiative supported interventions and gain a deeper understanding of the impact that Spotlight Initiative is making in the lives of women and girls.

Another opportunity that emerged was the partnership with the Ministry of Human Development for the Mobile Women's Center to continue service provision to rural communities. The model for the Mobile Women's Center, implemented since 2020, was CSO led and the initial focus for Phase II was to assess lessons learned and propose a model for sustainable service delivery to rural models based on the experience of implementing the Mobile Women's Center. However, this new opportunity to partner with the government provided the space to design Mobile Women's Center with financial support and service provision from government alongside CSOs and allows for Spotlight Initiative to explore government/CSO partnership in delivery of services to rural women and girls.

# Innovative, Promising or Good Practices

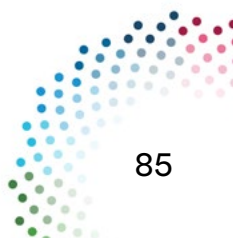
## The Mobile Women's Center

The Mobile Women's Centre has been identified as a promising practice that was implemented in 2020 and strengthened throughout the four years of Spotlight Initiative implementation. In 2020, the Women's Centre facilitated the coordination of Civil Society Organizations to ensure continuity of services to women and girls in rural communities across the country during COVID 19. As the implementation of the Mobile Women's Center rolled out there was strengthened engagement with community leaders and members, through the support of the Community Health Workers, who are an important link between service providers and the communities. The Women's Center featured essential services including legal support, counselling and psychosocial support, SRH Services, inclusive of voluntary family planning, and the safe identification and referral of GBV survivors, as well as case management support.

The delivery of this type of service in hard-to-reach communities could not have been more timely considering the impact of COVID 19 on livelihoods, mobility and access to services.

This integrated mobile service delivery model was uniquely designed to increase access to critical services in preventing and responding to gender-based violence, in close alignment with the United Nations Joint Global Programme on Essential Services for Women and Girls Subject to Violence.

At the end of 2021, the Centre was assessed on its cost effectiveness, efficiency, lessons learnt and client satisfaction, among other variables, to inform the development of a sustainability plan for this type of service delivery model to improve health outcomes among rural women. Based on the lessons learned, the model continued to be rolled out beyond COVID 19 and 2023 saw a transition from a Spotlight Initiative funded, CSO led Mobile Women's Center to a Government of Belize funded, CSO/GOB led Mobile's Women's Center. This was an important transition for sustainability and demonstrated the government's commitment to reaching hard-to-reach communities with services beyond the Spotlight Initiative.



# Scale up of Comprehensive Sexuality Education

The implementation of the scale up of CSE Programme for young persons out of school provides an immediate and relevant innovative and promising practice as it engages young people out of school in CSE education and awareness through virtual platforms, particularly in the context of COVID 19.

The first aspect of the innovation is the improvement of the Belize Family Life Association (BFLA) CSE Curriculum and Training Resource Manual, particularly the enhancement of teaching and learning strategies for effective engagement of young people in virtual spaces. Additionally, the expansion of the cadre of CSE community level trainers will allow for expanding the reach to young people within their own local spaces, and also through popular (and youth friendly) social media and video conference platforms.

The evolution of this innovative approach to the out of school youth CSE education programme will help to provide the option for a low cost and high impact model to advanced gender equality, women's and girls' empowerment, and reproductive rights, including for the most vulnerable and marginalized adolescents and youth. To date 30 master trainers have been trained and furnished with a CSE tool kit (complete with a manual, models, etc.). Master trainers also delivered training to 240 young people in early 2021 as part of their capacity building.



## Women Community Mobilizers

Community Mobilization is an effective method for getting members of any community mobilized. In varying contexts, this mobilization is done through identified and trained community members who would, in turn, provide ongoing support to the target beneficiaries of the interventions.

Through the Spotlight Initiative in Belize, the identification, training, and support of women and girl survivors or, at risk of violence, has been identified as a promising practice. Women Community Mobilizers received training on the family violence toolkit, psychosocial support, and referral pathways.

Introduction to, and accompaniment with the Ministry of Health's Public Health Officers provided an additional level of on-the-job training on such skills like effective communication, observations, and acclimation to the varying economic realities of community members.

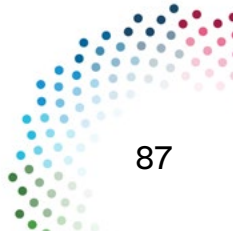
Through this process, the Women Community Mobilizers assisted 162 women and girls to understand their rights, build up their capacities, access essential services including, in some cases, emergency protective services, and develop protection plans for those remaining in abusive relationships and homes.



# Increase access to the Mandatory Reporting Protocols on Child Abuse, Human Trafficking, and Family Violence Training and Support Mechanism

In 2020, Spotlight Initiative partnered with Pathlight Belize, National Organization for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NOPCAN), Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology (MOEcST), and the Ministry of Human Development, Families and Indigenous Peoples' Affairs (MHDFIPA) to expand the roll out of the Mandatory Reporting, which began in April 2017. Due to the challenging COVID context, the partnership looked at digitizing the course and delivering to teachers through an online modality.

In 2022, upon the request of the MOEcST, and as an effort to ensure continuity of the intervention, the programme supported the shift for synchronous to asynchronous learning. The eCourse was then launched on the MOEcST's Teacher Learning institute (TLI) giving teachers, school administrators, other frontline supports and civil society actors access to the training module.



This intervention addresses strengthening of the national government to ensure linkages across institutions on intersectional gender and gender-based violence situations and the promotion of multi-agency dialogues as key to the response. The primary issue addressed by this intervention is the promotion of gender-equitable social norms, attitudes, and behaviours through programming in the formal education settings.



## **Simplification of UN Processes: Women’s Groups and Grassroots civil society organizations empowered to access technical and financial resources for Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment**

This intervention responds to the principle of Leaving No One Behind and the promotion of strong and empowered civil society and autonomous women’s movement. Particular focus was on building the capacity of women’s groups and improving access to innovative financing mechanisms.

This intervention began in 2022 at the start of phase II implementation cycle, the hope is that with the documentation of this promising practice, the opportunities for sustained support to women’s groups responding to gender-based violence and gender equality at the community level will be maintained.

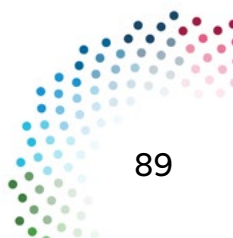


From initial consultations for the Spotlight Initiative, it was understood that women's groups and grassroots organizations are key actors in the GBV response in Belize. This is due to the unavailability and inaccessibility of government essential services at the community levels, particularly rural and indigenous communities. CSOs, women's groups, and grassroots organizations have a long history of leading in the response to gender inequalities in Belize, such as the formation of the Women's Issues Network, the development of the Domestic Violence Act (first version), and the Women's Department. However, in recent years these groups are being left behind due to their inability to comply with legislative and policy requirements to access funding, such as annual audits, and registration to remain in 'Good Standing'.

The simplification process sought to build coalitions and partnerships among CSOs, grassroots organizations and women's groups to collectively apply for funding from development partners. This ensures that small groups who are unable to meet the requirements for application but are still implementing programmes and delivering services within their communities can access resources to enhance and scale up the delivery of quality essential services to women and girls' survivors of GBV.

Since this was a relatively new methodology for Belize, it required some level of unpacking both internally and with partners. While systems are in place to support this kind of practice, it has never been utilized so operational colleagues needed time to review procedures in order to provide the right kind of support to Implementing Partner. On the other hand, the programme needed to support formalizing of partnerships between IP and sub-grantees to build trust and accountability. The programme achieved this through the establishment of practical monitoring visits and engagements with IP and sub-grantees beyond the required level. Additionally, developed templates for activity and financial reporting.

As a result of this intervention, 16 women's groups benefited for programmatic and seed funding to strengthen their individual response to gendered needs of the communities they serve. The further development of this model can ensure that indeed 'no one is left behind' both for grassroots groups and the constituents they serve. The table below provides further information on the 16 women's group who benefitted from seed funding.



## Women's Group



**Toledo Mayan  
Women's Council**



**Hope Haven Belize**



**Sunshine Women's  
Group**



**The Keeper's Project**



**Daughters of Change**



**Women of Worth**



**ADRAB Belize**



**Belmopan Active  
Youths**



**Mujeres Ayudando a  
Mujeres Aspirarse  
(MAMA)**



**PAPSNOW**

## Geographic location / coverage



Big Falls, Toledo  
Covering 36 villages in Toledo



San Pedro



San Narciso Village  
Covering 4 additional communities/  
villages in Corozal



Big Falls, Toledo  
Covering 36 villages in Toledo



Pickstock Belize City



Pickstock Belize City



Belize City



Belmopan City



Orange Walk



Orange Walk  
Coverage North and Central Belize

## Target Beneficiaries



Indigenous women, men, girls,  
boys



Women and children



Women and girls



Women, men, boys, girls



Adolescent and youth girls



Women



Men and women decision makers



Youth girls and boys



Women and girls



Women and children with  
disabilities

**Women's Group**



**Empower Belize**



**Rising Stars**



**Red Bank Women's Group**



**San Estevan Women**



**PETAL**



**TIDE**

**Geographic location / coverage**



Belize City  
National Coverage



San Victor, Corozal



Red Bank, Stann Creek



San Estevan, Orange Walk



Belize City  
Coverage in Georgetown, Mahogany Heights, Hattieville



Toledo  
17 community youth groups

**Target Beneficiaries**



Women, men, youth



Women and girls



Women



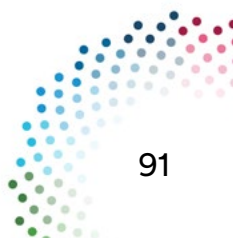
Women and girls



Les/Bi women and girls



Youth girls and boys



# EMPOWERING CHANGE: Women's Parliamentary Caucus of Belize Unites to advance Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

In 2022, the Women's Parliamentary Caucus was established in Belize as a space for women Parliamentarians from different political parties to unite in solidarity in championing and promoting women's empowerment, advocating for policy and legislative priorities for women, strengthening women's voices in Parliaments, encouraging gender perspectives in the day-to-day operations of the Parliament, and raising awareness of the importance of gender equality and inclusion. The women's caucus provides a platform to highlight the gender dimension in all issues placed on the parliamentary agenda, including but not limited to adequate representation of women within the high-level decision-making space.

Within the caucus full attention can be given to gender and to advocate for gender equality matters to be placed firmly on the top of the legislative agenda. This space also provides support and solidarity not only to individual parliamentarians, but as a mechanism to further gender equality through the output of more gender-sensitive legislation.

Following the pivotal engagement with UNICEF and UN Women in November 2022, and the signing of the Joint Declaration of Intent with the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office (UNRC) on December 1, 2022, the Women Parliamentarians' Caucus, issued a unified call for gender-responsive budgeting and transformative approaches to underscore their shared commitment. The Spotlight Initiative supported this commitment to empower the Women Parliamentarians' Caucus, in amplifying its capacity to shape gender-responsive policies that reverberate across Belize.



Photo credit

# Communications and Visibility

## Introduction

This section provides an overview of the communication and visibility efforts undertaken by the Spotlight Initiative in Belize from 2020 through 2023. Over a transformative four-year period, the Spotlight Initiative in Belize achieved remarkable strides in communication. These efforts have played a pivotal role in raising awareness about violence against women and girls (VAWG), promoting gender equality, and fostering a supportive environment for change.

In 2020, the Initiative initiated its Communication and Visibility plan, establishing a robust foundation. That year marked a series of noteworthy accomplishments, including capturing human interest stories, publishing newsletters, and organizing impactful visibility events. The official launch of the Initiative was a significant milestone, with broad media coverage and high-profile participation. Collaborations and visibility events, like the “SCLAN UNGA Side event” and the “16 Days of Activism” campaign, expanded its reach, raising awareness about eliminating violence against women and girls.

Collaborative efforts enhanced coordination among Resident UN Organizations (RUNOs) and the Resident Coordinator’s Office (RCO), significantly contributing to achieving objective-level indicators.

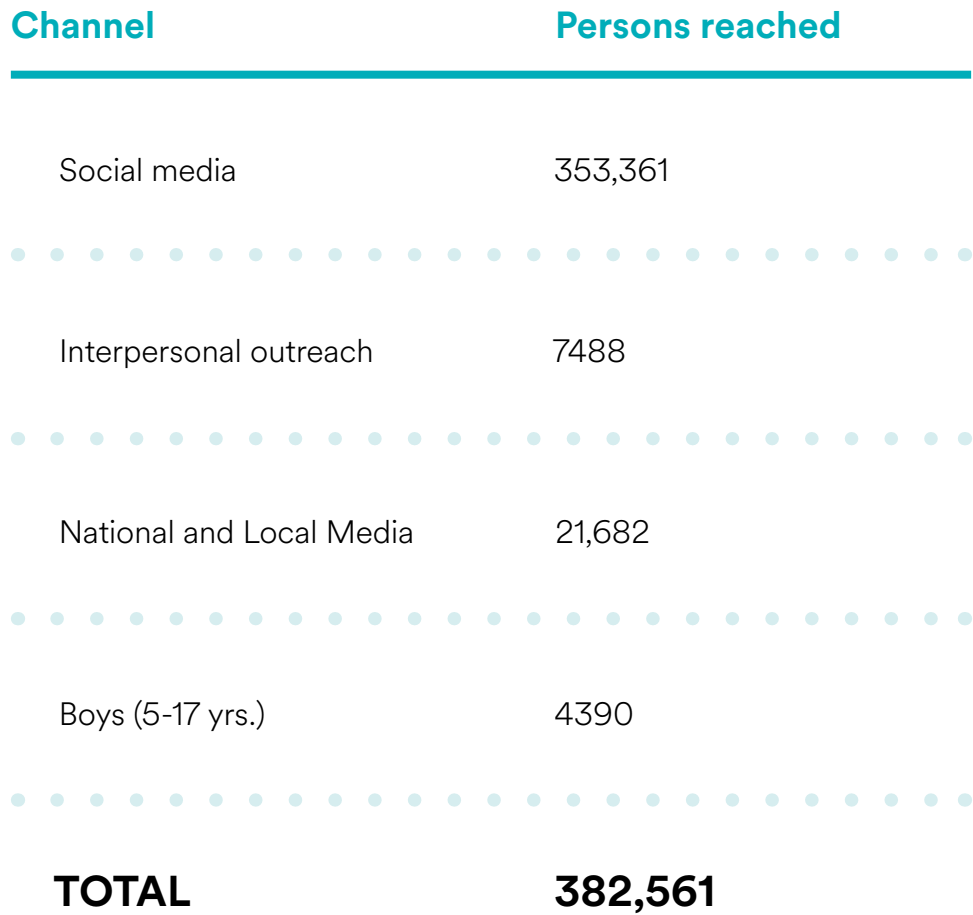
The Spotlight Initiative continued its commitment to strengthen communication and visibility in 2021. Despite funding challenges leading to the absence of a dedicated Communication Officer, efforts persisted. Achievements included the socialization of the Baseline Study findings and providing communication for development support, including the National Social and Behavior Change Strategy and campaigns that reached nearly 80,000 individuals, promoting gender equality and raising awareness.

The year 2022 marked the successful rollout of campaigns targeting violence against women and girls. These campaigns extended the Initiative’s message of gender equality and violence prevention to a diverse audience. By 2023, the Initiative recommitted to its communication and visibility objectives. The year’s highlights included a touching Teacher Impact Story and a field mission capturing impactful visuals.

The Mobile Women’s Center initiative emphasized support for women facing violence. Notably, in-person engagement events were introduced, focusing on strengthening sector-specific approaches and integrating gender-transformative strategies. These events fostered dialogue and action against violence and challenged gender norms.

Across these four years, the Spotlight Initiative harnessed storytelling, media engagement, and strategic campaigns to champion gender equality, challenge norms, and promote awareness. Its unwavering dedication to meaningful communication has left a lasting legacy in Belize, positioning the Initiative as a catalyst for change and a champion of gender equality.

## Overview of persons reached through communication interventions



# KEY MESSAGES FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND VISIBILITY EFFORTS

(2020 - 2023)

- **Spotlight Initiative Introduction:** Spotlight Initiative is a global, multi-year partnership between the European Union and the United Nations to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls by 2030.
- **Transformational Investment:** Spotlight Initiative demonstrates a significant, concerted, and comprehensive investment in gender equality and ending violence to make a transformative difference in the lives of women and girls.
- **Global Movement:** Spotlight Initiative is spearheading a global movement to ensure women and girls can live a life free of violence, in all its forms.
- **Changing Gender Norms:** Gender norms can change as a result of deliberate efforts to encourage change, including new laws, policies, or programs, and social and political activism.
- **Complex Transformation:** Transforming gender norms is complex and requires multi-sectoral approaches across the socio-ecological model.
- **Long-term Endeavor:** Changing gender norms may take generations and cannot be achieved by a single program.
- **Empowering Families:** Families are stronger when both men and women take responsibility for raising children and managing the household.
- **Equality for Children:** Support girls and boys equally to set goals, challenge gender stereotypes, and realize their dreams.
- **Women in Leadership:** Support Women to Lead! Women in leadership and decision-making benefit politics, businesses, communities, and families.
- **Violence Against Women and Girls:** In Belize, the main aspects of family violence that are prominent are domestic violence including violence against children, sexual violence (incest and rape) of adolescent girls, and femicide.
- **Demographic Impact:** Women aged 25 and older are most affected by domestic violence, which occurs in all areas of the country.
- **Youth Vulnerability:** In 2018, 75% of all cases of sexual violence were among girls aged 10-19 years.
- **Femicide:** Femicide cases in Belize have increased, with one in every ten murder victims in 2018 being female.
- **Gender Disparity in Politics:** Belize has the lowest percentage of women members of Parliament in the region at 3%.

- **Link to HIV:** There is a direct link in Belize between gender-based violence and HIV, as women living with HIV are particularly vulnerable to sexual, physical, and psychological violence.
- **Empowerment through Spotlight:** Spotlight Initiative provides an opportunity to mobilize communities to raise their voices against violence in the home and community.
- **Addressing Risk Factors:** Childhood abuse and gender inequality are the main risk factors for intimate partner and non-partner sexual violence.

These key messages have been instrumental in disseminating critical information, raising awareness about violence against women and girls, and promoting gender equality throughout the duration of the Spotlight Initiative in Belize.

## MEDIA AND VISIBILITY EFFORTS (2020 - 2023)

### Spotlight Initiative National Launch - August 19, 2020

- The “Spotlight Initiative Goes Live” national launch was a virtually broadcast event streamed via television, radio, and social media.
- This launch engaged 80 participants and reached approximately two hundred thousand people on radio and television, and fifty-two thousand people on social media.

- A live panel discussion included key figures like the United Nations Resident Coordinator for Belize and El Salvador, the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Human Development, and representatives from the European Union and civil society organizations.

## SCLAN UNGA SIDE EVENT: ENGAGING MEN AND BOYS TO ADVANCE GENDER EQUALITY

### - September 24, 2020

- The Spouses of CARICOM Leaders Action Network (SCLAN), in collaboration with the Spotlight Initiative, convened a virtual side event on the margins of the 75th United Nations General Assembly.
- This event aimed to mobilize First Ladies, Spouses of Heads of Government, the private sector, UN Representatives, and non-governmental organizations to advocate for projects and programs that promote gender equality and reduce gender-based violence.
- It attracted 257 participants on Zoom and garnered 3,475 social media views, contributing positively to gender equality discussions.



## LAUNCH OF THE JOINT SEXUAL VIOLENCE RESPONSE PROGRAMME (JSVRP)

**- February 17, 2022**

- The Spotlight Initiative, in partnership with the Ministries of Home Affairs and New Growth Industries and Ministry of Defense and Border Security, launched the JSVRP to address sexual abuse within the country's security forces.
- This program, supported by the Spotlight Initiative in Belize, aimed to ensure women's right to a life free from violence within an inclusive and gender-equitable community.

## UN AGENCIES HOST JOINT PREVENTION OF SEXUAL ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION (PSEA) TRAINING

**- August 18, 2022**

- The United Nations Country Team facilitated a joint 2022 Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Capacity Development Training for implementing partners (IPs) and vendors.
- The training informed participants about basic concepts of PSEA, strategies to prevent its occurrence, and measures to protect the rights of victims.

## 2023 – MANDATORY REPORTING OF CHILD ABUSE, HUMAN TRAFFICKING, AND FAMILY VIOLENCE - ENHANCED VISIBILITY

**– June 13th, 2023**

*[\(Event Photo Link\)](#)*

- In 2023, the Spotlight Initiative significantly amplified its visibility through a concentrated effort on the Mandatory Reporting and Regulation Law (CARR 1999). This initiative garnered attention by emphasizing the importance of teachers and school personnel as key figures in protecting children from abuse. The disruption of traditional training methods due to the COVID-19 pandemic led to innovative approaches. Despite challenges, this initiative increased awareness and created a significant public profile by engaging school partners, stakeholders, and the media. The high-level field mission to schools in Orange Walk, Belize, was documented with remarkable photos and video content, subsequently shared with relevant entities. This initiative also served as a pivotal inspiration for the creation of a two-page spread in the newsletter, further extending its reach and impact.

## VISIBILITY ENHANCEMENT THROUGH WOMEN'S MOBILE CLINIC

– June 17th & 18th 2023

### [\(Event Photos\)](#)

- In 2023, our Women's Mobile Clinic (MWC) program was a focal point for visibility efforts. Partnering with UNFPA, we expanded services, reaching 398 individuals, including 353 females and 45 males. By offering legal assistance, sexual and reproductive health services, and psychosocial support, we showcased our commitment to ending violence against women and girls.
- The MWCs served as visible symbols of collaboration with civil society organizations. Through strategic branding and media engagement, including human interest stories and interviews, we amplified the impact of these clinics. The detailed logistics ensured smooth operations and enabled us to collect compelling stories and visual content, reinforcing our dedication to ending family violence in the Caribbean.

## YOUTH SUMMIT: SKILLS FOR THE FUTURE: TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE WORLD

– July 18th, 2023

### [\(Event Photo Link\)](#)

- The August 18th Youth Summit held in Dangriga was not just an event; it was an embodiment of the Spotlight Initiative's commitment to spotlighting the potential of youth in shaping a sustainable future. The Summit brought together young leaders, activists, and change-makers, setting the stage for inspiring discussions on gender equality and violence prevention.
- As we look back on this event, it's clear that it was not just about the day itself but about the visibility it created for the Initiative's mission. By empowering young voices and creating a platform for their insights, the Summit projected a powerful message: that the fight against violence and inequality is not confined to the present but extends to the sustainable world we are collectively building. This event exemplified how visibility can go beyond optics; it can illuminate the path toward a brighter, more equitable future, where the voices of youth are at the forefront of change.

## WOMEN'S CAUCUS ENGAGEMENT

– August 3rd, 2023

[\*\(Event Photo Link\)\*](#)

- The Spotlight Initiative actively collaborated with the Women's Parliamentarian Caucus of Belize, a pivotal partner in driving legislative and policy changes to promote gender equality and combat violence against women and children.
- This engagement led to the enhancement of institutional capacity for the development and review of legislative, policy, and strategic frameworks with a gender-transformative approach, marking a significant step toward preventing and responding to violence against women and children in Belize.

## SOCIAL AND BEHAVIOR CHANGE CAMPAIGN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENTS: AMPLIFYING VISIBILITY

– August, 2023

[\*\(Community Engagement Photo Link\)\*](#)

- Throughout 2023, the Spotlight Initiative orchestrated a series of community engagements with a strong focus on enhancing visibility. These initiatives were strategically designed to shine a spotlight on the issues of gender-based violence and inequality within these communities.
- By organizing workshops, discussions, and local events, the Initiative not only initiated crucial conversations but also ensured that these conversations were seen and heard by a wider audience. This heightened visibility played a pivotal role in magnifying the impact of the Spotlight Initiative, as it effectively brought the issues to the forefront of public consciousness, fostering a collective commitment to combat violence and discrimination while championing the cause of women and girls.

## SCLAN'S YOUTH SPIRITUAL EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM TRAININGS

– August 5th, 2023

[\*\(Event Photo Link\)\*](#)

- In 2023, SCLAN's Youth Spiritual Empowerment Program trainings cast a spotlight on a vital aspect of the Spotlight Initiative's work. These sessions weren't just about knowledge transfer; they were beacons of hope and empowerment, fostering a sense of purpose among young participants. Through these trainings, the Initiative's visibility extended to the hearts and minds of youth, demonstrating that true change starts with individual empowerment.
- These transformative engagements not only equipped young people with skills and knowledge but also illuminated the path to a more equitable future. By investing in the spiritual and emotional growth of youth, the Spotlight Initiative's reach went beyond the surface, creating lasting impacts and resonating visibility that extends far beyond the conclusion of the Initiative. These trainings served as a testament to the Initiative's commitment to nurturing the leaders of tomorrow and leaving an indelible mark on the journey toward gender equality and violence prevention.

## GENDER ANALYSIS INTEGRATION AND SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

– September 25th to October 3rd, 2023

[\*\(Event Photo Link\)\*](#)

- In 2023, the Spotlight Initiative conducted the first round of in-person engagements with Belize's key sectors to present the Gender Analysis findings. This initiative aimed to enhance understanding of translating gender data into action and foster awareness of gender integrative and transformative approaches.
- During these engagements, stakeholders delved into sector-specific gender issues, identified challenges, and explored opportunities for gender-transformative approaches. The discussions centered on integrating these approaches into sector plans to promote gender equality effectively. Recommendations were made, contributing to revisions of key result areas, outcomes, actions, and outputs within sector plans. This process marked a crucial step in advancing gender equality in Belize.

## 2ND WOMEN'S PARLIAMENTARIAN CAUCUS ENGAGEMENT

**October 19th, 2023:**

[\*\(Event Photo Link\)\*](#)

- The 2nd Women's Parliamentarian Caucus Meeting convened in October as a critical platform for advancing discussions on women's rights and addressing violence against women and girls. It served as a strategic forum for parliamentarians to deliberate and advocate for legislative measures that promote gender equality.
- The meeting focused on reinforcing collaborative efforts among parliamentarians towards enacting laws and policies aimed at safeguarding the rights of women and girls. Discussions centered on the critical role of legislation in combating violence against women and enhancing support mechanisms for survivors.

## GENDER REVIEW SESSIONS

**- November 21st to 24th, 2023**

[\*\(Session Photo Link\)\*](#)

- During this period, pivotal Gender Review Sessions were conducted, focusing on empowering the Ministry of Human Development. The sessions aimed at expanding their knowledge base and enhancing their capacity for gender training initiatives.

- The November sessions were a follow-up to the impactful sessions held in September, emphasizing skill-building and empowering the Ministry to serve as the gender focal point. This strategic move aligns with the Initiative's goal of promoting sustainable change through strengthened institutional capacities.

## CSO TRANSITION WORKSHOP

**- November 28th & 29th, 2023**

[\*\(Workshop Photo Link\)\*](#)

- The CSO Transition Workshop served as a critical milestone in the Initiative's journey. The session was designed to empower Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) by providing them with necessary resources and guidance for a smooth transition post-Spotlight Initiative.
- The Workshop emphasized the transition from reliance on external support to fostering sustainable capacities within CSOs. Through skill-building sessions and strategic discussions, CSOs gained insights into long-term strategies, securing their ability to address challenges independently.

# TRANSITION EVENT: DELIVERING RESULTS THROUGH A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO ELIMINATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

## - December 11th 2023

[\*\(Event Photo Link\)\*](#)

- The Transition Event was a pivotal juncture marking the closure of the Spotlight Initiative. Designed with strategic objectives, the event aimed to highlight the Initiative's achievements and showcase promising practices that emerged over the four-year period.
- Key stakeholders, including government and civil society partners, actively participated in a vibrant marketplace segment, presenting initiatives and engaging in interactive sessions. This marketplace provided a platform for immersive experiences and firsthand insights into the impactful work achieved through the Spotlight Initiative's support.

# Campaigns

- ♀ From 2020 to 2023, the Spotlight Initiative has been an active collaborator in Belize's most significant advocacy campaigns. During the 16 Days of Activism in 2020, the Initiative joined forces with national planning committees, spearheaded by the National Women's Commission and Women and Family Support Department, to virtually launch this vital campaign. By promoting its activities and messages, the Initiative amplified its presence during these crucial 16 days dedicated to eliminating violence against women and girls. The campaign garnered over 36 thousand social media reaches and engaged viewers through 12 video messages, along with receiving 101 reactions and comments. This collaborative spirit extended an invitation to be part of the Women's Month planning committee for 2021, marking a lasting impact on the Initiative's visibility.
- ♀ The Initiative's engagement transcended borders, partnering with the Child Development Foundation (CDF) for the launch of the Prevention of Family Violence: Private Sector Engagement Campaign in December 2020. The campaign, in collaboration with 15 private sector organizations, aimed to raise awareness and enhance knowledge regarding early warning signs of family violence. These organizations shared campaign materials, organized virtual training sessions for their staff, and distributed referral cards and contact numbers provided by CDF. As a result, this collaborative campaign reached approximately 7500 individuals, including children, ensuring that the Spotlight Initiative's message was not confined to a single sector but radiated throughout the private sector, becoming a beacon of change.
- ♀ The Spotlight Initiative didn't stop at collaboration alone; it ventured into launching its Social and Behavior Change Campaign, "It Ends with Me," in 2022. This campaign targeted policy-makers, workplaces, schools, communities, leaders, and families. Its goal was to challenge gender stereotypes, shift social expectations, and create awareness about gender equality and its far-reaching benefits. The campaign's inclusive approach ensured representation across Belize's diverse multi-ethnic society, highlighting various cultural identities. The campaign's assets included powerful PSAs, posters, TikTok videos, and social media banners, all designed to spark change at multiple levels. Pre-tested among a wide cross-section of stakeholders, these assets reflected the rich tapestry of Belize's society. In 2023, the campaign was officially disseminated through mass media, social media, and community engagements, continuing to illuminate the path toward gender equality and violence prevention.

- ♀ The Initiative's visibility extended into the digital realm with a digital interactive campaign involving adolescents and youths across Belize. By utilizing social media tools like WhatsApp, Facebook, and Instagram, the campaign engaged young minds and encouraged them to share their views on critical topics such as Gender-Based Violence, Child Marriage Early Union, Human Trafficking, and Mental Health. Over 2,000 adolescents and youths participated, further amplifying the Initiative's reach and impact in Belize.
- ♀ The Child Development Foundation (CDF), with the support of the Spotlight Initiative, launched a campaign in 2022 that spotlighted child marriage and early unions as forms of violence and violations of girls' rights. This campaign targeted faith leaders, community leaders, organizations, migrant women, and other marginalized groups. The Initiative's involvement ensured that the message reached far and wide, with over 76,000 individuals being reached, thus becoming a powerful agent of change within Belize.
- ♀ As 2023 unfolded, the Initiative's visibility soared to new heights through its Social and Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) Campaign. This campaign became a beacon of transformation, expanding its reach throughout Belize. It engaged with various communities and members of different sectors, fostering meaningful dialogues and encouraging collective action. The SBCC Campaign was not confined to the digital realm; it ventured into the heart of communities, amplifying its impact. This expansion marked a significant milestone, firmly establishing the Initiative as a catalyst for change in Belize
- ♀ The Initiative also continued its tradition of recognizing the 16 Days of Activism, further enhancing its visibility and impact in Belize.

In summary, these campaigns were not just collaborations; they were vibrant showcases of the Spotlight Initiative's commitment to change, illuminating the path towards gender equality and violence prevention. Each campaign left a lasting mark on Belize, creating a legacy of visibility and engagement that will endure far beyond the Initiative's conclusion.



## HUMAN INTEREST STORIES:

- Sit Up for 16 Days of Activism - A Survivor's Story
- Helping Women in Rural Communities Access Essential Services
- Women in Transition: finding their POWA
- Sharisee Hunt - Breaking Gender Norms

## EDITORIAL STORIES:

- Press Release - Women's Parliamentarian Caucus
- Newsletter - Mandatory Reporting Field Visit
- Press Release - Women's Parliamentary Caucus - October
- Press Release - Spotlight Transition Event
- Spotlight Initiative Results

## TESTIMONIALS:

Some say the Caribbean is paradise. The countries face similar challenges such as being small and vulnerable, but like other regions of the world, there is a persistent problem that is impeding Caribbean development. It rears its ugly head in all spheres and is not confined to a particular society or socio-economic class; It is Gender-Based Violence (GBV) or VAWG. - Denise Antonio, Resident Representative - United Nations Development Programme in Jamaica, Belize, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, The Bahamas, and Turks and Caicos.

Gender equality is a fundamental human right and a necessity for a peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable Caribbean. By promoting peace, freedom, unfettered and dynamic achievement for all, there will be equal contribution of productive men and women, poverty and inequalities will be reduced, social and economic prosperity enhanced, and a resilient society built. - Denise Antonio, Resident Representative - United Nations Development Programme in Jamaica, Belize, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, The Bahamas, and Turks and Caicos.

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We all need to commit to ending violence at home, which particularly affects women and children, harming the whole society. In these times of pandemic, we all need to commit to active engagement, and we all need to continue delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals. - UN Resident Coordinator, Belize, and El Salvador: Ms. Birgit Gerstenberg.

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*Spotlight Initiative is allowing us to do several things: to be creative, to be forward thinkers, to be strategic in our approaches, and to work on parallel tracks. It makes us think that while we are addressing the situation today, how can it influence the future to change the current situation?*

There will be a different set of parameters that we will be looking at in the next ten years because this programme will give us a frame of reference. - Michele Irving, POWA

## PHOTOS:

Photos with captions (photo credit and a description) here in the report is being uploaded to PHOTO SUBMISSION PLATFORM



Photo credit

## PHOTOS LINKS JUNE 2023- DECEMBER 2023

- Mandatory Reporting High Level Field Visit – (Event Photo Link)
- Women’s Mobile Clinic – (Event Photos)
- POWA - Youth Summit – Dangriga - (Event Photo Link)
- Women’s Caucus Engagement - (Event Photo Link)
- SBCC Community Engagements - (Community Engagement Photo Link)
- SCLAN’s Youth Engagement - (Event Photo Link)
- Gender Analysis Integration and Sector Engagement (Event Photo Link)
- 2nd Women’s Parliamentarian Caucus Engagement (Event Photo Link)
- Gender Review Sessions -(Session Photo Link)
- CSO Transition Workshop - (Workshop Photo Link)
- Spotlight Initiative Transition Event : Delivering Results Through a Comprehensive approach to Eliminating Violence Against Women and Girls - (Event Photo Link)



Advocacy with Women Parliamentary Caucus



CSO Dialogue



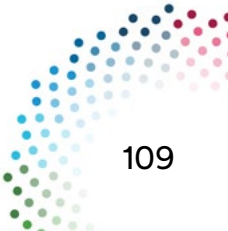
Youth Advocate Leader, Krista Salam with TIDE,  
Photo: NVISION/ UNICEF Belize



EU Ambassador site visit with Resident Coordinator and RUNO  
Heads of Agency, 19 September 2021 Photo: Perla Hinojosa/  
Spotlight Initiative



Engaging Faith Based Leaders



## VIDEOS


### Spotlight Launch Videos (YouTube playlist can be found here):

- Spotlight Initiative Belize – Former Prime Minister of Belize Hon. Dean Barrow’s Launch Keynote Address.
- Spotlight Initiative Belize - It’s Our Decade of Action
- Spotlight Initiative Belize - The Spotlight Is On Belize
- Spotlight Initiative Belize - The Power of Youth
- Spotlight Initiative Belize - A Message From Our Civil Society Reference Group Member
- Spotlight Initiative Belize - The Government of Belize in the Spotlight
- Spotlight Initiative Belize - End Violence Now
- Spotlight Initiative Belize - Henrietta Fore: Under-Secretary-General United Nations
- Spotlight Initiative Belize - Jolita Butkeviciene - Director for LAC, European Commission
- Spotlight Initiative Belize - HerStory by Kyraan Gabourel
- Spotlight Initiative Belize - #WithHer Dialogue
- Spotlight Initiative Belize - Birgit Gerstenberg - UN Resident Coordinator Belize and El Salvador


- Spotlight Initiative Belize - Hon. John Briceno – Now Prime Minister, then Leader of the Opposition, Peoples United Party
- Spotlight Initiative Belize - Ambassador Malgorzata Wasilewska
- Spotlight Initiative Belize - Hon. Anthony Martinez – Former Minister of Human Development
- Spotlight Initiative Belize - What You Can Do In Times of COVID 19
- Spotlight Initiative Belize - Performance By The Belize National Dance Company

## **16 Days of Activism National Launch (YouTube playlist can be found here):**

- 16 Days of Activism 2020 - A Message from United Nations Resident Coordinator
- 16 Days of Activism 2020 - A Message from Belize's National Women's Commission
- 16 Days of Activism 2020 - Message from the EU Delegation
- 16 Days of Activism 2020 - Message from Hon Dolores Balderamos-Garcia
- 16 Days of Activism 2020 - Survivor Testimonial for the 16 Days of Activism - Anita Hamilton

- 
- 16 Days of Activism 2020 - A Message from UN Women
  - 16 Days of Activism 2020 - A Message from UNICEF Belize
  - 16 Days of Activism 2020 - A Message from OHCHR
  - 16 Days of Activism 2020 - A Message from ILO
  - 16 Days of Activism 2020 - A Message from UNDP Belize
  - 16 Days of Activism 2020 - A Message from UNFPA
  - 16 Days of Activism 2020 - A Message from PAHO/WHO Belize
  - 16 Days of Activism 2020- A Message from CSOs

## **Spotlight Initiative Videos can be found here:**

- 
- Spotlight Year In Review
  - Mandatory Reporting Video
  - Empowering Conversations Video
  - Faith Leaders Video
  - Women's Parliamentarian Caucus Video
  - The Brave Ones Video One
  - The Brave Ones Video Two



- The Brave Ones Video Three
- The Brave Ones Video Four
- The Brave Ones Video Five
- SBCC - San Pedro Engagement
- SBCC - Punta Gorda Engagement
- SBCC - Independence Village Engagement
- Spotlight Initiative Results Video:  
[https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1m\\_22xQO4fSh-qIPjHafbllyRU9zdaTLV](https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1m_22xQO4fSh-qIPjHafbllyRU9zdaTLV)
- Spotlight Initiative: A Comprehensive Approach to Ending Violence Against Women and Girls:  
<https://youtu.be/n4iVWKP4z4?si=65tkuSufv6i9pXpO>
- Spotlight Initiative Belize - 2020 Highlights - YouTube
- Spotlight Initiative Docuseries - YouTube
- Spotlight Initiative Baseline Study Report Key Findings - YouTube
- Patchakan Women Mobilisers - YouTube
- Spotlight Initiative Accomplishments of Work in Belize 2021 - YouTube
- Spotlight Initiative Belize- Mobile Women Centers - YouTube
- Engaging Men and Boys Public Awareness Campaign- Compilation Video (different languages) - YouTube

- Engaging Men and Boys Public Awareness Campaign- Osmany Salas (English) - YouTube
- Engaging Men and Boys Public Awareness Campaign- Osmany Salas (Spanish) - YouTube
- Engaging Men and Boys Public Awareness Campaign- Aurelio Sho (Mopan Maya) - YouTube
- Engaging Men and Boys Public Awareness Campaign- Trevan Castillo (Garifuna) - YouTube
- Engaging Men and Boys Public awareness Campaign- Juan Caal (Qe'qchi Maya) - YouTube
- Engaging Men and Boys Public Awareness Campaign- Gerald Jones (Creole) - YouTube
- Engaging Men and Boys- MANNON - YouTube
- Engaging Men and Boys- Department of Youth Services - YouTube
- Engaging Men and Boys- GILMORE - YouTube
- Spotlight Initiative End Violence - YouTube
- Spotlight Initiative in Belize- Zoila's Story - YouTube
- Spotlight Initiative Belize- couples in early union, POWA Corozal 2021 - YouTube
- Spotlight Initiative Belize- Couples in early unions, POWA Dangriga 2021 - YouTube
- #WithHer Talks Episode #4: Belizean beauty queens - YouTube

# Looking forward

## ENSURING SPOTLIGHT'S CONTRIBUTIONS ARE SUSTAINED

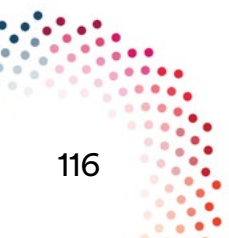
As Spotlight Initiative comes to an end, after four years of implementation, an important focus of the UN, EU, the Government of Belize and the Civil Society National Reference Group (CSNRG), during the final year of implementation was on sustaining the achievements under the initiative and ensuring that the national response is sufficiently strengthened to continue to achieve impact across multiple areas of the response to GBV. A Spotlight Initiative Sustainability Plan, which was developed in a participatory manner, utilizing lessons learned from Spotlight Initiative's implementation, and closely aligned with national priorities, plans and policies, features an 18-month road map to support an effective and efficient transition to the national response to GBV. Its development was guided by the EU-UN Guidance Note on Spotlight Initiative Sustainability. The sustainability plan identifies clear actions, in the short and medium term, proposed by the Government of Belize, Recipient UN Agencies, CSOs and the European Union Delegation, that will be undertaken to ensure a robust national response to GBV with concrete actions, roles and responsibilities across key outcome areas.

As a first step in this process, the Ministry of Human Development Families and Indigenous People's Affairs (MHDFIPA) and the National Women's Commission (NWC) were engaged. These key entities, responsible for leading the national response to GBV, committed at the highest level to engage closely with the UN and other partners to develop a Sustainability Plan. A Gap Analysis was then conducted by the Spotlight Initiative Technical Team. The Gap Analysis identified key achievements in the national response to GBV, gaps remaining and recommendations for sustaining the response, including a continued LNOB focus. The Gap Analysis was utilized as a tool for government counterparts to identify priority actions for sustaining the national response. CSOs were then engaged by the MHDFIPA, NWC and RUNOs, in partnership with the CSNRG, in a working session to identify priorities for CSOs.

Priorities identified by Government, RUNOs, Civil Society and the EU were presented at a National Steering Committee (NSC) Meeting for further discussion and decision making. The NSC endorsed the actions proposed and agreed that a Sustainability Plan should be developed for 18 months.

The rationale behind proposing actions for 18 months is to allow for a definitive period where concrete support can be provided to the Government to sustain the gains of Spotlight Initiative while transitioning to a full-fledged national response. Post Spotlight Initiative, the Sustainability Plan will also be utilized as the main document during Partnership Dialogue with the international community and other development partners to identify opportunities for investment and resource mobilization to support implementation of key actions.

A key feature of the Sustainability Plan is its linkages and alignment to key frameworks, strategies and plans that are currently being implemented. This ensures that the strategic actions are clearly grounded and can be supported beyond the lifetime of Spotlight Initiative. Key among these frameworks, plans and strategies are the United National Multi Country Sustainable Development Framework (UN MSDF), UN Country Implementation Plan (CIP) 2022- 2023, the European Union Multi- Annual Indicative Programme 2021-2027, Plan Belize Women’s Agenda 2020, Plan Belize Medium Term Development Strategy 2022-2026, UNICEF Belize Programme of Cooperation 2022-2026, UNDP Strategic Plan 2022-2025, UNFPA Strategic Plan 2022-2025, National Gender Policy 2021-2030, National Gender Based Violence Action Plan 2021- 2023.





# ANNEXES

Annex A: Results Framework

Annex B: Risk Management

Annex C: CSO Engagement Report

Annex D: Promising, Good or Innovative Practices

Annex F: Assets/Equipment/Major Supplies



# Annex A: 2023 Results Framework

## Outcome 1 Summary table

Outcome Indicator	Baseline	Results for Reporting Period (2023)	Cumulative	Target	Reporting Notes
Indicator 1.1 Laws and policies on VAWG/HP in place that adequately respond to the rights of all women and girls, including exercise/access to SRHR, and are in line with international HR standards and treaty bodies' recommendations.	<b>Legal age of Marriage</b>				
	0.25	0.5	0.5	0	
	<b>Parental Authority in Marriage</b>				
	0	0	0	0	
	<b>Parental Authority in Divorce</b>				
	0	0	0	0	
	<b>Inheritance rights of Widows</b>				
	1	0	0	1	Since the baseline for this indicator was established in 2020 using the SIGI report, the SI team consulted the SIGI report for Belize for 2023 to establish the information to report on this indicator. <a href="https://www.oecd.org/stories/gender/social-norms-and-gender-discrimination/sigi/dashboard?country=BLZ">https://www.oecd.org/stories/gender/social-norms-and-gender-discrimination/sigi/dashboard?country=BLZ</a> we noted that the score was 0. Its should be noted that although Spotlight established a target for this indicator since we were obligated to report on it, none of the planned Spotlight activity addressed this. Therefore, Spotlight did not contribute to any achievement in progress towards this indicator. This is solely a reflection of the SIGI score from baseline to 2023
	<b>Inheritance rights of Daughters</b>				
	1	0	0	1	Similar to 1.1.d. Baseline of 1 was established from SIGI report in 2020. The 2023 SIGI report indicated a 1 for Belize. <a href="https://www.oecd.org/stories/gender/social-norms-and-gender-discrimination/sigi/dashboard?country=BLZ">https://www.oecd.org/stories/gender/social-norms-and-gender-discrimination/sigi/dashboard?country=BLZ</a>
<b>Laws on Domestic Violence</b>					
0.25	0.5	0.5	0	The laws protect women from the following forms of violence: Honour crimes, intimate partner violence, rape and sexual harassment. however, legal exceptions reduce penalties for domestic violence, or the law does not recognize marital rape.	
<b>Laws on Rape</b>					
0.25	0.5	0.5	0.25		
<b>Laws on Sexual Harassment</b>					
0.25	0.75	0.75	0.25		
<b>National level</b>					
Indicator 1.2 National/and/or sub-national evidence-based, costed and funded action plans and M&E frameworks on VAWG/HP are in place that respond to the rights of all women and girls and are developed in a participatory manner.	Evidence-based, Participatory Development	Evidence-based, Costed, Funded, M&E framework, Participatory Development	Evidence-based, Costed, Funded, M&E framework, Participatory Development	Evidence-based, Participatory Development	
	<b>Sub-National Level</b>				
Evidence-based	Evidence-based, Costed, M&E framework, Participatory Development	Evidence-based, Costed, M&E framework, Participatory Development	Evidence-based		
Indicator 1.3 Laws and policies are in place that guarantee the ability of women's rights groups, autonomous social movements, CSOs and women human rights defenders/feminist activists to advance the human rights agenda.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
<b>Output Indicator</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Results for Reporting Period (2023)</b>	<b>Cumulative</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Reporting Notes</b>
<b>Developed or Strengthened</b>					
Indicator 1.1.1 Number of draft new and/or strengthened laws and/or policies on ending VAWG and/or gender equality and non-discrimination developed that respond to the rights of women and girls facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination and are in line with international HR standards, within the last year.	0	0	7	4	Disabilities bill is in-progress and is projected to be completed by end of the year.
Indicator 1.1.3 Number of draft laws and/or policies on ending VAWG and/or gender equality and non-discrimination which have received significant inputs from women's rights advocates within the last year.	0	5	7	4	The document is in-progress and is projected to be completed by the end of the year.

Indicator 1.2.1 Number of evidence-based national and/or sub-national action plans on ending VAWG developed that respond to the rights of all women and girls, have M&E frameworks and proposed budgets within the last year.	<b>National</b>	1	0	6	6	
	<b>Sub-National</b>	0	7	7	6	
Indicator 1.2.2 Number of key government officials with strengthened capacities to draft and costed action plans on ending VAWG and accompanying M&E frameworks, within the last year.	<b>Government Officials</b>	0	62	102	30	
	<b>Women Government Officials</b>	0	53	80	20	
Indicator 1.3.3 Number of key government officials with increased awareness of human rights standards and obligations and strengthened capacities to develop laws and policies that guarantee the ability of women's rights groups, CSOs and women human rights defenders to advance the human rights agenda, within the last year.	<b>Government Officials demonstrate awareness</b>	0	0	139	105	
	<b>those Officials who participate in developing laws &amp; policies</b>	0	28	55	65	
	<b>Women Government Officials demonstrate awareness</b>	0	0	22	55	
	<b>Women Officials who participate in developing laws &amp; policies</b>	0	22	27	35	

## Outcome 2 Summary table

Outcome Indicator	Baseline	Results for Reporting Period (2023)	Cumulative	Target	Reporting Notes
<b>Coordination Mechanism?</b>					
Indicator 2.1 Existence of a functioning regional, national and/or sub-national coordination and oversight mechanisms at the highest levels for addressing VAWG/HP that include representation from marginalized groups.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
<b>Health</b>					
	No Integration	Low	Low	Low	
<b>Education</b>					
	No Integration	No integration	No integration	No integration	
<b>Justice</b>					
	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium	
<b>Security</b>					
	Low	N/A	Medium	Medium	
<b>Social Services</b>					
Indicator 2.3 Extent to which VAWG/HP is integrated in 5 other sectors (health, social services, education, justice, security, culture) development plans that are evidence-based and in line with globally agreed standards.	Medium	N/A	Medium	High	There is no social sector plan therefore it is not possible to support integration of VAWG into the plan for this Sector.
<b>Culture</b>					
	No Integration	No integration	No integration	No integration	Spotlight initiative has not worked with this sector since its inception. There is no sector plan and there are no planned activities under SI to integrate VAWG into this sector plan.
Output Indicator	Baseline	Results for Reporting Period (2023)	Cumulative	Target	Reporting Notes
Indicator 2.1.1 Number of institutions that develop strategies, plans and/or programmes to prevent and respond to VAWG, including for those groups of women and girls facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination.	0	0	52	45	
<b>Government Officials</b>					
Indicator 2.1.7 Number of key government officials with strengthened capacities to develop and deliver programmes that prevent and respond to VAWG, within the last year.	0	112	367	280	Additional data -training of GFPs and Technical personnel scheduled for November 2023.
<b>Women Government Officials</b>	0	97	223	185	
<b>Government Officials</b>					
Indicator 2.1.8 Number of key government officials with strengthened capacities to integrate efforts to combat VAWG into the development plans of other sectors, within the last year.	0	62	211	164	
<b>Women Government Officials</b>	0	44	127	77	

## Outcome 3 Summary table

Outcome Indicator	Baseline	Results for Reporting Period (2023)	Cumulative	Target	Reporting Notes
<b>Indicator 3.1</b> Percentage of people who think it is justifiable for a man to (subject) beat his wife/intimate partner.	5.3%	5.3%	5.3%	5.3%	The baseline utilized was from the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2015/2016. This is a UNICEF population-based survey which should have been repeated in 2021 but was deferred due to COVID 19. The MICS is being done in 2024 and results will be available at that time. Spotlight Initiative's budget did not include a population-based survey and data for this indicator is only available through the MICS.
<b>Indicator 3.3</b> Existence of with at least 3 evidence-based, transformative/comprehensive prevention strategies/programmes that address the rights of those marginalized and are developed in a participatory manner.	0	0	2	4	
Output Indicator	Baseline	Results for Reporting Period (2023)	Cumulative	Target	Reporting Notes
<b>Indicator 3.1.1</b> Existence of a draft new and/or strengthened Comprehensive Sexuality Education in line with international standards	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
<b>Indicator 3.1.2</b> Number of young women and girls, young men and boys who participate in either/both in- and out-of school programmes that promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours and exercise of rights, including reproductive rights, within the last year.	<b>In-School Programmes</b>	0	34,281	1,550	
	<b>In-School Programmes Girls</b>	0	29,793	650	
	<b>In-School Programmes Boys</b>	0	4,488	900	
	<b>Out-of-School Programmes</b>	0	1,793	1,520	
	<b>Out-of-School Programmes Girls</b>	0	915	215	
	<b>Out-of-School Programmes Boys</b>	0	878	1,305	
<b>Indicator 3.2.1</b> Number of women, men, girls and boys who regularly attend community programmes to promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours, including in relation to women's and girls' sexuality and reproduction, within the last year.	0	1,150	42,660	6,440	
<b>Indicator 3.2.2</b> Number of people reached by campaigns challenging harmful social norms and gender stereotyping, within the last year.	0	375	410,825	100,000	The true figures for 2023 are 375 Total, 155 Women, 27 Men, 147 Girls and 46 Boys. Past results had to be adjusted to reflect the correct Cumulative of 410, 825. Efforts involving mass media campaign led to past-overreporting initially but this has now been corrected in our database.
	<b>Total</b>	86	12075	1,350	
<b>Indicator 3.2.3</b> Number of men and boys who regularly attend gender transformative programmes addressing violent masculinities and men's violence towards women and girls in community centres, schools and other relevant spaces, within the last year.	<b>Men</b>	5	11211	550	
	<b>Boys</b>	81	864	800	
<b>Indicator 3.2.4</b> Number of communities with advocacy platforms established and/or strengthened to promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours, including in relation to women and girls' sexuality and reproduction.	0	0	132	60	
<b>Indicator 3.2.5</b> Number of campaigns challenging harmful social norms and gender stereotyping, including of women and girls facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination, developed and disseminated during the past year.	0	0	11	11	
<b>Indicator 3.3.2</b> Number of relevant non-state institutions that have developed and/or strengthened strategies/policies on ending VAWG and promoting gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours and women and girls' rights, including those groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, in line with international HR standards, within the last year.	<b>EVAWG Policies</b>	20	32	20	The Gender Equality Seal was to achieve this target through working with private and public sector institutions. However, there were significant delays in finalizing and rolling out the Seal which resulted in a decrease in the number of institutions reached.
	<b>EVAWG Policies including LNOB</b>	0	20	20	



Indicator 3.3.5 Number of key informal decision makers and decision makers in relevant institutions with strengthened awareness of and capacities to advocate for implementation of legislation and policies on ending VAWG and for gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours and women and girls' rights, within the last year.	<b>Decision Makers</b>	0	132	1994	1,425	
	<b>Women Decision Makers</b>	0	88	1225	930	

### Outcome 4 Summary table

Outcome Indicator	Baseline	Results for Reporting Period (2023)	Cumulative	Target	Reporting Notes	
Indicator 4.1 Number of women and girls, including those facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination, who report experiencing physical or sexual violence and seek help, by sector.	<b>Women</b>	0	0	2,088	1,800	
	<b>Girls</b>	0	0	180	1,000	
Indicator 4.2 a) number of VAWG cases reported to the police; b) number of cases reported to the police that are brought to court; and c) number of cases reported to the police that resulted in convictions of perpetrators.	<b>Reported</b>	0	1,099	3,982	3,982	
	<b>Brought to Court</b>	0	801	804	1,800	Data is not available but we estimate the # of conviction rates are very low for Belize. An estimate of 20% has been reported.
	<b>Convictions</b>	0	200	252	252	
Output Indicator	Baseline	Results for Reporting Period (2023)	Cumulative	Target	Reporting Notes	
Indicator 4.1.3 Existence of national guidelines or protocols that have been developed and/or strengthened in line with the guidance and tools for essential services.	<b>Developed</b>	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	
	<b>Government Service Providers</b>	0	52	87	650	
Indicator 4.1.4 Number of government service providers who have increased knowledge and capacities to deliver quality and coordinated essential services to women and girl survivors of violence, within the last year.	<b>Women Government Service Providers</b>	0	49	81	300	The Essential Service Package was intended to achieve this target. The ESP design and roll out were delayed and this target was not achieved.
	<b>Developed</b>	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Indicator 4.1.9 Existence of national guidelines or protocols for essential services that have been developed and/or strengthened that specifically address the needs of women and girls facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.	<b>Strengthened</b>	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	
	<b>a) Girls with Knowledge of ES</b>	0	0	580	730	
Indicator 4.2.1 Number of women and girl survivors of violence that have increased <b>KNOWLEDGE</b> of a) to quality essential services, and b) accompaniment/support initiatives, including longer-term recovery within the last 12 months	<b>a) Women with Knowledge of ES</b>	0	0	29,072	1,570	
	<b>b) Girls with Knowledge of longer term services</b>	0	0	580	730	
	<b>b) Women with Knowledge of longer term services</b>	0	0	27,988	1,570	

<p><b>Indicator 4.2.2</b> Number of women and girl survivors/victims and their families, including groups facing multiple and intersecting forms or discrimination, that have increased <b>ACCESS</b> to a) to quality essential services and b) accompaniment/support initiatives, including longer-term recovery services, within the last 12 months</p>	<b>a) Girls with ACCESS to ES</b>				<p>During phase 2, the approach for the mobile women's center was transitioned from CSO to government, however the government was unable to mobilize as many beneficiaries as the CSO.</p>
	0	13	13	520	
	<b>a) Women with ACCESS to ES</b>				
	0	187	974	1,340	
	<b>b) Girls with Access to Recovery Services</b>				
0	13	13	160		
<b>b) Women with Access to Recovery Services</b>					
0	187	241	320		

## Outcome 5 Summary table

Outcome Indicator	Baseline	Results for Reporting Period (2023)	Cumulative	Target	Reporting Notes	
<b>Prevalence</b>						
<p><b>Indicator 5.1</b> Existence of globally comparable data on the prevalence (and incidence, where appropriate) of VAWG/HP, collected over time</p>	No	Yes	Yes	No		
	<b>Incidence</b>					
	No	Yes	Yes	No		
<b>IPV</b>						
<p><b>Indicator 5.2</b> Existence of publicly available data, reported on a regular basis, on various forms of VAWG/HP (at least on intimate partner violence, non-partner sexual violence, family violence, harmful practices when relevant, and trafficking and femicide) at country level</p>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
	<b>Child Marriage</b>					
	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
	<b>Femicide</b>					
	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
	<b>Family Violence</b>					
	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
<b>Trafficking</b>						
	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
<p><b>Indicator 5.3</b> National statistics related to VAWG/HP incidence and prevalence are disaggregated by income, sex, age, ethnicity, disability, and geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts</p>	Sex, Age, Geographic Location, Forms of violence	Sex, Age, Ethnicity, Geographic Location, Forms of violence	Sex, Age, Ethnicity, Geographic Location, Forms of violence	Sex, Age, Geographic Location, Forms of violence		
<b>Output Indicator</b>						
<p><b>Indicator 5.1.2</b> A system to collect administrative data on VAWG/HP, is in place and in line with international standards, across different sectors</p>	Health, Security, Social Services	Health, Justice and Policing, Security, Social services	Health, Justice and Policing, Security, Social services	Health, Justice, Security, Social Services		
<b>Government Personnel</b>						
<p><b>Indicator 5.1.4</b> Number of government personnel from different sectors, including service providers, who have enhanced capacities to collect prevalence and/or incidence data, including qualitative data, on VAWG in line with international and regional standards, within the last year</p>	0	0	29	75	<p>UNDP plans to train a total of 60 government personnel from different sectors in early January as the GBV surveillance consultancy is still in process.</p>	
	<b>Women Government Personnel</b>					
	0	0	26	40		
<p><b>Indicator 5.1.5</b> Number of women's rights advocates with strengthened capacities to collect prevalence and/or incidence data, and qualitative data, on VAWG</p>	0	0	0	25	<p>This target is linked to 5.1.4. This target will be achieved as training is scheduled in January.</p>	

## Outcome 6 Summary table

Outcome Indicator	Baseline	Results for Reporting Period (2023)	Cumulative	Target	Reporting Notes
<b>Indicator 6.1</b> Number of women's rights organisations, autonomous social movements and relevant CSOs, including those representing youth and groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization, increase their coordinated efforts to jointly advocate on ending VAWG	0	0	31	25	
<b>Indicator 6.2</b> Extent to which there is an increased use of social accountability mechanisms by civil society in order to monitor and engage efforts to end VAWG	0	22	22	20	Based on the current understanding of this indicator, the target has been correct to account for at least a value of 20 - Assuming 5 accountability mechanisms have been used by CSOs at least 20 times (cumulative)
<b>Indicator 6.3</b> Number of women's rights organisations, autonomous social movements and CSOs, including those representing youth and groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization, report having greater influence and agency to work on ending VAWG	0	54	68	20	
<b>Output Indicator</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Results for Reporting Period (2023)</b>	<b>Cumulative</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Reporting Notes</b>
<b>Indicator 6.1.1</b> Number of jointly agreed recommendations on ending VAWG produced as a result of multi-stakeholder dialogues that include representatives of groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, within the last year.	0	49	60	30	
<b>Youth</b>					
<b>Indicator 6.1.3</b> Number of CSOs representing youth and other groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination that are integrated with coalitions and networks of women's rights groups and civil society working on ending VAWG, within the last year.	0	0	28	5	
	<b>LNOB</b>				
	0	20	48	5	
<b>Indicator 6.1.4</b> Number of women's rights groups, networks and relevant CSOs with strengthened capacities to network, partner and jointly advocate for progress on ending VAWG at local, national, regional and global levels, within the last year.	0	65	130	35	
<b>Indicator 6.2.1</b> Number of supported women's right groups and relevant CSOs using the appropriate accountability mechanisms for advocacy around ending VAWG, within the last year	0	0	130	25	
<b>CSOs with strengthened capacities</b>					
<b>Indicator 6.3.1</b> Number of women's rights groups and relevant CSOs representing groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization that have strengthened capacities and support to design, implement, monitor and evaluate their own programmes on ending VAWG, within the last year.	20	49	98	25	
<b>Indicator 6.3.2</b> Number of women's rights groups and relevant CSOs using knowledge products developed by the participating UN agencies in the design of their own programmes on ending VAWG, within the last year	0	0	37	25	



**ANNUAL REPORT - ANNEX B  
RISK MANAGEMENT REPORT**

Country Programme / Regional Programme: BELIZE

Reporting Period: 01 January 2020 - 31 December 2023

**Instructions:** Kindly refer to the Risk Management Matrix in your approved Spotlight Country/Regional Programme Document to report in the below matrix on how your programme has managed all identified risks during the reporting period. Should new risks have arisen, please include them clearly in the Risk Management Matrix below, denoting [NEW RISK] and use this matrix moving forward. Please also update the section on 'Assumptions' as necessary.

Risk Assessment (All text in the Risk Management Report: Arial 10 point, normal)			Risk Monitoring: How (and how often) did your programme monitor the risk(s) during the reporting period?		Addressing the Risk: Please include the mitigating and/or adaption measures taken during the reporting period.	Responsible Person/Unit
Risk Please include new risks, if any, denoting these with [New Risk]	Likelihood: Almost Certain – 5 Likely – 4 Possible – 3 Unlikely – 2 Rare – 1	Impact: Extreme – 5 Major – 4 Moderate – 3 Minor – 2 Insignificant – 1	Periodicity	Source for monitoring		
<b>Contextual risks</b>						
Political changes can affect political commitment to Spotlight Initiative	3	2	Quarterly	Government Press Office	Continued high level engagement with government and opposition leaders to secure national ownership and buy-in of Spotlight Initiative and to receive updates on political changes and its potential impact on Spotlight	RUNOs/RCO
Natural Disasters/Ongoing threat of COVID-19	5	4	Monthly Programme Meetings	Programme Reports	Adjustment Spotlight Initiative activities to respond to the reality of natural disasters /COVID-19 allowed addressing context specific risk factors, available assets, reprogramming of funds and accelerating interventions in recognition of GBV as a shadow pandemic. This also presents an opportunity to deeply engage with civil society partners and support Government in strengthening a coordinating a national	RUNOs
<b>Programmatic risks</b>						
Capacity of government and CSO partners to reach the hardest to reach population	3	3	Monthly Programme Meetings	Programme Reports	Continue ensuring linkages with existing programmes in rural communities, develop a plan for coordination of service delivery to the hardest to reach populations to reduce cost of reaching communities and to maximize the impact of interventions. Build capacity of local personnel to deliver some services and interventions (community health workers, teachers, nurses, etc.)  CSO members of CSNRG include representatives of <del>excluded populations in addition to women and girls (I GRTI)</del>	RUNOs
Availability of complementary resources (in addition to SI resources) owing to funds being diverted to COVID 19 response	3	3	Monthly	Financial reports	Meetings with the Regional Offices and Headquarters to discuss the need for high-level advocacy from HQ  Documentation of additional funds supporting programmatic elements prior to Spotlight Initiative. Identification of new funds available with other donors and global funds	RUNOs/RCO
Fear of discrimination and victimization among women's rights advocates	4	4	Ongoing discussions with CSO and women's rights advocates- monthly	CSO reports	Strengthen the network of CSO actors and CSNRG to increase support and protection for women's rights advocates through legislative and policy reform. Ensure actions related to data collection, in the face of COVID-19, considers the protection of women and girls who are victims or at risk for family violence	RUNOs
Male marginalization: tendency of stakeholders and CSOs to highlight the marginalization of men and boys as a justification for including them as a focus for inclusion in programme	3	2	ongoing communication to highlight how Spotlight impacts families	Communication Plan	Provide data and evidence to demonstrate the scale of women's and girls' experiences of violence within the family and demonstrate their vulnerability to GBV.  Highlight the important role that men play in partnering with women to bring an end to GBV.  Engagement of CSO Partners with a specific focus on addressing male socialization and harmful masculinity	RUNOs/RCO
Delays in project implementation due to transition from Phase I to Phase II	3	3	Quarterly meetings with RC and HOAs	Meeting reports	Close engagement with senior management to resolve bottlenecks and accelerate work processes. Identification of bridge funding by RUNOs to support continued programme implementation  Close coordination with EU and government MHDSTPA on	RUNOs/RCO
<b>Institutional risks</b>						
Limited availability of disaggregated data to inform evidence-based programming	2	2	Monthly	Meeting reports	Advance actions under Outcome 5 to support country capacity for data collection and reporting Advocacy at the level of NSC	RUNOs/RCO
Capacity of institutions to implement programmes at scale and to provide essential package of services particularly psychosocial services	3	3	Monthly	Programme Reports	Work closely with Government to ensure dedicated resources for sustained service delivery	RUNOs/RCO
Lack of formal frameworks/ mechanisms among government and CSO partners which enables coordinated service delivery, joint planning and programme cohesion	3	3	Monthly	Meeting reports	Engage partners in joint planning and the design of models for service delivery that mandates coordination and collaboration, integrate behaviour change communication into capacity building sessions to address individual and institutional behaviour change that will foster improved partnerships  Engagement strategy for CSO Partners and networks in individualized discussions to highlight synergies then facilitate bilateral discussions leading to possible partnerships among CSOs	RUNOs/RCO
<b>Fiduciary risks</b>						

CSOs lack structure for receiving funds and mechanisms for ensuring accountability for funds	3	3	Ongoing financial assessment of implementing partners	Financial assessment reports	Evaluate structure and function of CSOs and identify CSOs that have capacity to manage resources. Establish MOUs with CSOs that allow for multiple CSOs to benefit from funding pool managed by one CSO with proven track record of efficient and effective management of resources.	RUNOs
<b>Assumptions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Spotlight initiative has significant political and administrative support and facilitates the commitment and continued support of government regardless of a change in administration</li> <li>✓ There is significant national commitment to ending Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) to ensure continuity of the programme even during times of emergency</li> <li>✓ Government and non-government stakeholders have an interest in harmonizing conceptual frameworks, policies and plans at all levels to ensure evidence-based programming on VAWG.</li> </ul>						





**Spotlight  
Initiative**

**ANNUAL REPORT – ANNEX D**

**SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE  
PROMISING OR GOOD PRACTICES REPORTING TEMPLATE**

**COUNTRY PROGRAMME/REGIONAL PROGRAMME: BELIZE  
REPORTING PERIOD: 2020- 2023**



**Spotlight Initiative**

<p><b>Title of the <u>Good Practice</u></b></p>	<p>Increase access to the Mandatory Reporting Protocols on Child Abuse, Human Trafficking, and Family Violence Training and Support Mechanism</p>
<p><b>Provide a description of the promising or good practice. What pillars/principles of the Spotlight Initiative does it address? (When did the activity begin? When will it be completed or is it ongoing?)</b></p>	<p>In 2020, Spotlight Initiative partnered with Pathlight Belize, National Organization for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NOPCAN), Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology (MOEcST), and the Ministry of Human Development, Families and Indigenous Peoples' Affairs (MHDFIPA) to expand the roll out of the Mandatory Reporting, which began in April 2017. Due to the challenging COVID context, the partnership looked at digitizing the course and delivering to teachers through an online modality. In 2022, upon the request of the MOEcST, and as an effort to ensure continuity of the intervention, the programme supported the shift for synchronous to asynchronous learning. The eCourse was then launched on the MOEcST's Teacher Learning institute (TLI) giving teachers, school administrators, other frontline supports and civil society actors access to the training module.</p> <p>This intervention addresses strengthening of national government to ensure linkages across institution on intersectional gender and gender-based violence situations and the promotion of multi-agency dialogues as key to the response. The primary issue addressed by this intervention is the promotion of gender-equitable social norms, attitudes, and behaviours through programming in the formal education settings.</p>
<p><b>Objective of the practice:</b> What were the goals of the activity?</p>	<p>Strengthening Child Protection Actors through mandatory reporting and response protocols for Teachers. The goals are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Building the capacity of teachers and school management authorities to effectively identify and respond to child abuse cases</li> <li>- Build the capacity of schools to understand child protection issues, related conventions, legislation, and protocols to end family violence within the wider society</li> <li>- Provide teachers and management authorities with tools to prevent, identify and ensure appropriate responses to child protection issues (CPS), as a strategy for ending family violence</li> </ul>
<p><b>Stakeholders involved:</b> Who are the beneficiaries or target group of the practice? Describe how all relevant stakeholders were engaged.</p>	<p><b>Direct beneficiaries:</b> Teachers and School Administrators  <b>Indirect beneficiaries:</b> Children, parents, and caregivers</p>







# Spotlight Initiative

<p><b>What makes this a promising or good practice?</b> Identify distinguishing feature(s) that make this a promising or a good practice in the efforts to EVAWG and/or in the context of the UNDS reform.</p>	<p>The aim of the trainings was to reinforce with these key decision makers their responsibility as mandatory reporters, the importance of reporting any suspected violence against children first in the best interest of the child, and as a potential signal for other forms of violence within the home. What emerged was evidence-based knowledge of duty bearers' own experiences with violence, often unresolved. The high demand for training of teachers and administrators at the primary and secondary levels countrywide triggered scaled up opportunity to include a self-paced version of the programme on the MOEcST's Teacher Learning Institute (TLI).</p>
<p><b>What challenges were encountered and how were they overcome?</b></p>	<p>There were no major challenges to implementation as all partners were supportive and onboard from the beginning</p>
<p><b>Outputs and Impact:</b> What have been the results thus far? Do they contribute to long-term impact?</p>	<p>During the first phase of the programme, 1,183 teachers (505 males, 678 females) and school administrators from 60 primary and secondary schools across Belize were engaged and completed the training.</p>
<p><b>Adaptable (Optional)</b> <i>In what ways can this practice be adapted for future use?</i></p>	<p>Partnership with the Ministry of Human Development, Families and Indigenous Peoples' Affairs gives access to women and child protection frontline workers across country can access the training</p>
<p><b>Replicable/Scale-Up (Optional)</b> <i>What are the possibilities of extending this practice more widely?</i></p>	<p>Access to the training is now available country wide. What is needed to institutionalize the Mandated Reporting requirement is the development of School Child Protection policies and are gender-responsive, rights based and considered all diversities of children and families. Additionally, partnership with the MHDFIPA must be strengthened through a robust feedback mechanism and multi-sectoral approach to response.</p>
<p><b>Sustainable</b> <i>What is needed to make the practice sustainable?</i></p>	<p>Having the training course available on the TLI ensures that teachers, administrators and in some cases student bodies can readily access the information. The training is self-paced with practical activities for easy adaptation to the various contexts.</p>
<p><b>Validated (for a good practice only):</b> Has the practice been validated? Is there confirmation from beneficiaries/users that the practice properly addressed their needs and is there expert validation?</p>	<p>The good practice has been validated.</p> <p>A High-level field mission to two of the beneficiary schools was conducted in June 2023 where focus group sessions were conducted with school leadership, teachers, and students to discuss the impact of access to training on the safety and trust of students, and the comfortability of teachers in reporting. All felt that the intervention was excellent in building the capacities of teachers to handle cases of abuse not only with students but within their</p>





## Spotlight Initiative

	<p>own circles and in support of families of students who reach out for support. Additionally, school leadership has flagged that the training has helped them to understand clearly the reporting process that make efforts to developing a clear reporting pathway for their schools.</p>
<p><b>Additional details and contact information:</b> Are there any other details that are important to know about the promising or good practice? <i>Please provide contact details of a focal person for this practice as well as any additional materials including photos/videos</i></p>	<p>Impact Story – Mandatory Reporting Protocols E-Course [<a href="#">Link to video</a>]</p> <p>Consuelo Godfrey Director – Teacher Services Pathlight Belize <a href="mailto:cgodfrey@pathlight.org">cgodfrey@pathlight.org</a></p>





# Spotlight Initiative

<p><b>Title of the <u>Promising</u> Practice</b></p>	<p>Simplification of UN Processes: Women's Groups and Grassroots civil society organizations empowered to access technical and financial resources for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment</p>
<p><b>Provide a description of the promising or good practice. What pillars/principles of the Spotlight Initiative does it address? (When did the activity begin? When will it be completed or is it ongoing?)</b></p>	<p>This intervention responds to the principle of Leaving No One Behind and the promotion of strong and empowered civil society and autonomous women's movement. Particular focus was on building capacity of women's groups and improving access to innovative financing mechanisms. This intervention began in 2022 at the start of phase II implementation cycle, the hope is that with the documentation of this promising practice, the opportunities for sustained support to women's groups responding to gender-based violence and gender equality at the community level will be maintained.</p>
<p><b>Objective of the practice:</b> What were the goals of the activity?</p>	<p>Improve women's groups access to financial resources to strengthen their ability to respond to GBV and Gender Intersectionality at the community levels</p>
<p><b>Stakeholders involved:</b> Who are the beneficiaries or target group of the practice? Describe how all relevant stakeholders were engaged.</p>	<p><b>Direct beneficiaries:</b> Women's Groups and Grassroots civil society organizations  <b>Indirect beneficiaries:</b> Children, parents, and caregivers</p>
<p><b>What makes this a promising or good practice?</b> Identify distinguishing feature(s) that make this a promising or a good practice in the efforts to EVAWG and/or in the context of the UNDS reform.</p>	<p>From initial consultations for the Spotlight Initiative, we understood that women's groups and grassroots organizations are key actors in the GBV response in Belize. This is due to the unavailability and inaccessibility of government essential services at the community levels, particularly rural and indigenous communities. CSOs, women's groups, and grassroots organizations have a long history of leading in the response to gender inequalities in Belize, such examples as the formation of the Women's Issues Network, the development of the Domestic Violence Act (first version), and the Women's Department. However, in recent years these groups are being left behind due to their inability to comply with legislative and policy requirements to access funding, such as annual audits, and registration to remain in 'Good Standing'.</p> <p>The simplification process seeks to build coalitions and partnerships among CSOs, grassroots organizations and women's groups to collectively apply for funding from development partners. This ensures that small groups who are unable to meet the requirements for application but are still implementing programmes and delivering services</p>





# Spotlight Initiative

	<p>within their communities can access resources to enhance and scale up the delivery of quality essential services to women and girls' survivors of GBV.</p>
<p><b>What challenges were encountered and how were they overcome?</b></p>	<p>Since this was a relatively new methodology for Belize, it required some level of unpacking both internally and with partners. While systems are in place to support this kind of practice, it has never been utilized so operational colleagues needed time to review procedures in order to provide the right kind of support to Implementing Partner. On the other hand, the programme needed to support formalizing of partnerships between IP and sub-grantees to build trust and accountability. The programme achieved this through the establishment of practical monitoring visits and engagements with IP and sub-grantees beyond the required level. Additionally, developed templates for activity and financial reporting.</p>
<p><b>Outputs and Impact:</b> What have been the results thus far? Do they contribute to long-term impact?</p>	<p>As a result of this intervention, 16 women's groups benefited for programmatic and seed funding to strengthen their individual response to gendered needs of the communities they serve. They further development of this model can ensure that indeed 'no one is left behind' both for grassroots groups and the constituents they serve.</p>
<p><b>Adaptable (Optional)</b> <i>In what ways can this practice be adapted for future use?</i></p>	<p>The development and endorsement of a guidance document for CSO engagement with the UN and other development partners that outlines the need for partnership with grassroots civil society organizations and women's groups as a key criterion for LNOB.</p>
<p><b>Replicable/Scale-Up (Optional)</b> <i>What are the possibilities of extending this practice more widely?</i></p>	
<p><b>Sustainable</b> <i>What is needed to make the practice sustainable?</i></p>	<p>On going support and monitoring to ensure these groups have access to financial resources as well as needed capacity building to help them familiarize themselves with financial and administrative procedures of development partners.</p>
<p><b>Validated (for a good practice only):</b> Has the practice been validated? Is there confirmation from beneficiaries/users that the practice properly addressed their needs and is there expert validation?</p>	
<p><b>Additional details and contact information:</b> Are there any other details that are important to know about the promising or good practice?</p>	





# Spotlight Initiative

*Please provide contact details of a focal person for this practice as well as any additional materials including photos/videos*





# Spotlight Initiative

<p><b>Title of the <u>Good Practice</u></b></p>	<p>EMPOWERING CHANGE: Women's Parliamentarian Caucus of Belize Unites to advance Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment</p>
<p><b>Provide a description of the promising or good practice. What pillars/principles of the Spotlight Initiative does it address?</b> <i>(When did the activity begin? When will it be completed or is it ongoing?)</i></p>	<p>The engagement of the Women Parliamentarians' Caucus will ensure that decision-makers at the parliamentary level are informed and knowledgeable on gender equity and capacity to apply a gender lens to ensure plans and policies are gender-responsive.</p> <p>Following the pivotal engagement with UNICEF and UN Women in November 2022, and the signing of the Joint Declaration of Intent with the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office (UNRC) on December 1, 2022, the Women Parliamentarians' Caucus, issued a unified call for gender-responsive budgeting and transformative approaches to underscore their shared commitment. The Spotlight Initiative supported this commitment to empower the Women Parliamentarians' Caucus, in amplifying its capacity to shape gender-responsive policies that reverberate across Belize.</p>
<p><b>Objective of the practice:</b> What were the goals of the activity?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strengthened partnership with UN to support the capacity development and institutional strengthening of the Women Parliamentarians' Caucus of Belize to effectively fulfil their mandate as a Standing Committee on Gender Equality.</li> <li>2. A clear understanding of the mandate and strategic objectives of the caucus, including defining their role as Allies for Change.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Stakeholders involved:</b> Who are the beneficiaries or target group of the practice? Describe how all relevant stakeholders were engaged.</p>	<p><b>Direct beneficiaries:</b> Women Parliamentarians  <b>Indirect beneficiaries:</b> Gender Focal Points, House of Representatives, Senate, their constituents</p>
<p><b>What makes this a promising or good practice?</b> Identify distinguishing feature(s) that make this a promising or a good practice in the efforts to EVAWG and/or in the context of the UNDS reform.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The women's caucus provides a platform to highlight the gender dimension in all issues placed on the parliamentary agenda, including but not limited to adequate representation of women within the high-level decision-making space.</li> <li>- Within the caucus full attention can be given to gender and to advocate for gender equality matters to be placed firmly on the top of the legislative agenda.</li> </ul>





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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This space also provides support and solidarity not only to individual parliamentarian, but as a mechanism to further gender equality through the output of more gender-sensitive legislation.</li> </ul>
<p><b>What challenges were encountered and how were they overcome?</b></p>	<p>Coordination for engagement due to competing priorities. This was addressed by scheduling periodic meetings and check -ins with the Senate to support in ensuring full engagement and participation</p>
<p><b>Outputs and Impact:</b> What have been the results thus far? Do they contribute to long-term impact?</p>	<p>Through 2 days of intense workshopping support to the Caucus, there is in place Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) that clearly outlines the mandate and strategic objectives of the caucus, along with key partnerships and their contributions to helping the Caucus maintain and achieve Gender Equality and support Women’s Empowerment at the policy and institutional levels.</p>
<p><b>Adaptable (Optional)</b> <i>In what ways can this practice be adapted for future use?</i></p>	
<p><b>Replicable/Scale-Up (Optional)</b> <i>What are the possibilities of extending this practice more widely?</i></p>	
<p><b>Sustainable</b> <i>What is needed to make the practice sustainable?</i></p>	<p>By developing and establishing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the Women Parliamentarians’ Caucus Joint Standing Committee, ensures clarity in the roles and responsibilities of the Caucus remains focused even when government administration changes. Another contributor to sustainability is the signed DOI with the UN which seeks to provide technical support and institutional knowledge to ensure the functionality of the caucus remain aligned with the requirements for Gender Equity SDG 5.</p>
<p><b>Validated (for a good practice only):</b> Has the practice been validated? Is there confirmation from beneficiaries/users that the practice properly addressed their needs and is there expert validation?</p>	<p>Validation - <a href="#">Women's Parliamentarian Caucus Video.mp4 - Google Drive</a></p>





# Spotlight Initiative

**Additional details and contact information:** Are there any other details that are important to know about the promising or good practice? Please provide contact details of a focal person for this practice as well as any additional materials including photos/videos

Hon. Janelle Chanona – Chair, Women Parliamentarians’ Caucus  
 Email: [senatorjanellechanona@gmail.com](mailto:senatorjanellechanona@gmail.com)

Hon. Valerie Woods – Speaker of the House of Representatives  
 Email: [speaker@bna.gov.bz](mailto:speaker@bna.gov.bz)

Hero Ranjit Balani – [hero.balani@un.org](mailto:hero.balani@un.org)  
 Associate Development Coordination Officer  
 Partnerships and Development Finance  
 Office of the UN Resident Coordinator

<p><b>TITLE OF THE PROMISING PRACTICE</b></p>	<p><b>Scale up of Comprehensive Sexuality Education to young people out of school</b></p>
<p>Provide a description of the promising or good practice. What pillars/principles of the Spotlight Initiative does it address? (When did the activity begin? When will it be completed or is it ongoing?)</p>	<p>The implementation of the scale up of CSE Programme for young persons out of school provides an immediate and relevant innovative and promising practice as it engages young people out of school in CSE education and awareness through virtual platforms, particularly in the context of COVID 19. This initiative is linked to Outcome 3, prevention and will contribute to ensuring that young persons out of school have access to evidence-based programmes which promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours, including on Comprehensive Sexuality Education in line with international standards.</p>
<p>Objective of the practice: What were the goals of the activity?</p>	<p>The main goal of the intervention, in line with outcome 3, is to increase access to evidence-based programmes which promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours, including on Comprehensive Sexuality Education in line with international</p>







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	standards.
Stakeholders involved: Who are the beneficiaries or target group of the practice? Describe how all relevant stakeholders were engaged.	The beneficiaries are young people out of school country-wide. In partnership with the Belize Family Life Association's (BFLA), BFLA's CSE Curriculum and Training Resource Manual, particularly the enhancement of teaching and learning strategies for effective engagement of young people in virtual spaces was strengthened. Additionally, BFLA expanded its cadre of CSE community level trainers which will allow for expanding the reach to young people within their own local spaces, and also through popular (and youth friendly) social media and video conference platforms.
What makes this a promising or good practice? Identify distinguishing feature(s) that make this a promising or a good practice in the efforts to EVAWG and/or in the context of the UNDS reform.	The evolution of this innovative approach to the out of school youth CSE education programme will help to provide the option for a low cost and high impact model to advanced gender equality, women's and girls' empowerment, and reproductive rights, including for the most vulnerable and marginalized adolescents and youth.
What challenges were encountered and how were they overcome?	No challenges have been encountered so far
Outputs and Impact: What have been the results thus far? Do they contribute to long-term impact?	To date 30 master trainers have been trained and will be furnished with a CSE tool kit (complete with a manual, models, etc.). Master trainers will initially deliver training to 240 young people in early 2021 as part of their capacity building.
Adaptable (Optional) In what ways can this practice be adapted for future use?	
Replicable/Scale-Up (Optional) What are the possibilities of extending this practice more widely?	
Sustainable What is needed to make the practice sustainable?	The practice is already sustainable as the intervention only served to strengthen an existing, long standing, evidence based programme that was already tested and rolled out by BFLA.
Validated (for a good practice only): Has the practice been validated? Is there confirmation from beneficiaries/users that the practice properly addressed their needs and is there expert validation?	





# Spotlight Initiative

Additional details and contact information: Are there any other details that are important to know about the promising or good practice? Please provide contact details of a focal person for this practice as well as any additional materials including photos/videos

Empty box for additional details and contact information.

## TITLE OF THE PROMISING PRACTICE

### Mobile Women Center for Women

Provide a description of the promising or good practice. What pillars/principles of the Spotlight Initiative does it address? (When did the activity begin? When will it be completed or is it ongoing?)

In keeping with the principle of Leaving No One Behind and in achievement of Outcome 4, available, accessible, ensuring acceptable, and quality essential services including for long term recovery from violence for women and girl survivors of violence, Spotlight Belize launched its Mobile Women’s Center to reach women and girls in hard to reach communities with services.

The Women’s Centre facilitated the coordination of Civil Society Organizations to ensure continuity of services to women and girls in rural communities across the country during COVID 19. The Mobile Women’s Center was rolled out during Quarter 4 and strengthened engagement with community leaders and members, through the support of the Community Health Workers who are an important link between service providers and the communities.

The Women’s Center featured essential services including legal support, counselling and psychosocial support, SRH Services, inclusive of voluntary family planning, and the safe identification and referral of GBV survivors, as well as case management support.

Objective of the practice: What were the goals of the activity?

The goal of the activity was to (a) expand services to women and girls in rural communities (b) sustain service provision to rural women and girls during COVID 19.





## Spotlight Initiative

<p>Stakeholders involved: Who are the beneficiaries or target group of the practice? Describe how all relevant stakeholders were engaged.</p>	<p>The Mobile Center is designed to target rural women and girls in hard to reach communities. The design for the execution of a mobile Women Centers was completed in partnership with four civil society organizations: The Human Rights Commission of Belize, the Belize Family Life Association, the Productive Organization for Women in Action, and the Child Development Foundation. The Mobile Women Centers is designed to increase utilization of a full range of coordinated and high-quality service as defined in the Essential Package of Service for women and girls subject to violence in Belize. The mobile women centers adopted a mobile brigade approach led by civil society organizations providing individual services to all women. These services include legal support, SRH services, psychosocial support and counselling, and Information and Awareness in hard to reach rural communities of Corozal, Orange Walk and Toledo Districts. The Human Rights Commission of Belize provided legal support services, the Belize Family Life Association provided SRH Services, the Child Development Foundation provided psychosocial support and counselling services, and the Productive Organization for Women in Action led in sharing information and organizing the logistics of the mobile centers in the communities. Case management and referral (including GBV Case Management and psychosocial support and counselling) is an integral part of the process of providing long term support to women, especially survivors of gender-based violence</p>
<p>What makes this a promising or good practice? Identify distinguishing feature(s) that make this a promising or a good practice in the efforts to EVAWG and/or in the context of the UNDS reform.</p>	<p>The Mobile Center is identified as a promising practice because (a) it has the potential to reach women and girls who are hardest to reach with services (b) provides an opportunity to strengthen engagement of CSOs in service delivery (c) presents an opportunity to establish formal service delivery arrangements between CSOs and Government.</p>
<p>What challenges were encountered and how were they overcome?</p>	<p>The primary challenges encountered were engaging in face to face service delivery during COVID 19. However, with proper protocols being established and adequate safety measured observed, the Mobile Women Center was successful in reaching rural women and girls.</p>
<p>Outputs and Impact: What have been the results thus far? Do they contribute to long-term impact?</p>	<p>400 women and girls' survivors of violence and their families were reached with information and access to quality essential services.</p>
<p>Adaptable (Optional) In what ways can this practice be adapted for future use?</p>	





## Spotlight Initiative

<p>Replicable/Scale-Up (Optional) What are the possibilities of extending this practice more widely?</p>	<p>The SI team is working closely with government and CSO partners to develop plans to expand the partnership for service delivery and to expand the mobile center to more rural communities. This includes design and documentation of the intervention so that other service providers can implement the model independent of SI.</p>
<p>Sustainable What is needed to make the practice sustainable?</p>	<p>It is critical for formal government-CSO partnerships to be established for service delivery. The Mobile Women's Center makes it quite clear that CSO play a key role in reaching women and girls that are not always able to access services provide by the government. However, the government would need to enter into formal partnerships with CSOs in order to ensure that CSOs have access to the resources needed to sustain service delivery.</p>
<p>Validated (for a good practice only): Has the practice been validated? Is there confirmation from beneficiaries/users that the practice properly addressed their needs and is there expert validation?</p>	
<p>Additional details and contact information: Are there any other details that are important to know about the promising or good practice? Please provide contact details of a focal person for this practice as well as any additional materials including photos/videos</p>	



## Section B: Knowledge Production

Title of Knowledge Product	Product type	Brief Description & Purpose	Date completed/published or expected to be	Link to Knowledge Product (if available)
Comprehensive Sexuality Education Manual	Capacity Development Module	The Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) Curriculum is a simple guide that focuses on three important themes: value of self, understanding the body and behavioural changes and developing sustainable health choices.	May 2021	<a href="#">Link here</a>
Comprehensive Sexuality Education Training Aid Flipchart	Capacity Development Module	The Comprehensive Sexuality Education Training Aid Flipchart is created to provide CSE trained educators with a tool to support conducting training and sessions with other persons and is particularly intended for use with out-of-school youth. The flipchart is a condensed version of the	May 2021	<a href="#">Link here</a>



## Spotlight Initiative

Title of Knowledge Product	Product type	Brief Description & Purpose	Date completed/published or expected to be	Link to Knowledge Product (if available)
		BFLA CSE manual and provides summary content and activities in key areas.		
Mapping of State and Non-State Actor in GBV	Mappings	The Report provides a mapping of state and non-state actors involved in the prevention, service delivery and social norm change as it relates to family violence and gender-based violence in Belize. An understanding of efficiency in service delivery in addressing family violence, gender-based violence and social norms change from a systems approach will be highlighted within this report to assess the responsiveness, appropriateness, adaptability, availability and accessibility of programmes within the police, health, social and justice sectors in Belize.	December 2020	<a href="#">Link here</a>
GBV Pocket Guide	Guidance Note/Tool	The Pocket Guide and its supporting materials provide all humanitarian practitioners with information on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. How to support a survivor of gender-based violence (GBV)</li><li>2. Who discloses their experience of GBV with you</li><li>3. In a context where there is no GBV</li></ol>	December 2020	<a href="#">Link here</a>





## Spotlight Initiative

Title of Knowledge Product	Product type	Brief Description & Purpose	Date completed/published or expected to be	Link to Knowledge Product (if available)
		<p>actor (including a GBV referral pathway or a GBV focal point) available.</p> <p>The Pocket Guide uses global standards on providing basic support and information to survivors of GBV without doing further harm. We encourage the adaptation of this resource to your local context with the support of a GBV specialist and in a manner that maintains a survivor-centered approach.</p>		
Family Violence Toolkit	Capacity Development Module	Community-based training on the root causes of Family Violence with Toolkit	July 2021	<a href="#">Link</a>
Spotlight Initiative Belize Newsletter- A Year in Review	Newsletter	The Spotlight Initiative in Belize has made great strides toward eliminating family violence which includes violence against women and girls. The newsletter reviews some of the many highlights and accomplishments of the programme in Belize thus far.	January 2021	<a href="#">Link</a>





## Spotlight Initiative

Title of Knowledge Product	Product type	Brief Description & Purpose	Date completed/published or expected to be	Link to Knowledge Product (if available)
Spotlight Initiative Accomplishment Work in Belize 2021	Multimedia	This video highlights the work of the Spotlight Initiative with interviews from state and non-state partners reflecting on the work accomplished in 2021.	December 2021	<a href="https://youtu.be/71wuRudsaZA">https://youtu.be/71wuRudsaZA</a>
Engaging Men and Boys Facilitator's Toolkit	Guidance Note/Tool	<p>This toolkit is for adolescents, young people, youth, peer educators and peer leaders in schools, youth and community groups. It can also be used by school counsellors, teachers, and people working in the social services delivery field, youth development and health education programs in communities, and anyone who wants to use it in supporting boys and young men in ending violence against women and girls.</p> <p>The goals of the toolkit are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. To provide young people with knowledge on healthy masculinity and the necessary skills to transform masculinity.</li><li>2. To provide peer educators and peer leaders a reference that they can use when teaching violence and</li></ol>	February 2022	<a href="#">Engaging Men and Boys Facilitators Toolkit</a>







# Spotlight Initiative

Title of Knowledge Product	Product type	Brief Description & Purpose	Date completed/published or expected to be	Link to Knowledge Product (if available)
		<p>healthy masculinity.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>3. For use in creating more awareness on general health for adolescents and young people.</li><li>4. To encourage advocacy for and build conversations around masculinity towards and ending violence against women and girls that will and more so, promote accountability and responsible behaviours.</li></ol>		
National Capacity Development Plan (NCDP) in Response to Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and Family Violence	Capacity Development Module	The Capacity Development Plan defines goals, activities, expected outcomes, responsible institutions, planned and required resources per year and the period for achievement of each goal and is the foundation for defining the costing analysis used as a tool for the implementation of the National Strategy.	December 2021	<a href="#">Link</a>
HFLE Life Skill Curriculum	Capacity Development Module	A curriculum That will not only reinforce the connection between health and education, but also	December 2023	<a href="#">Link here</a>





## Spotlight Initiative

Title of Knowledge Product	Product type	Brief Description & Purpose	Date completed/published or expected to be	Link to Knowledge Product (if available)
		uses a holistic approach within a planned and coordinated framework and focuses on the development of a whole person.		
Gender Equality and Diversity Seal	Guidance Note/Tool	The Gender Equality and Diversity Seal is the official recognition following the certification process that recognizes a business or organization (public and private sector) for its performances in delivering transformational gender equality results. Its objectives are to (1) Embrace diversity and inclusion, eliminate gender discrimination, promote learning, support critical reflection, and encourage innovative thinking on gender transformation, (2) Represent progress/ success of businesses and organizations that promote gender equality; and, (3) Measure and certify the competence and achievement in the advancement of gender equality (women's rights in particular)	June 2022	<a href="#">Gender Equality and Diversity Seal</a>
National Social and Behavior Change	Capacity Development Module	The Social and Behaviour Change Communication Strategy (SBCCS) on Ending Violence against Women and Girls	September 2022	<a href="#">Social and Behaviour Change Communication Strategy on Ending Violence Against Women</a>





## Spotlight Initiative

Title of Knowledge Product	Product type	Brief Description & Purpose	Date completed/published or expected to be	Link to Knowledge Product (if available)
Communication Strategy		is intended for use by government and civil society stakeholders involved in the national response to ending violence against women and girls (VAWG). The SBCCS provides a wide range of communication actions across all levels of the social ecology aimed at fostering changes in knowledge, attitudes, practices/behaviours as well as addressing social and gender norm changes that are at the root cause of VAWG.		<a href="#">and Girls</a>
Essential Service Package for Belize	Guidance Note/Tool	The Essential Services Package is a guidance tool identifying the essential services to be provided to all women and girls who have experienced gender-based violence, including services that should be provided by the health, social services, police and justice sectors. This package also provides guidelines for the coordination of these services.	December 2023	<a href="#">Essential Service Package for Belize</a>
Multisectoral Response Protocols for GBV	Capacity Development Module	A multi-sectoral response protocol to GBV represents a holistic and coordinated approach aimed at harmonizing and correlating programmes and actions	June 2022	<a href="#">Link here</a>





# Spotlight Initiative

Title of Knowledge Product	Product type	Brief Description & Purpose	Date completed/published or expected to be	Link to Knowledge Product (if available)
		developed and implemented by a variety of institutions (but not limited to these) in the areas of psychosocial welfare, law enforcement (police, prosecutors and justice departments) and health.		
Mobile Women Center Programme Design	Guidance Note/Tool	The Mobile Women Center programme will outline coordination of high quality service as defined in the Essential Package of Service to reach women and girls subject to violence in Belize. The scope and approach for the delivery of mobile women centers include a mobile brigade approach led by civil society organizations providing individual services to all women. These services include legal support, SRH services, Psychosocial support and counselling, and Information and Awareness on SRH and GBV in the hard-to-reach rural communities.	Expected to be finalized June 2022	<a href="#">Mobile Women Center Programme Design</a>
Training Package for social services workforce strengthening	Capacity Development Modules	Online training modules targeting frontline social workers and supervisors, including but not limited to the following areas: - Fundamentals in Social Work and MHDFIPA practice	October 2022	<a href="#">Playlist Link</a>





## Spotlight Initiative

Title of Knowledge Product	Product type	Brief Description & Purpose	Date completed/published or expected to be	Link to Knowledge Product (if available)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Process of Planned Change (including M&amp;E)</li><li>- Building Relationships and Engaging Clients</li><li>- Interviewing Skills (particularly interviewing children)</li><li>- Case Management process (theory &amp; FC applications)</li><li>- Risk and Family Assessment</li><li>- Intervention Planning</li><li>- Crisis Intervention Skills</li><li>- Client Monitoring and Evaluation</li><li>- Social Work Documentation and Report Writing</li><li>- Family Social Work and engaging parents</li><li>- Child Protection Investigations</li><li>- Court Preparation and Representation</li><li>- Social Work Supervision and Administration</li><li>- Trauma</li><li>- Self-care for Social Workers (preventing burnout)</li><li>- Family Violence</li><li>- Community Development</li><li>- Networking and Resource Mobilization</li></ul>		





## Spotlight Initiative

Title of Knowledge Product	Product type	Brief Description & Purpose	Date completed/published or expected to be	Link to Knowledge Product (if available)
Joint Sexual Violence Response Programme	Guidance Note/Tool	The JSVPR aims for women and girls to enjoy their right to a life free of violence within an inclusive and gender-equitable Belize. The JSVPR Programme will provide response services when sexual assault occurs within the Belize security forces, focus on prevention strategies, support victim recovery, and assist members of the security forces to be fully mission capable.	September 2022	<a href="#">Joint Sexual Violence Response Programme</a>
Training Modules for Court Officials	Capacity Development Module	The training modules seek to strengthen Court Officials' involvement in the hearing of matters dealing with children and families. Through collaboration with the Magistrate Court and Family Court, University of the West Indies, Open Campus training modules will cover the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Best Interest of the Child Adjudication;</li><li>● Problem-solving principles and practices in the courtroom;</li><li>● Best Practices for the Interviewing of Children; Court Room Management;</li><li>● Matters relating to child victims and children in conflict with the law;</li></ul>	July 2022	<a href="#">SWS Modules</a>





# Spotlight Initiative

Title of Knowledge Product	Product type	Brief Description & Purpose	Date completed/published or expected to be	Link to Knowledge Product (if available)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of Alternative Sentencing; and,</li> <li>• United Nations Framework on international standards of child rights.</li> </ul>		
Training Curriculum for Engaging Men and Boys	Capacity Development Module	One of the outcomes within the National Gender-based Violence Action Plan calls for men's and boys' increased understanding of the dynamics of gender and GBV so they can be actively involved in reducing Gender-based Violence in Belize. The training curriculum is a facilitators' manual divided into five (5) modules which underscore several thematic areas on engaging men and boys.	June 2022	<a href="#">Engaging Men and Boys Curriculum</a>
Standard Operating Procedures for Safe Shelters	Guidance Note/Tool	SOPs being produced through the Women's Department in collaboration with NWC Standard Operating Procedures for Safe Shelters were reviewed for adoption to the COVID-19 Pandemic and consideration for natural disasters. The three shelter facilities are now finalizing the SOPs and two have completed the training of shelter staff, volunteers and board of directors.	December 2022	<a href="#">Policy and Procedures Manual Mary Open Doors</a>  <a href="#">Policy and Procedures Manual House of Dorcas</a>  <a href="#">Policy and Procedures Manual Haven House</a>





Title of Knowledge Product	Product type	Brief Description & Purpose	Date completed/published or expected to be	Link to Knowledge Product (if available)
A Belizean Toolkit to Promote Healthy Relationships Between Adolescent Couples & Mentorship Guide for Men and Boys	Capacity Development Module	This toolkit is designed to be used by facilitators and coaches to guide couples, including adolescents in formal and informal unions, to transform the imbalance of power and build healthy relationships, manage conflicts, and appreciate peaceful and cordial family interactions	December 2022	<a href="#">Supporting Healthy Relationships Toolkit</a>
Social and Behaviour Change Communication Campaign on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls_ How to Guide	Toolkit	A step by step , user friendly guide for stakeholders and community leaders to support the roll out of the National SBCC Campaign on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls, with a link to all communication assets	September 2023	<a href="#">SBCC Campaign How to Guide</a>





Spotlight Initiative



List of equipment / vehicles / remaining major supplies and its end-use upon completion of the Spotlight Initiative programme

Programme: **Spotlight Initiative, Belize**

No.	Item description	Agency	Agency reference, if any	No. of units	Total cost in USD	Notes:
<b>Transferred to implementing partners</b>						
1	Dell Latitude 5410	UNDP	6R1P493, DQBQ493	2	\$ 2,276.00	ICT to support The Judiciary or the upgrade of the Judiciary's Networking and IT Equipment to support their case management system and electronic filing.
2	Cisco Catalyst 1000 48port GE, 4x10G SFP	UNDP	PSZ25101FKQ, PSZ25101GGU	2	\$ 3,916.80	ICT to support The Judiciary or the upgrade of the Judiciary's Networking and IT Equipment to support their case management system and electronic filing.
3	Cisco Catalyst 1000 24 port GE, POE, 4 x 10G SFP	UNDP	F0C2506L18A, F0C2506L1GC	2	\$ 2,947.20	ICT to support The Judiciary or the upgrade of the Judiciary's Networking and IT Equipment to support their case management system and electronic filing.
4	Cisco Catalyst 1000 24 port GE, 4x10G SFP	UNDP	F0C2505LN2K, F0C2506LOT8, F0c2505LN2Q	3	\$ 3,994.56	ICT to support The Judiciary or the upgrade of the Judiciary's Networking and IT Equipment to support their case management system and electronic filing.
5	Sophos XGS 116w Firewall	UNDP		1	\$ 2,343.00	ICT to support FAMCare Users with the MHD including all WDOs and improved networking for the use of the new Gender Based Portal in FAMCare.
6	iPhone Xs	UNDP	GR4YJ01JKPFX	1	\$ 1,400.00	ICT utilized by the RCO Programme Coordinator and Communications Officer transferred to Ministry of Human Development for The National's Women's Commission
7	Dell Latitude 3510 15-10210U 8GB 1TB 15.6" HD W10P	UNDP	849VB63, 9FGVB63, 36GVB63	3	\$ 18,317.07	ICT to support three CSNRG hubs
8	Laptop - Lenova Thinkpad T490S	UNICEF	0040015651	2	\$ 2,648.00	ICT for use by technical programme officers; UNICEF PSB process to handover to Implementing Partners
9	DELL OPTIPLEX 7010 MFF i5-13500T 4.6GHz 8GB DDR4 512GB M.2 SSD W11PRO 3YR	UNICEF	DELLOPTI7010MFF	1	\$ 1,715.31	ICT to support operationalization of Women's Group in San Ignacio
10	Dell Latitude 15.6" Laptop	UNFPA		2	\$1,980.00	ICT for use by trainers and programme officers of the "Engaging Men and Boys" Trianing Program implemented by Spouses of CARICOM Leaders Action Network (SCLAN)
11	Canon EOS Camera	UNFPA		1	\$2,280.00	ICT for use by programme officers of SCLAN to document and photograph training sessions of the "Engaging Men and Boys" Training Program.
12	Canon EOS M50 Mirrorless Digital Camera with 15-45mm Lens + 32GB Card, Tripod, Case, (18pc), with Canon Battery Pack LP-E12, Grepro LP-E12 LCD Display Dual USB Camcorder Battery Chargers	UNFPA		1	\$ 1,490.75	ICT for use by programme officer and programme support at the National Women's Commission.
13	Monitor22 ", USB Keyboard, Dell Desktop	UNFPA		1	\$1,330.06	ICT for use by programme officer and programme support at the National Women's Commission.
14	Whirlpool Automatic Washing Machine	UNFPA		2	\$1,149	Item distributed to a women's safe shelter for use by home managers in the upkeep and maintenance of linens for women who access shelters.
15	Projector - Viewsonic PG707X 400 lumens XGA Network 1.3X Zoom USB/HDMI?VGA	UNFPA		1	\$1,115	ICT use by programme officer and programme support by CSO 3rd party contractee implementing SBCC activities.
<b>Subtotal</b>					<b>\$ 48,902.50</b>	
<b>Transferred to Ministry of Human Development</b>						
1	Sophos XGS 116w Firewall	UNDP		1	\$ 2,343.00	ICT to support FAMCare Users with the MHD including all WDOs and improved networking for the use of the new Gender Based Portal in FAMCare.
2	iPhone Xs	UNDP	GR4YJ01JKPFX	1	\$ 1,400.00	ICT utilized by the RCO Programme Coordinator and Communications Officer transferred to Ministry of Human Development for The National's Women's Commission
<b>Subtotal</b>					<b>\$ 3,743.00</b>	
<b>Transferred to The Judiciary</b>						

	1 Dell Latitude 5410	UNDP	6R1P493, DQBQ493	2	\$	2,276.00	ICT to support The Judiciary or the upgrade of the Judiciary's Networking and IT Equipment to support their case mangement system and electronic filing.	
	2 Cisco Catalyst 1000 48port GE, 4x10G SFP	UNDP	PSZ25101FKQ, PSZ25101GGU	2	\$	3,916.80	ICT to support The Judiciary or the upgrade of the Judiciary's Networking and IT Equipment to support their case mangement system and electronic filing.	
	3 Cisco Catalyst 1000 24 port GE, POE, 4 x 10G SFP	UNDP	F0C2506L18A, F0C2506L1GC	2	\$	2,947.20	ICT to support The Judiciary or the upgrade of the Judiciary's Networking and IT Equipment to support their case mangement system and electronic filing.	
	4 Cisco Catalyst 1000 24 port GE, 4x10G SFP	UNDP	F0C2505LN2K, F0C2506LOT8, F0c2505LN2Q	3	\$	3,994.56	ICT to support The Judiciary or the upgrade of the Judiciary's Networking and IT Equipment to support their case mangement system and electronic filing.	
<b>Subtotal</b>						<b>\$</b>	<b>13,134.56</b>	

**Transferred to Civil Society National Reference Group**

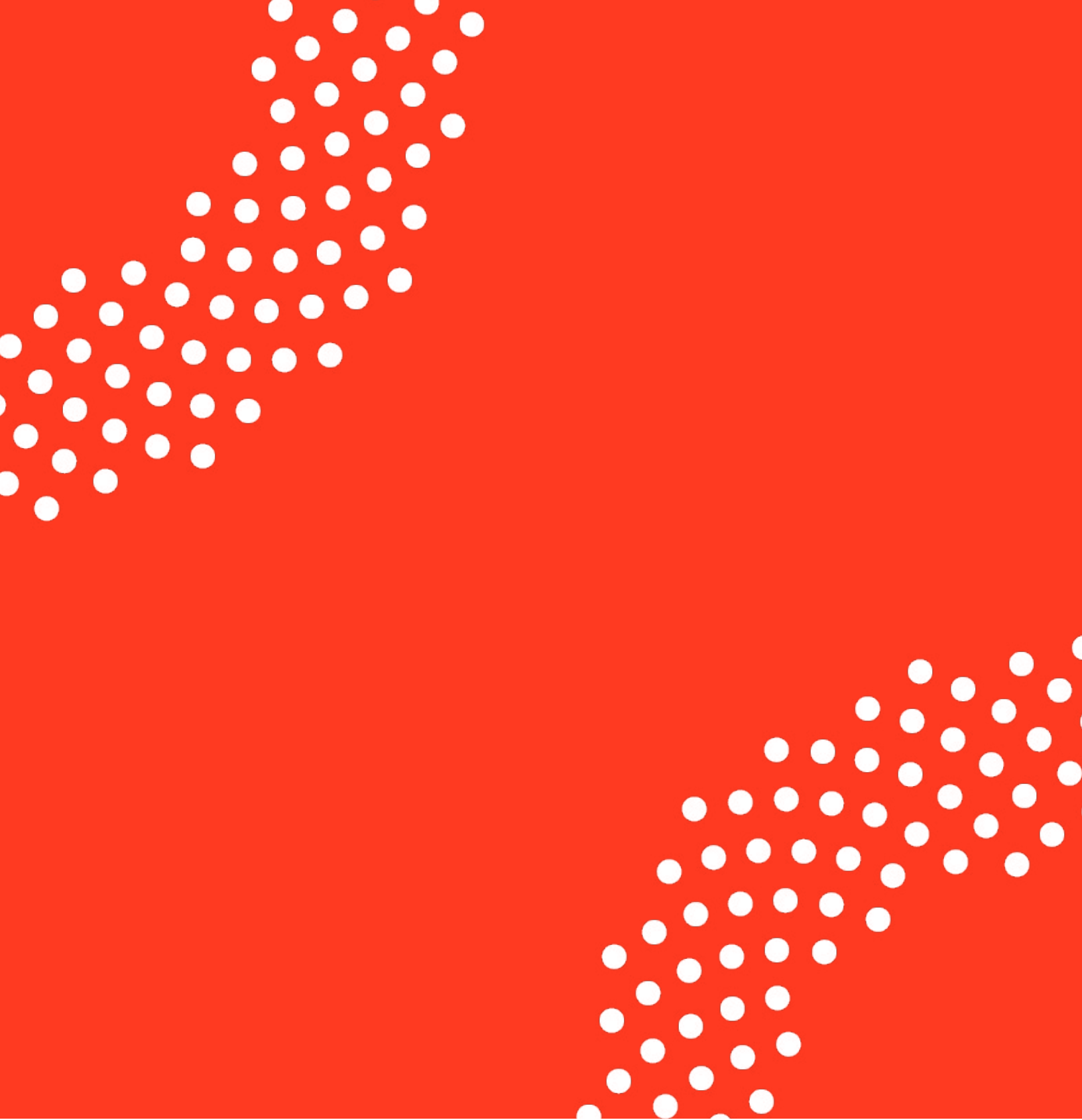
	1 Dell Latitude 3510 15-1021OU 8GB 1TB 15.6" HD W10P	UNDP	849VB63, 9FGVB63, 36GVB63	3	\$	18,317.07	ICT to support three CSNRG hubs	
<b>Subtotal</b>						<b>\$</b>	<b>18,317.07</b>	

**Disposed at the end of item lifetime**

	1 iPhone Xs	UNDP	GR4YJ01JKPFX	1	\$	1,400.00	ICT utilized by the RCO Programme Coordinator and Communications Officer transferred to Ministry of Human Development for The National's Women's Commission	
	2 Laptop - Lenovo Thinkpad T490S	UNICEF	0040015651	2	\$	2,648.00	ICT for use by technical programme officers; UNICEF PSB process to handover to Implementing Partners	
<b>Subtotal</b>						<b>\$</b>	<b>4,048.00</b>	

<b>Total</b>						<b>\$</b>	<b>88,145.13</b>	
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	Name of representative	Date	Signature
UNICEF	Alison Parker	-24	
UNDP	Ian King	-24	
UNFPA	Elizabeth Arnold	10-Apr-24	



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

