



**Spotlight  
Initiative**

*To eliminate violence  
against women and girls*

SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE IN NIGERIA

# Final Narrative Programme Report

01 January 2019 – 31 December 2023

Initiated by the European Union and the United Nations:



Funded by  
the European Union





# Spotlight Initiative

FINAL NARRATIVE  
PROGRAMME REPORT

**PROGRAMME TITLE:**  
SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE IN  
NIGERIA

**PROGRAMME START DATE:**  
1 JANUARY 2019

**REPORTING PERIOD:**  
01 JANUARY 2019 –  
31 DECEMBER 2023

## Programme Title & Programme Number

- Programme Title: Spotlight Initiative in Nigeria
- MPTF Office Project Reference Number:<sup>1</sup> 00112286

## Recipient Organization(s)



## Programme Cost (US\$)

- Total Phase I budget, and (where OSC approved) Phase II budget as per the Spotlight CPD/RPD: USD 38,362,512
- Phase I and (where OSC approved) Phase II Spotlight funding:<sup>2</sup> 35,714,286 USD
- Agency Contribution: 38,362,512 USD
- Spotlight Funding and Agency Contribution by Agency:

Name of RUNO	Spotlight phase I (+ II Where OSC approved) (USD)	UN Agencies contribution (USD)
UNDP	8,862,687	160,122
UNWOMEN	10,224,716	312,686
UNFPA	9,020,459	408,314
UNICEF	4,998,326	754,215
UNESCO	2,608,098	554,456
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>35,714,286</b>	<b>2,189,793</b>

**TOTAL: 38,362,512 USD**

## Priority regions/areas/localities for the programme

- **Nigeria, Africa**  
State Level: Focus states are Lagos, Sokoto, FCT, Ebonyi, Adamawa, and Cross River

## Key Partners

- Ministry of Budget and National Planning; Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Justice; Ministry of Finance; Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on the Sustainable Development Goals; Ministry of Education; National Orientation Agency, National Bureau of Statistics; and National Human Rights Commission at Federal and State levels. The Office of the Vice President at the Federal level.

## Programme Start and End Dates

- Start Date: 1 January 2019
- End Date: 31 December 2023

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1. 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 <https://mptf.undp.org/>

2. The Spotlight Contribution refers to the amount transferred to the Recipient UN Organizations, which is available on the MPTF Office Gateway <https://mptf.undp.org/>

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# Acronym List

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ANC	Ante-Natal Care
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
CEFM	Child Early and Forced Marriage
COTLA	Council of Traditional and Religious Leaders in Africa
COVID-19	Corona Virus Disease 2019
CPIMS	Child Protection Information Management System
CRA	Child Rights Act
CRM	Case Response Management
CSE	Comprehensive Sexuality Education
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSRG	Civil Society Reference Group
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic Acid
EU	European Union
EUD	European Union Delegation
EVAW	Ending Violence Against Women
EVAWG	Ending Violence Against Women and Girls
FCT	Federal Capital Territory
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FME	Federal Ministry of Education
FMWA	Federal Ministry of Women Affairs
FRED	Foundation for Resilient Empowerment and Development
GAP	Gender Action Plan
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HMS	Honorable Minister of State
HP	Harmful Practices
IAWJ	International Association of Women Judges
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
IP	Implementing Partner
LGAs	Local Government Areas
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPTF	Multi-Partner Trust Fund
MWASD	Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development
MWH	Maternity Waiting Homes
NAPTIP	National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons
NAWJN	National Association of Women Judges in Nigeria
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OSC	One-Stop Centre

PME	Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation
PMU	Program Management Unit
PWD	Persons living with disability
RoLAC	Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption
ROM	Result Oriented Monitoring
RUNOs	Recipient United Nations Organizations
SCE	Second Chance Education
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
SKMTWG	Strategic Knowledge Management Technical Working Group on GBV
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights
STEAM	SRHR information Technology skills for sales and marketing Ending VAWG and HP information Accounting and business management skills Manufacturing and start-up support
TOR	Terms of Reference
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Emergency Fund
UNSDPF	United Nations Sustainable Development Partnership Framework
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VAC	Violence Against Children
VAPP	Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act
VAW	Violence Against Women
VAWG	Violence against Women and Girls
WPHF	Women Peace and Humanitarian Fund

# Executive Summary

The aim of the Spotlight Initiative program in Nigeria, which was implemented from January 2019 to December 2023, was to contribute to the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls, including harmful practices, and to promote the uptake of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) services, among other goals. The program achieved significant results in the 5+1 states where it was implemented—Lagos, Adamawa, Ebonyi, Cross River, Sokoto, and the FCT—and brought national attention to the issues of violence against women and girls and harmful practices (VAWG/HP). It placed these issues at the center of efforts to achieve gender equality and empower women.

Throughout the project's lifespan, significant impacts were achieved through a multi-pronged approach aimed at eliminating VAWG. This approach was built on six mutually reinforcing programming pillars: reforming legislative and policy frameworks, strengthening institutions, undertaking prevention and social norms change, ensuring access to services, expanding data availability, and supporting civil society organizations (CSOs) and the women's movement. The program expanded its reach to include more persons with disabilities (PWDs), the socio-economically disadvantaged, as well as adolescent girls and women.





It secured a strong foundation for sustainability through the buy-in of the government and key stakeholders at all levels, ensuring government support towards sustainability, including instituting a budget process and fund release for the one-stop centers (OSCs). Notably, there was a significant improvement in the government's financial commitment to the Spotlight Initiative, as evidenced by the budget allocations made by the state governments of Lagos, Adamawa, Sokoto, and the FCT. Similarly, the impact of the strengthened voice of the women's movement led to the establishment of a business case for the first-ever private sector GBV fund in Nigeria.

At the policy and institutional level, the Spotlight Initiative in Nigeria provided sustained advocacy, legislative and technical support to the legislature which contributed to major advances in the reform of the legislative landscape. A primary focus has been on safeguarding the rights of women and girls by preventing and addressing all forms of violence, exploitation, and abuse, including sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in the six Spotlight focus states through the passage and implementation of the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Act and the Child Rights Act (CRA). Contrary to the target of six states, the VAPP and the CRA are now implemented in the 36 states of Nigeria making it the fastest bill to be passed and implemented at the sub-national level in the history of the country, indicating increased political buy-in for the elimination of violence against women and girls.

The Initiative further strengthened critical government institutions such as Health, Education, Security, Justice, and Social Services to respond more effectively and coherently through different capacity-building / trainings such as gender-responsive budgeting, development of a multi-sectorial action plan with the accompanying M&E framework, establishment of functional Gender desk in all the ministries, departments and Agencies (MDAs) MDAs, mainstreaming of Gender/GBV perspective into law enforcement training manuals, among others. Spotlight Initiative also supported the establishment of a multi-stakeholder VAWG coordination mechanism established at the highest level (including the national steering committee), and replicated at the sub-national level and at the community level which has enhanced effective and coherent GBV coordination.

GBV prevention, service provision, and community response were pivotal in the fight against VAWGs and HP during the five years of project implementation in Nigeria. Prevention efforts at the community level were scaled up through advocacy and sustained community engagement. The establishment of the Council of Traditional and Religious Leaders (COTRL) has strengthened the voice and action of faith leaders against GBV and HP at all levels. Specifically, in Cross River State, traditional leaders outright banned the harmful practice of 'money wife', which refers to a marriage where a girl is married off to a man to settle debts owed by her parents. Similarly, a declaration against 'wife battery' in the Kurudu community, and the abolition of 'women's denial of inheritance'/Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in Ezza South/North in Ebonyi State, amongst others, were achieved.

A total of 709,000 faith-based and religious leaders were sensitised and engaged on the issue of violence against girls. Additionally, 877 community platforms, i.e., community surveillance team members, Community Response & Action Committees (CRAC), and others, were established in six focus states. These platforms routinely identify and address negative gender norms and violence against women and girls. In Sokoto State, the strengthened linkage between multi-sectorial state coordination teams and the community surveillance team led to over 800 cases of VAWG being identified, reported, and referred for case management services. The engagements have increased the access of community members –



female and male – to wider-reaching platforms to express their commitment to policing and preventing VAWG in their communities. 72,809 women and girls accessed quality essential GBV services through a strengthened referral system in the six one-stop centres (OSCs), the DNA forensic lab, the young mum’s clinic, and the maternity waiting homes (MWH), including innovative virtual platforms for the provision of services, i.e., Virtual clinic in Lagos and SMART-RR in Adamawa State. The initiative built a solid partnership with 16 tertiary institutions and 1,005 basic literacy centres, 70 school clubs, and the development of protocols and programmes that respond to GBV in the education sector. The impact includes 231,000 women and girls given the opportunity for a second chance at education, 101,100 regained their dignity through livelihood empowerment schemes for survivors, and 995 maternal deaths averted.

The Spotlight Initiative in Nigeria significantly advanced the battle against gender-based violence (GBV) and enhanced support for victims across the nation. In a collaborative effort with the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs (FMoWA), the initiative notably expanded the National Gender-Based Violence Data Situation Room and Dashboard. Initially targeting six states in 2020, this expansion reached all 36 states plus the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) by 2023, substantially improving GBV data coordination for national response and policy-making. Complementary systems like the Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS), the Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS), and the Barometer accountability tracker have been instrumental in providing timely data essential for decision-making. The Strategic Knowledge Management Technical Working Group (SKMTWG) on GBB has been pivotal in enhancing GBV reporting, data harmonization, and data quality, with the support of key international partners including the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the World Bank.

The European Union Delegation (EUD) emerged as a key partner, facilitating a shift from the traditional donor-recipient dynamic to a more collaborative approach. This partnership enabled the UN team and EUD to jointly advocate for reducing the incidence of violence against women and girls (VAWG), providing leadership, and engaging with government bodies to ensure a unified and effective implementation of the programme. This collaborative effort aimed at reinforcing existing partnerships, improving program sustainability, and ensuring a coherent strategy against VAWG. Interagency coordination was improved to enhance program delivery effectively.

Despite facing numerous challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic, political and ethnic crises, and a long-standing humanitarian crisis in the North-East, the Spotlight Initiative successfully implemented mitigation strategies to sustain its objectives. These strategies included stakeholder dialogues, event rescheduling, and the utilization of virtual platforms. To guarantee the initiative’s long-term impact, stakeholders developed a comprehensive sustainability plan based on the government’s financial and leadership commitment. This plan included six state-specific sustainability strategies and a national plan, outlining the roles and responsibilities of crucial stakeholders, ensuring the initiative’s goals and achievements would continue to resonate beyond its official end date.

Below is a summary of the major achievements in the life of the project:

<b>Outcome 1</b> (Laws & Policies)	(i) 2 Laws were developed, 2 strengthened, and 3 new laws received inputs from women's groups and CSOs.	<b>Outcome 4</b> (Services)	(i) 809 women & girls have access to essential services
	(ii) 3,009 Govt officials/ parliamentarians' capacity strengthened on effective responses to curbing GBV and gender-based crimes against women and girls.		(ii) 4,919 service providers had their capacities strengthened to deliver quality essential services including SRHR
<b>Outcome 2</b> (Institution)	(i) 3,676 women groups/ 789 Govt officials had strengthened their capacity to develop plans to end VAWGs	<b>Outcome 5</b> (Data)	(I) 747,182 Government 1,053 women's group with the strengthened capacity to collect data on VAWG
	(ii) 3,676 women groups have the capacity for gender-responsive budgeting		(II) 11,404 GBV cases were reported, 3,232 were brought to court, and 35 convictions were secured.
<b>Outcome 3</b> (Prevention)	(I) 99,985 girls and boys were reached through in-school interventions & 82,852 were reached through "out-of-school" interventions as part of efforts to advance social norms change amongst the youth.  16,725, 584 voices were amplified against GBV/HP in communities.	<b>Outcome 6</b> (Women's Movement)	(II) 48 jointly agreed recommendations on ending VAWG produced by stakeholders 1,706 women's rights groups and relevant CSOs with a strengthened capacity to demand accountability from the government and other key stakeholders and advocate for the passage /adoption of gender-sensitive legislation.

## Significant Contextual Shifts and Overall Implementation Status

The Spotlight Initiative focused on establishing programmes and strengthening the human and institutional capacities of its partners, both government and civil society organisations (CSOs), to eliminate VAWG and harmful practices and improve the uptake of SRHR, especially among young people and persons with disabilities. Implementation was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, which regressed some of the gains made; however, the programme successfully adapted to offer innovative solutions to GBV. For example, the adoption of online communities to reach young people and providing remote

monitoring options. Phase II of the Spotlight Initiative implementation focused on a programmatic shift towards sustainability. This programmatic shift intensified institutional strengthening by increasing the capacity and responsibilities of national officers, particularly in service delivery and data, to ensure that programme gains are sustained.

To end VAWG and other harmful practices and improve the adoption of sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR), particularly among young people and people with disabilities, the Spotlight Initiative concentrated on implementing programmes and bolstering the institutional and human capacities of its partners, including CSOs and the government. The initiative supported SRHR policy implementation to promote rights against discrimination in the distribution of resources for health services, as well as their accessibility and availability. Towards the end of the project, a programmatic change towards sustainability was emphasised in the Spotlight Initiative execution, through the strengthening of government institutional capacity, especially in the areas of prevention, data, and service delivery.

Nigeria faced national changes that impacted the implementation of the programme, the foremost of which was inflation. Inflation led to high prices of fuel, food, and transport, especially the cost of air tickets, as well as the cost of meeting venues. The programme was able to partly mitigate inflation using prequalified long-term agreements with selected vendors. Secondly, the increased spate of insecurity, particularly kidnappings, has limited the programme's ability to penetrate remote areas to reach the population with services. However, the programme deployed the use of online platforms to facilitate training and conduct meetings.

Vulnerability to extreme climatic change in Nigeria has become more intense as accelerated urbanisation continues to push more people into cities across different regions of the country. In many states, urbanisation pressure is gradually expanding towns and cities to flood plains and coastal strips where they are exposed to more coastal flood risks. It is, therefore, important to curb further occurrences and build resilience to climate change by promoting planned human settlements and intensive urban infrastructural development. The 2022 flooding in Nigeria displaced more than half a million people, according to the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA). In August, two of the Spotlight states, Sokoto and Lagos, recorded over 300mm of rainfall, a figure which represents over 25% of the long-term normal of the states in one month, leading to major flooding during the rainy season.

The costed model action plans were fully rolled out in the Spotlight-targeted states as part of the long-term strategy for achieving sustainability. This strategy ensured that the capacity of key government officials, CSOs, women, and youth groups was built on gender-responsive budgeting and budget allocation efficiency. CSOs and women's groups can now make meaningful contributions to the budgeting process. Women and youth groups engage and can advocate for policy change and demand an increase in budget allocation in favour of ending all forms of VAWG. The grassroots and the high-level advocacies are getting results as the government recently agreed to the inclusion of a gender dimension in the budget call circular. In 2022, 0.05% of the national budget was allocated for the prevention and elimination of all forms of VAWG and harmful practices, which is a step in the right direction. This is designed to ensure government/national ownership beyond the lifespan of the project while also opening new opportunities for deeper engagements toward ensuring the successful elimination of all forms of VAWG in Nigeria.

Similarly, the adoption of the ‘implementing partner model’ under Outcome 5 (Data) yielded the desired sustainability outcome. The term ‘implementing partner model’ refers to donor partners located at the sub-national level with an operational base, with projects being implemented in any of the six Spotlight target states. The call was for such partners (USAID implementing partners) to leverage their existing programme resources to support the Spotlight Initiative in a cross-cutting area like data. USAID partners such as ECWES, CARITAS, FHI360, and JHPIEGO supported government partners financially (60 staff quarterly for 4-day meetings) to attend the quarterly National GBV Data Review meetings. Additionally, they supported the upgrading of the GBV Data Situation Room in Ebonyi, Cross River, and Lagos states. Indeed, the implementing partner model strengthened the routine GBV data reporting at all levels, and this support will continue beyond the Spotlight project in 2023. Similarly, partner CSOs have been the major and dependable partners, driving implementation at all levels and ensuring that programme activities reach those who are often left behind. More specifically, the capacity of women’s groups and civil society, particularly groups of persons living with disabilities and persons living with HIV/AIDS, to advocate for gender-responsive budgeting on policies related to their rights was strengthened.

The Initiative also enhanced the capacity of private sector entities to develop and adopt gender action plans inclusive of response and prevention of GBV in the workplace. A notable highlight is the establishment of a Private-Sector-Led GBV Fund in Nigeria to sustain interventions over five years. Based on the cumulative success recorded from inception until 2023, the project has largely achieved what it set out to accomplish.

## Implementation progress by outcome area:

<b>Spotlight Initiative - Outcome areas</b>	Implementation progress as of 31 December 2023
<b>Outcome 1: Legal and Policy Framework</b>	96%
<b>Outcome 2: Institutions</b>	89%
<b>Outcome 3: Prevention and Norm Change</b>	97%
<b>Outcome 4: Quality Services</b>	85%
<b>Outcome 5: Data</b>	99%
<b>Outcome 6: Women’s Movement</b>	94%
<b>TOTAL</b>	93%

# Programme Governance and Coordination

## National Steering Committee

A National Steering Committee was set up to improve coordination and accountability in a three-way partnership framework (EU/UN/Government of Nigeria). The National Steering Committee was responsible for providing overall strategic policy guidance and political direction on the implementation of the Spotlight Initiative. In line with Spotlight Initiative global arrangement and principles, the National Steering Committee was comprised of the following core members:

Membership: In line with Spotlight Initiative global arrangement and principles, the National Steering Committee is comprised of the following core members:

- i. The Honourable Minister of Budget and National Planning – Co-Chair
- ii. The UN Resident Coordinator – Co-Chair
- iii. EU Head of Delegation in Nigeria – Co-Chair
- iv. Minister of Women Affairs and Social Development – Member
- v. Two representatives of the Civil Society Reference Group – Members

In addition to the members, other stakeholders were also invited to participate in the deliberations of the National Steering Committee. This included representatives from the EU, UN, Government, academia, civil society (including youth-led civil society), media, research institutions, local communities, and the private sector. Heads of Spotlight agencies and other key Ministers (Justice, Health, Police Affairs or FCT) were also invited to participate in the Steering Group meetings.

The Honourable Minister for Budget and National Planning served as the chair of the National Steering Committee. The Committee is co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator with the EU Head of Delegation in Nigeria as an important observer.

The National Steering Committee oversees the implementation of the Country Programme and also ensured proper communication and coordination at the country level, supported the alignment of Spotlight implementation with national, UN, and EU priorities, approving reviewed annual work plans and results, reviewing and approving the joint annual narrative reports, approving implementation arrangements guide and revisions, approving programme or budgetary revisions less than 25% of the total value of the Initiative's budget, managing stakeholder relationships at the country level, reviewing risk management strategies and ensuring the programme is proactively managing and mitigating risks.

The National Steering Committee, while providing oversight to the Spotlight Initiative, also provides support to other related programmes such as the Women Peace and Humanitarian Funds (WPHF) for work plan approval and monitoring. In terms of sustainability, it is expected that the structure of the committee will outgrow the Spotlight Initiative as well as current public holders in the committees' leadership such as the Minister for Women Affairs and the Minister for State, Budget, and National Planning. It is expected that the committee will continue to provide oversight functions for GBV-related programmes in Nigeria. This decision was reached at the 3rd National Steering Committee meeting. Overall, the National Steering Committee structure and role have been impactful in ensuring that the project moves in the right direction, evidenced by the conduct of the first joint NSC high-level field monitoring visit to Adamawa and Sokoto State in 2022. Critical recommendations are usually provided by the committee to better position the project.

## National Civil Society National Reference Group

Civil society reference groups (CSRGs) supported the realisation of the objectives of the initiative in Nigeria as advocates and partners. The group provided strategic advice on the development of the Spotlight national programme as it was being implemented. The National Civil Society Reference Group consisted of 17 persons (13 women and 4 men) across the six Spotlight states. The members, who are cognisant of the Nigerian context and dynamics, are part of the CSO community in Nigeria and have extensive years of experience, leading, advocating, designing, and implementing various programmes on gender equality and women's empowerment.

A total of 20 members served as the CSRG for the Spotlight Initiative in Nigeria. Each of the five states was represented by three CSO reference group members, while five members represent the FCT and are domiciled at the national level. For the state reference groups, all members are domiciled in the target states for maximum and effective participation in state-led activities. Members of the reference groups serve in a personal capacity with no paid remuneration. The CSRG developed annual work plans that were implemented across the 5+1 Spotlight states. One of the key components of the work plan was the strategic advocacy visits and the annual joint monitoring visit that highlighted the need for improvements in decision-making.

Members were selected through an open and competitive process in response to a public call for expression of interest to serve as a member. To preserve a gender balance among members, candidates needed to have met the following criteria before being given special consideration (each member having met a minimum of four of these criteria):

1. Representing the following population groups: youth representatives (30 years of age or under), indigenous people, migrants, persons with disabilities, rural women, women living with HIV.

2. Have an attitude and disposition for active participation in groups and have adequate time to participate and follow up on activities, promote initiatives, and respond to consultations.
3. Thematic expertise in GBV and/or harmful practices (child marriage and female genital mutilation) against women and girls; SRHR services.
4. Experience in policy, legislation and/or human rights treaties will be an asset, particularly at the regional/international level.
5. Academic and research experience, especially in the priority theme.
6. Active and proven participation within the women's and feminist movement.
7. Strong connection with women's or feminist networks and organisations at national or regional levels focusing on ending VAWG. The programme was able to interact with national and grassroots partners, including feminist and women's rights organisations, more effectively and, crucially, put the LNOB concept into practice thanks to the inclusion and diversity in the CSRG member selection process. Owing to the CSRG members' strategic function, a sustainability strategy was created to guarantee that they would keep playing the vital advising and advocacy role in putting a stop to gender-based violence. Among other things, the plan listed the sources of funds that would be used to continue their operations and function once the project is over and action will be taken. The CSRG has been an integral part of the steering committee both at state and federal level, the technical working group, as well as the civil society partners receiving implementation grants from RUNOs.

For this reason, work plans for national and state reference groups were developed in line with the global reference group guidelines to streamline activities of members. The CSRG supported the Initiative in the following areas:

- Provided advice on ongoing interventions and possibilities for scaling up the Spotlight Country Programme.
- Partnered on high-level advocacy and communications as well as political dialogue, including by supporting visibility and promotion of the initiative's goals at the national and local levels.
- Engaged in broader consultations with groups and networks, especially at the local and grassroots levels, at regular intervals to update them and solicit input on the performance of the Spotlight Country Programme in Nigeria and for advocacy, research, learning and action.
- Supported efforts of disseminating messages of the Spotlight Initiative on eliminating VAWG and HP to the public, from the national to the community level, especially to marginalised groups, youth, and the media.
- Served as an interactive space and open forum for dialogue between the Spotlight Initiative and women's rights organisations, groups, and networks working on eliminating VAWG and HP



- Provided advice on the overall strategic direction of the Spotlight Initiative’s Country Programme in Nigeria and on cutting-edge national and local policy issues on eliminating VAWG and HP.

Inter-agency coordination, technical committees, and other governance mechanisms Programme coordination was provided by the Project Management Unit (PMU) which was nested in the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator to bring all the pieces of the programme together. Technical coherence was provided by two UN agencies (UNFPA and UN Women) to ensure actions under each of the six pillars are aligned with and complement all the pillars. A community of practice provided communication, monitoring, evaluation, visibility, and knowledge management support to the country programme. The PMU ensured consolidated reporting according to timelines and oversaw implementation schedules, deliverables, and budgets as articulated in the country programme document among other things. The PMU assumed this inter-agency coordination role both at the national and the state levels with its focus on a sustainable and transformative delivery of agreed results.

Two Technical Coherence Leads, provided by UNFPA and UN Women, were hosted in the implementing agencies with a direct second reporting line to their Deputy Representatives under the general supervision of the Country Representative. Their primary role was to forge synergies across specific pillar elements and ensure alignment with the Theory of Change and the country results framework, adhering to best practices. Technical Coherence is part of the PMU but located within the two UN agencies, supporting a more inclusive and integrated implementation through interagency coordination and tools.

## Programme Partnerships

The Spotlight Initiative in Nigeria is anchored on the United Nations Sustainable Development Partnership Framework (UNSDPF) 2018-2022 and incorporated into the new partnership framework for 2023-2027. It is implemented by five UN agencies (UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, and UNESCO), the government, and civil society, coordinated by the UN Resident Coordinator’s Office.

## Government

At the national level, the government is highly engaged in the Spotlight Initiative, with key advocacy events attended by the President of Nigeria and his office. The Honourable Minister for Budget and National Planning chairs the National Steering Committee, with the Nigerian Federal Ministry of Budget and National Planning responsible for coordination across all outcome areas. This involves coordination oversight, stakeholder engagement, and technical meetings. The Federal Ministry of Women Affairs plays a key role in oversight for gender and GBV, co-chairing the Inter-Ministerial Committee on GBV. The Ministries of Health and Justice, among others, are integral partners, advancing various pillars of Spotlight.

Strategic collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Budget and National Planning has enhanced MDAs' contribution to eliminating VAWG/SGBV/HP and advancing women's and girls' human rights through improved project design, budgeting, and implementation.

## CSOs

Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), encompassing a wide range of international, national, and grassroots organisations, form a significant proportion of implementing partners. The diversity of CSO partners has advanced the principle of leaving no one behind, with grassroots organisations playing a crucial role in outreach and ensuring the furthest reach. CSOs have been instrumental in delivering interventions, particularly in response to COVID-19.

## EU

Coordination between the EU and the UN is vital for sustainable outcomes. High-level joint monitoring visits and advocacy events facilitate advocacy for women's and girls' rights. The programme aligns with the EU Gender Action Plan II, contributing to gender equality and women's empowerment. The EU has also supported the UN in risk management and has played a key role in reviewing and monitoring the programme's implementation, providing feedback that has guided the initiative's strategic direction. Throughout the project, deliberate steps were taken to respond to the EU's recommendations, focusing on visibility, access to justice, and synergising with ongoing initiatives. The collaborative effort has demonstrated a multinational response to GBV in Nigeria, with the EU acknowledging the collective effort and progress made through the Spotlight Initiative.

The Technical Team within each of the RUNOs, led by the National Spotlight Coordinator, held regular meetings with the EU desk officer for the Spotlight Initiative to discuss the programme's strategic approach and the activities defined in the work plan. It also served as a platform to monitor progress towards agreed objectives. To foster strategic coordination, the UN Resident Coordinator and the EU Head of Delegation also used to meet on a biannual basis at the National Steering Committee meetings. The EU has been involved in key Spotlight activities at the state level as well as leveraging the EU's partnership in strategic communication and political engagement.

The Spotlight Initiative in Nigeria directly contributed to the EU Gender Action Plan (GAP) II "Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020", which is reflected in the Spotlight Initiative's result framework, with each outcome aligned to specific EU GAP priorities and linked to high-level impact indicators.

In addition to ensuring coordination with the EU, the Spotlight Initiative has closely coordinated with existing and new relevant EU-funded programmes. An example is the EU-funded Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption programme (ROLAC) working on the setup of Sexual Assault Referral Centres and the implementation of the VAPP Act and the Child Rights Act. The Spotlight Initiative also coordinated activities with other international donors and partners, including the Call to Action on protection from SGBV in Emergencies, which was a global initiative launched in 2013.

From the outset, the EU and UN have worked closely with the Government to develop a sustainability plan that includes a feasible financing strategy with conditions to ensure that funding and services can continue. The EU will also support the UN in managing risks in line with the agreed Risk Management Framework. The EU has also played a review and monitoring role in the Country Programme's implementation along with other key stakeholders.

The EU partnership was strengthened over the course of the project, with more encouraging feedback as the year progressed. During the first steering committee in 2020, held on 5 June 2020, the EU recommended that the programme identify and implement transformative flagship initiatives; strengthen access to justice for GBV survivors; increase visibility; extrapolate from project micro level to high policy level, enhance complementarity with ongoing initiatives to strengthen synergy. Deliberate steps were taken to respond to key recommendations from the EU and the steering meeting, particularly regarding visibility, access to justice, flagships, and complementing ongoing initiatives. By the following steering committee meeting held on 25 January 2022, it was quite reassuring that the EU had become comfortable with the Spotlight Initiative's progress and strategic direction. The EU informed that it was pleased with key ongoing initiatives, advocacy efforts, and the visibility for Spotlight, and noted with satisfaction the engagements with the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Ending GBV, the Governor's Forum, the GBV state of emergency declaration, and the town hall meeting with the President. The EU acknowledged government support and thanked the leadership of the government counterparts for the results achieved, expressing that it took a collective effort. "Through the Spotlight Initiative, we collectively demonstrated a multinational response for GBV in Nigeria," the EU Head of Delegation in Nigeria said.

The "high-level joint monitoring visits" have helped ensure the sustainability of the Spotlight Initiative. The purpose of the High-level visit was to inform the NSC, of which the EU is a founding member, about the status of implementation at the sub-national level and to advocate for continuity through the provision of statutory budget allocation by the state government, among other contributions. In November 2022, during the Spotlight High-Level Visit to Sokoto, high-level engagements were held between members of the Sokoto State Multi-Sectoral Response Team in an open forum with the executive members of the Spotlight Steering Committee. Committee members included the EU Ambassador, Ministers of Budget and Planning, Women's Affairs, and the UN Resident Coordinator.

The aim was to create increased commitment toward the protection and well-being of women and girls in Sokoto. The major achievements are highlighted below:

- Religious leaders openly speaking out on issues about ending child marriage.
- The Sultan of Sokoto reinforced his commitment to girls' education as a strategy for delaying child marriage.
- The endorsement of a two-year gender-transformative multi-sectoral plan for "Almajiri" and out-of-school adolescent girls in Sokoto.
- Addressing issues of VAWGs and calling on the government and other duty bearers to commit resources and establish structures for the full implementation of the Sokoto Child Protection Law and VAPP Act 2015.
- Women and girls protection-related strategies that ensure the sustainability of Spotlight interventions to ensure the well-being of women and girls long term.

## Cooperation with other UN agencies

The Spotlight programme in Nigeria has continued to enhance its inter-agency collaboration in the delivery of interventions and in the governance mechanisms. The technical team has strived to ensure the complementarity of interventions among recipient agencies. A notable example is the delivery of the GBV response OSC (One-Stop Centre) intervention. In line with its GBV area of responsibility, the Spotlight Initiative has developed standard operating procedures for the GBV one-stop centres and has shared these with other UN agencies (WHO, UNODC, and UN Gender Theme Group) to standardise services across the supported GBV response centres. The lead UN agency in the services pillar has rallied other agencies to bring their comparative advantage to bear in GBV response service provision in the OSCs, to ensure survivors receive individualised holistic packages. A non-formal education centre within the OSC has been set up, including the child protection systems across the OSCs, and its service delivery and entry point through building the capacity of service providers on training in child protection case management and information management system. The UN agency working with women's rights groups has also linked survivors to long-term recovery initiatives and pro bono legal services.

The agreed division of labour among UN agencies implementing the Spotlight Initiative is highlighted in the table below and is based on agency complementarity:

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S/N	Outcome/ Pillar	Lead/ sub-lead Agency	Contributing agencies	Implementation focus	% Share of budget allocated by pillar
1	LAWS & POLICIES	UNDP/UN Women	UNICEF, UNESCO, UNFPA	Advocacy and capacity building around human-rights-centered legislation, policies, and plans.	8%
2	INSTITUTIONS	UNDP/UN Women	UNESCO, UNICEF	Building the capacity of a multi-sectorial institution to deliver on the agreed laws and policies that eliminated VAWGs using a bottom-to-top approach.	8%
3	PREVENTION	UNFPA/UNICEF	UN Women, UNESCO, UNDP	Engagement of frontline providers, media, and community leadership (including religious and traditional) to prevent /create awareness on VAWG and the SRHR linkages including linkage to services.	32%
4	SERVICES	UNFPA/UN Women	UNESCO, UNICEF, UNDP	Strengthen and harmonize SGBV service provision protocols, guidelines, and referral pathways and support the establishment of standards for the SRHR needs of GBV and HP survivors.	32%
5	DATA	UNDP/UNFPA	UNICEF, UNESCO, UN Women	Quality, disaggregated and globally comparable data on different forms of violence against women and girls and harmful practices, collect, analyze, and used in line with international standards to inform laws, policies, and programmes.	10%
6	UN Women	UN Women	UNDP	Women's rights groups, and CSOs, including those representing youth and groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, are able to effectively influence and advance progress on GEWE and ending VAWG.	10%

NB: The percentage allocation that each six-pillars got vis-à-vis the total budget.

Indeed, the Spotlight Initiative in Nigeria has benefitted from the use of interagency tools. The Business Operations Strategy has helped to streamline the Spotlight operation among the five implementing agencies, helping to eliminate duplication in procurements and contracting, and has aided in maximising economies of scale during joint procurement and contracting. We have been able to leverage the common bargaining power of the UN. Additionally, the Spotlight Initiative has benefitted from the MoU concerning the provision and use of Common Services. The Spotlight secretariat was allocated space for the day-to-day running of the programme within UN House in Abuja. The space provision has made it possible for physical meetings in the conference room at UN House and has ensured better collaboration, communication, and coordination.

## Other partners

The Spotlight Initiative partnered with the media, academic institutions, and traditional and religious leaders. Sustained media engagement has been a core strategy and a key aspect of the communications and visibility plan. On Tuesday, 5 December 2023, at the United Nations, UN Auditorium in Abuja, a Nigerian film that tackles the problem of gender-based violence was released to the public as part of the Spotlight programme media engagement. A feature-length film, "Deafening Silence," consists of 44 episodes of television and 8 episodes of a limited series. "Deafening Silence is not just a movie for entertainment but in search of delivering compelling and thought-provoking moments that will serve as a catalyst," demonstrates how the Spotlight Initiative perfectly integrates with the aims of the Nigerian government and the UN Gender theme group.

Engaging traditional and religious leaders was sustained throughout the life of the project. A key advocacy virtual event held on 6 August 2020, organised jointly by the Spotlight Initiative recipient agencies: Round Table with Traditional and Religious Leaders on Eliminating GBV and Harmful Practices Against Women and Girls in Nigeria. The virtual event had good participation and brought key issues to the fore in addressing social norms that drive GBV and harmful practices (HP). There is an observed improvement among 30 traditional and religious leaders on the knowledge of gender equality and the formal and informal law affecting SGBV, HP, and SRHR and increased cohesion of influential community leaders. Traditional and religious leaders, through the Council of Traditional Leaders of Africa (COTLA), now have an established work plan for addressing violence against women and girls, a stronger platform, and greater confidence to challenge stringent norms and root causes of violence. Religious leaders now report the incidence of GBV in their communities and support the referral of survivors to access services at designated health centres. Their efforts were further supported by the launch of the landmark assessment on customary and formal law as reported under Outcome 1 and facilitated by UN Women's capacity strengthening on concepts around GBV, legislation, and harmful social norms targeting traditional and religious leaders.



The Spotlight Initiative leveraged the platform of the National Association of Women Judges in Nigeria (NAWJN), the Nigerian wing of the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ), and a powerful coalition of feminist judges during its 2022 Annual National Conference in Abuja. This allowed female judges to address the institutional bottlenecks within the judiciary that constrained access to justice for children. Over 150 female judges and allied justice actors acquired knowledge on the practical application of protective provisions of the new legislation on ending GBV and their expected role. This resulted in commitments to support engagements within the judiciary on two critical issues: (i) developing a case management system to track existing court cases of gender and sexual violence against children in the six focus states and (ii) working with the Heads of Courts in the focus states and advocating for measures to expedite the hearing of identified cases.





# RESULTS

Capturing Broader Transformations  
Across Outcomes



# Capturing Broader Transformations Across Outcomes

The UN reform has provided the framework upon which the Spotlight Initiative was implemented. The spotlight governance structure and the implementation modalities adopted the UN reform's "new way of working" specifically, "delivering-as-one," which has concatenated beyond the UN into the working modalities of spotlight implementing partners. For example, government agencies now find ways to work hand in hand with CSOs, as well as utilise services provided by them.

The Spotlight Initiative in Nigeria put into action the framework that the UN reform offered. The "new way of working," especially "delivering-as-one," has been ingrained in the spotlight governance structure and implementation mechanisms established by the UN reforms. This has extended beyond the UN and into the working modalities of spotlight implementing partners. For instance, government organisations increasingly collaborate closely with CSOs and make use of the services they offer. The Neem Foundation, a prominent implementing partner in Northern Nigeria, currently offers therapy for secondary trauma to the government organisation (NAPTIP). Resultantly, NAPTIP now collaborates with the University of Technology in Yola to help deliver samples gathered at the ground scene via a third-party courier. Indeed, the principle of "delivering-as-one" has proven to be an effective and sustainable way of collaborating to end all forms of violence against women and girls in Nigeria.

The programme has also enabled shifts in attitudes towards government work, where for the first time, the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs has not only financially supported a centre they once only ran by proxy but now actively participates as managers of the OSC. A common finding amongst both CSOs and government partners was sharing sensitive GBV identifiable data with donors without complying with the Information Sharing Protocol and the protection policy guiding GBV data. With the initiation of re-training and supportive supervision, the CSOs and government facilities are now compliant with the protection policy on GBV data sharing.

Religious differences are known to be a major social determinant of events. The programme has enabled community-based religious bodies to independently create platforms to work together by identifying their challenges and together proffering solutions. This started through the joint inter-faith programme for GBV.

The increase in demand for shelter has recently gone up with testimonies from survivors linking this with information received from the Ripple Project, which is the peer-to-peer information dissemination platform for young people.

To support increased emphasis on the engagement with and participation of persons with disabilities, the programme trained personnel on GBV Protection Systems Strengthening, Case Management, and GBV Service Delivery Master Trainers. Efforts to end all forms of VAWG included intentionally targeting, identifying, and engaging with adolescent girls living with disabilities (including survivors of violence and other in- and out-of-school adolescent girls). The programme worked to improve step-down learning and enhanced girls' capacity to speak up, look out for peers, identify, report, and refer cases of VAWG to appropriate authorities in their communities. Specifically, their contributions during the engagements revealed that girls living with disabilities faced even worse forms of sexual, physical, and emotional violence and intersectional discrimination due to their conditions, especially when they are uninformed and relegated to the background. In Onicha LGA of Ebonyi state, one adolescent peer educator trainee living with a disability committed to joining the efforts to end all forms of VAWG, specifically female genital mutilation (FGM) which is practised in her community. Her commitment was on two levels, first to herself (building high self-esteem and values against any form of abuse because of her physically challenging state) and to her community (by identifying and reporting all forms of abuse and educating her peers to end all forms of VAWG).

In the same vein, persons with disabilities were targeted and engaged as participants in the community dialogues toward ending VAWG. They were also drafted as co-members of community surveillance teams to represent their community's interests. This also ensured their increased involvement and participation and an ongoing emphasis on increased recognition of persons with disabilities as able and contributing members of their societies. Specifically, the government at the sub-national level has risen to the challenge and is more supportive of the Spotlight Initiative. The Ministry of Women's Affairs and the Ministry of Health now have recurring budget allocations to support activities geared at ending all forms of violence against women. Most importantly, the Ministry of Women Affairs chairs and coordinates the monthly meetings of the state technical working group on EVAWGs.

## Reporting on the implementation of Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation (PME): Tools, methodology, and/or strategies adopted to integrate PME

The Results-Oriented Monitoring (ROM) approach was implemented in Nigeria through the Spotlight Initiative. The annual joint stakeholders' monitoring exercise continued to be based on the following principles: participation, accountability, co-learning, and transparency. The Nigerian government, the EU, the CSRG, and the UN are all involved in the monitoring effort. "The Joint Monitoring Visit Reporting Tool\_2.0" is the internal instrument that the stakeholders jointly agreed upon for the joint monitoring exercise. With a focus on five major programme areas—leadership and partnership, documentation level, quality of services provided, Spotlight branding and visibility, intervention impact, and corrective action plan—the updated tool is both practical and comprehensive. Deputy heads of agencies were among the many participants in the debriefing meeting. Important concerns observed in the field are reviewed at the debriefing session, and solutions are presented to address the difficulties found. The individuals in charge of accountability and tracking then went on to create a detailed timetable. The heads of agencies received the joint monitoring reports as well, which has made it easier to follow up directly on important actions. As a result, RUNOs are now able to deliver the expected results.

### Main results achieved in the implementation of PME

As a result, timely and credible evidence is available to support decisions. Reports on the state of activity implementation at the national and subnational levels were produced collaboratively. Unlike before, the tools we currently use assist in providing the implementing CSOs with personalised corrective actions or follow-up activities. Greater ownership by the government is fostered through their active participation in our joint monitoring visits, which includes the EUD, the CSRG, and the Government of Nigeria. The government's ability to respond to and address issues has improved thanks to the Spotlight Initiative. For instance, a forceful government circular demanding compliance with the early resumption of all health workers in Lagos state followed the identification of issues regarding the late resumption of health professionals.

### Lessons learnt in implementing PME?

- (i) We have learned that PME is a process that is very beneficial to the implementing CSOs at the sub-national level as it helps to further improve their understanding and technical capacity to deliver on what is expected.
- (ii) Carrying out the joint monitoring visit is not the goal in itself; what is most important is the use of the information gathered in the field to make the necessary adjustments and corrections to ensure the project is on track.
- (iii) Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation foster learning (particularly on what has worked and what has not).

## Any innovative, promising, or good practices related to participatory?

Yes, a good practice we have unanimously adopted is the conduct of state-level debriefing meetings after the joint monitoring exercise. The state-level debriefing is important as it provides an opportunity to further discuss the issues identified in the field and can serve as a platform for capacity building and ensuring everyone is on the same page.

(i) "The joint monitoring exercise is a practice that the government of Nigeria intends to adopt for other projects. You can't effectively manage a project without the PME component." - Spotlight Initiative Desk Officer, Ministry of Women Affairs.

(ii) "The annual PME exercise is useful and beneficial to the implementing CSOs as they can take the necessary correction on time to ensure the project doesn't go off track." - Adamawa CSO Reference Group Team Lead.

## Capturing Change at Outcome Level

### Outcome 1: Legal and Policy Framework

Four multi-sectoral costed action plans and monitoring and evaluation frameworks on the implementation of the VAPP Act now exist, serving as key policy guidelines. The development of these sectoral costed action plans received significant input from 71 women's rights organisations in Adamawa, Ebonyi, Cross River, and Sokoto states. An inclusive and participatory method of crafting the plans was adopted, which strengthened the capacity of 168 key government officials (82 females, 86 males) in constructing laws and policies to eliminate SGBV/HP and promote SRHR. The multi-sectoral costed action plans provide clear guidelines for funding and full implementation of the VAPP law in states where it has been passed. Additionally, there are now five multi-sectoral costed action plans and Monitoring and Evaluation Frameworks on the implementation of the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Act. Significant contributions were collected from 71 women's rights organisations in the states of Adamawa, Ebonyi, Cross River, Lagos, and Sokoto. The plans were developed using an inclusive and participatory approach, which improved the capability of 228 key government officials (110 men and 118 women) to draft laws and policies that would end SGBV/HP and advance SRHR. In the states where the VAPP law has been implemented, the multi-sectoral costed action plans offer precise instructions for financing and complete enactment of the law. The states have gazetted the costed action plans to demonstrate their commitment towards accelerating the implementation of the VAPP and similar legislation. Similarly, the voices of women's groups and their ability to advocate at a high level have been further demonstrated through the leadership of the women's movement in presenting sectoral plans to the Executive Governors of Cross River and Sokoto States.

410 (198 females and 212 males) parliamentarians and key staff of ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) now have increased awareness of human rights standards and obligations, as well as enhanced

capacity to develop laws and policies facilitated by training and interactive dialogue sessions. 738 women-led organisations and 30 human rights defenders now have improved capabilities to develop laws and policies that support ending violence against women and girls (EVAWG) and promote the fundamental rights of women and girls. This reporting period, in particular, saw increased engagement and demand for accountability from WROs with the National Assembly, through strategic advocacy visits. WROs demonstrated a clear strengthened ability to outline requests on the passage of pending laws and policies such as the Anti-Sexual Harassment Bill, Gender and Equal Opportunity Bill, as well as Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) framework to ensure gender lensing in the 2023 national and sub-national budgeting to ensure gender-sensitive fiscal and monetary policies in the annual budget. Similarly, the Executive Governor of Adamawa State assented to the Adamawa State Child Protection Law for implementation after several advocacies.

410 parliamentarians (198 women and 212 men), as well as key personnel from the judicial and legislative branches of government, paramilitary, law enforcement, and penal agencies, Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs), have become more knowledgeable and conscious of human rights duties and standards, and they are better equipped to draft and enact human rights legislation, treaties, and policies thanks to training and interactive conversation sessions. Now, 30 human rights defenders and 738 women-rights organisations (WRO) are better equipped to draft legislation and policies that uphold EVAWG and advance women's and girls' fundamental rights. Through targeted advocacy engagements, there has been an increase in the demand for WRO accountability and involvement with the National Assembly. WROs showed a definite improvement in their capacity to request reviews including advocacy for the 35% affirmative action for women.

The Cumulative reporting period coincided with the end of a two-year review process of the 1999 Constitution at the national level and cascaded to the state level. In phase I, WROs were actively engaged in presenting a Charter of Demands towards a gender-sensitive constitution in Nigeria, resulting in the emergence of five gender-related bills in the constitution review by the National Assembly. In this reporting period, WROs' capacity to organise and advocate for GEWE legislation was heightened. 2000 members of women's groups representing persons with disabilities, women rights' defenders, youth-based organisations, market women, women in media, and women in politics mobilised themselves in strong but peaceful, strategic resistance in response to the National Assembly's rejection of the hard-won progress of the five gender-related bills. An additional 2,000 women and youth were mobilised digitally to endorse an online petition. The protest and subsequent pressure mounted on the National Assembly by the WROs culminated in the House of Representatives rescinding three out of five of the gender-related bills which related to: ending discrimination and economic violence against women; 35% affirmative action in leadership; and the right to bestow indigeneship on a non-Nigerian spouse as afforded to Nigerian men.

One landmark policy guidance addressing tensions and areas of synergy between customary or religious and formal laws and policies on VAWG was developed by the programme. In consultation with WROs

and CSOs, the findings of the assessment were developed into advocacy knowledge products used in engaging and facilitating workshops with the justice sector actors through the Presidential Inter-Ministerial Committee on SGBV Sensitisation, human rights defenders, Ministry of Women Affairs, and the legislature at national and sub-national levels for transforming conflicting customary/religious and formal laws that perpetuate VAWG. The assessment was conducted in Spotlight-focused states with key participants including critical government stakeholders, civil rights CSOs such as FIDA, women's groups and associations, and traditional/customary/religious leaders.

## Outcome 2: Institutions

The National Human Rights Commission GBV toll-free number (short code 6472) was successfully launched in six Spotlight states, leading to an increase in reportage of violation cases. In commemoration of 16 Days of Activism, the National Human Rights Commission, in collaboration with the Spotlight Initiative, conducted a massive awareness campaign for the CRM's newly approved short code (toll-free number) across six Spotlight states: Adamawa, Cross River, Ebonyi, Sokoto, Lagos, and FCT. In Lagos, Sokoto, and Adamawa states, 99 WROs and CSOs, including those advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities and persons facing multiple forms of discrimination, such as albinos and persons living with HIV/AIDs, have greater awareness and understanding of gender-responsive budgeting issues. These include protecting women's interests at the grassroots, allowing for inclusive public financing policies towards EVAWG, and ensuring the equal participation of women and girls in public resource allocation. The women's movement is now better positioned to make more strategic asks for resources to implement EVAWG-related policies and legislation through this sensitisation undertaken by the programme.

Following the successful introduction of the National Human Rights Commission's GBV toll-free number (short code 6472) in six Spotlight states, there has been a rise in the number of incidents of violations reported. The National Human Rights Commission, in partnership with the Spotlight Initiative, launched a massive awareness campaign for the CRM's recently approved short code (toll-free number) throughout six Spotlight states: Adamawa, Cross River, Ebonyi, Sokoto, Lagos, and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) during the celebration of 16 Days of Activism in 2022. 1,505 WROs and CSOs, including those fighting for the rights of people with disabilities and those facing multiple forms of discrimination, such as albinos and people living with HIV/AIDS, have a better awareness and understanding of gender-responsive budgeting issues in the 5+1 focus states. 1,505 women's rights advocates demonstrated a stronger capacity to integrate EVAWG into the development plans of other sectors, including the health sector. These same WROs and CSOs are committed to mobilising other women groups, networks, associations, and persons with disabilities in advocacy to hold national and sub-national governments accountable to the commitments on GRB as contained in the policy direction on GRB signed by the President in 2020.



A network of 30 criminal justice actors from the six spotlight-implementing states has been developed to promote access to justice for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence. This initiative aligns with building institutions for improved EAWG responses, including quality services for survivors. These actors now possess a greater understanding of national, international, and regional frameworks on sexual and gender-based violence, as well as the judiciary's role in guaranteeing victim-centred justice devoid of implicit prejudices that impede the administration of justice. The strengthening of capacity for criminal justice personnel and High Court Judges has been mainstreamed through collaboration between UN agencies, the Federal Ministry of Justice, and the Office of the Chief Justice.

Alongside the capacity to draft EAWG-related laws, policies, and plans as reported in Outcome 1, 410 parliamentarians (198 females and 212 males) and key staff of MDAs now have increased capacity to transform laws and policies into actionable programmes on EAWG. A major win of the interventions in this reporting period was the mandatory call for all MDAs to adopt the use of gender-disaggregated data to show beneficiary distribution and to adopt strategies that target different social groups, especially women and children.

GRB for 2022 and 2023 is stipulated in the 2023 budget circular, complementing the developed Sectoral Costed Action Plans reported under Outcome 1. Knowledge on developing and financing EAWG-related programmes is further institutionalised in the National Assembly through the increased capacity of 25 key legislative aides (9 females, 16 males) on GRB.



This will increase public financing towards EVAWG. Legislative aides at the National Assembly with core functions on providing technical support to Federal legislators on budget cycle management received training on implementing GRB assessments through a proprietary tool from the UN. In addition, there is increased motivation at the regional and national institutions to mainstream gender-responsiveness in national plans, and parliamentarians across West Africa demonstrate improved knowledge on applicable issues relating to GRB. To this end, the interventions have further consolidated regional partnerships at the highest level towards EVAWG.

The Spotlight Initiative has contributed to strengthening the legal framework and an enabling environment to advance a strengthened and regulated social service workforce for child protection and response to all forms of violence against girls and women in Nigeria. It has done this by supporting the development and enactment of the Nigerian Council for Social Work (Establishment) Act, 2022 on 6 December 2022; the commissioning of an unprecedented gaps assessment of the social welfare workforce in eight states and the FCT; proffering recommendations on strengthening the social service workforce in Nigeria; establishment of the Social Service Workforce Coordination Group; and development of an accreditation system and a curriculum/training package for auxiliary social workers who will be community-based child protection actors.

The spotlight intervention increased the capacity of the Ministry of Women Affairs in Sokoto in key accountability frameworks, including the sex offenders register. Six state ministries of Women Affairs in Spotlight states regularly convene key stakeholders around issues of VAWG in their respective states. Also, a coordination mechanism at the national level has been revitalised and strengthened through the SGBV Response Unit and Secretariat of the Inter-Ministerial Management Committee on Eradication of SGBV. There is an increased engagement with 19 existing second-chance education centres and 36 second-chance education facilitators in Ebonyi and Cross River states. They can now better deliver a comprehensive second chance education (SCE) curriculum with improved facilitation skills and refined knowledge of concepts of VAWG/HP in line with global standards.

### **Outcome 3: Preventions**

Prevention and Norm Change Community networks are more empowered to identify and report instances of violence and are better equipped to propagate messages on available services and human rights on SGBV. This has been made possible by the existence of progressive legislation. Leveraging on the passage of key laws has increased awareness and provided a strong base for advocacy for shifting harmful gender norms. There is an observed improvement among 30 traditional and religious leaders on the knowledge of gender equality and the formal and informal law affecting SGBV, HP, and SRHR, and increased cohesion of influential community leaders. Traditional and religious leaders through the Council of Traditional Leaders of Africa (COTLA) have established a work plan towards addressing VAWG, and a stronger platform and greater confidence to challenge stringent norms and root causes of violence. Their efforts are supported by the launch of the landmark assessment on customary and

formal law as reported under Outcome 1 and facilitated by the programme's capacity strengthening on concepts around GBV, legislation, and harmful social norms targeting traditional and religious leaders. Community safety nets to prevent and support the transformation of negative social norms identified among the root causes of VAWG are stronger. Over the life of the project, 877 community advocacy platforms comprising traditional and religious leaders, women groups, youth groups, male networks, and artisans/trade groups leaders were established and revitalised using a social and behaviour change communication approach, in the 5+1 focus states.

This has allowed networks to conduct a social norm mapping of their communities in relation to VAWG and to identify existing community practices that can reinforce the prevention of such violence. The outcome of this mapping is a better understanding of practices that should be strengthened, including increased participation of women in non-traditional roles, including community leadership and promotion of education for girls instead of disenfranchising practices such as money-wife. These are supported by community-level advocacies to engender positive behaviours and changes in norms perpetuating VAWG. The engagement offered the community groups a better platform to express their commitment to policing and preventing VAWG in their communities. The outcomes of the social norm exploration have also served as a rich source for the development of key messages transmitted in Spotlight states through in-person community fora, short films, social media content, including Facebook posts yielding 258,430 views, and radio jingles with 7,258,430 listeners (45% female, 55% male).

Cumulatively, 709,008 (women and men) regularly attended community programmes which promoted gender-equitable norms, attitudes, and behaviours, including in relation to women and girls' sexuality and reproduction. As a result, positive behaviours that curtail GBV are more likely to be perpetuated. Furthermore, 6,969 (3,181 men, 3,788 boys) regularly attended gender transformative programmes addressing violent masculinities and men's violence towards women and girls in the 5+1 focus states.

Favourable social norms, attitudes, and behaviours have been demonstrated by students in learning institutions by their establishment of seven school-related GBV clubs in secondary schools and tertiary institutions, as well as among male-dominated groups.

Students and community leaders are more effective in promoting gender-equitable social norms, challenging harmful practices, and supporting survivors of GBV in their communities. Institutional advocacy platforms for messaging and engagements in the promotion of gender-equitable norms, prevention of EAWG/SGBV/HP and promotion of SRHR have been strengthened through improved knowledge of 59,460 girls/40,525 boys who are "in school" and 54,479 girls/28,373 out-of-school boys on norms transformation towards preventing SGBV/HP. The knowledge-sharing sessions focused on building the capacity of the boys to speak out and challenge norms and beliefs that promote SGBV such as victim blaming, stigma, and unequal distribution of household roles and responsibilities in the communities through peer-to-peer sensitisation. The in-school and out-of-school boys have been linked to the Young Men's Network on SGBV in their communities as part of the plans to sustain the knowledge-



sharing sessions and further engagements in promoting gender-equitable norms. The programme further observed increased awareness and skills of 1,329 leaders/influencers (532 women, 797 men) to advocate for gender-equitable social norms, challenge harmful practices, and collect and keep records of data related to GBV. This change was facilitated by town hall meetings and training of trainers' sessions.

#### **The Ripple Project:**

Increased reach through an effective peer-to-peer information dissemination platform. The Ripple is an awareness-raising peer education programme by youths for youths on ending GBV/HP and promoting SRH. This project involves identifying, engaging, and building the capacity of young people to serve as peer educators on topics around VWAG and SRH promotion. This utilises both one-on-one and group conversation sessions which leverage existing platforms. These peer educators also leverage several existing social media platforms to disseminate information. Data on this programme is uploaded live as the conversation takes place. This service has improved knowledge sharing on GBV/HP and uptake of SRH as seen in the already reported increase in service demand.

#### **Participatory Community Action Plan:**

Sustainable community-based action against GBV/HP and an increase in the uptake of SRH services increased. The PCAP is a multi-stage activity that gives room for the processing of the different forms of sensitivities. It involves contextualisation, issue generation and prioritising, action plan/solution strategy, and implementing the plan within a specified and feasible time. This is the designed system for the community-based joint religious approach to identify local issues surrounding women and girls and to proffer solutions through religious texts. Having identified the issues distinctly, both groups come together to harmonise the issues and develop a solution plan together and implement it jointly. The process involves several levels of rapport building and situational autonomy that enhance confidence and strengthen community acceptance. The programme converts religious leaders from the perceived standpoint of being the source of inequality source of patriarchy to actors for change. The joint religious programme has demonstrated improved knowledge in problem identification and community-based solutions through the development of community action. The community plans include reporting GBV cases, referrals to health centres, support for access to justice, etc. These plans are funded by the communities which is a testament to the buy-in and the sustainability of the project.

#### **The Safe Space Programme:**

The increased reportage from young girls and adolescents in schools has indicated the knowledge transfer and the space for the trust that the safe space has provided over the years. This service (pregnancy-related services; contraception; HIV and STI prevention and diagnosis and treatment of STIs; and integrate services for gender-based violence) were set up both for "in" and "out of school" adolescents to ensure that young girls are taught about prevention against violence, especially VAWG, and to encourage the uptake of SRH services in designated youth-friendly centres.

2023



The Paramount Ruler of Obanliku, Cross River State  
HRM Uchua Amos Uyumulam

## Outcome 4: Quality Services

In keeping with the Spotlight Initiative's survivor-centred approach, a total of 2,558 women and 579 girls have increased knowledge and access to recovery services through interventions in this reporting period. This comprised women and girls reached via SCE, livelihood interventions, community savings groups, survivors' forum and sensitisations conducted during key advocacy moments including the 16 Days of Activism against GBV in 2022 and through innovative partnerships and learning exchanges with other programmes supported by the EU including RoLAC.

In this reporting period, interventions that adhere to the survivor-centred approach of the Spotlight Initiative have improved the knowledge and access to recovery services for 98,382 women and 46,512 girls. This included sensitisation campaigns held during crucial advocacy moments, such as the 16 Days of Activism against GBV, and through creative collaborations and learning exchanges with other EU-supported programmes, such as RoLAC. Women and girls were reached through SCE, livelihood interventions, community savings groups, survivors' forums, and sensitisation campaigns.

1,463 survivors (comprising 218 women, 1,110 girls, and 135 boys) of SGBV received professional and timely medical and psychosocial support from OSCs. Follow-up activities to ensure long-term recovery were also conducted in the OSCs in Sokoto and Lagos states. The survivors' meetings at both centres were transformed into 50 self-supporting platforms such as the Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) to strengthen gender rights awareness, provide in-group psychosocial supports among the survivors, and promote their economic empowerment. Two early and forced child marriage survivors (CEFM) from Obanliku, as well as one 17-year-old sexual violence/neglect survivor from Ebonyi, were rescued, rehabilitated, and reintegrated into their communities. Coherence across Spotlight Outcomes has been strengthened and is demonstrated through the achievements under Pillar 4. The Federation of Women Lawyers of Nigeria (FIDA) provided legal advice to service seekers twice a week, as well as the use of medical experts from the centre as expert witnesses in Court which has further linked service seekers with the Second Chance Education programme.

This reporting period has received increased government commitment from the Ebonyi State Government (ESG) and relevant CSOs towards the establishment of an OSC in Abakaliki. In anticipation of the full operation of the OSC in the first quarter of 2023, medical personnel and social work personnel have been trained to facilitate the provision of services at the OSC, while a centre manager to oversee the management has also been recruited. Four community-based structures have been established in collaboration with the Ebonyi State Ministry of Women Affairs and local community leaders in the communities with high prevalence of SGBV (Onicha and Ohaozara LGAs) to report and follow up on SGBV cases, while also supporting the creation of awareness among women and girls for the uptake of services at the OSC. One centralised referral directory has been developed to provide information about available services in Ebonyi State to respond to cases of SGBV and HP. This was achieved through the mapping of available services in partnership with CSOs, key MDAs and the Ebonyi State SGBV Response Team.



Although the OSC is yet to become fully operational, the delay in operational take-off was in furtherance of realising ESG's commitment regarding the ownership and management of the OSC in terms of funding and deployment of relevant personnel to engender phase-over to ESG from the onset. This is in line with ensuring the sustainability of the centre while the programme is providing technical support for its establishment.

To lessen the effects of SGBV, there is an increased awareness of and access to vital services for women and girls with disabilities. 67 women and girls—57 of whom are disabled—are more knowledgeable about the resources available to SGBV survivors and are better suited to gather and handle data on female service seekers who are disabled. To improve inclusive quality services, relevant government stakeholders at the national and sub-national levels, as well as CSOs, were informed on the evidence supporting the national response for reporting, preventing, and reacting to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in women and girls with disabilities. A study was commissioned in 2022 on the knowledge gaps regarding SGBV and the experiences and access to GBV of women and girls with disabilities, the recommendations were adopted and action to better support the access of women with disabilities to essential services in the health centres.

The role of community surveillance teams cannot be understated as they are instrumental in prevention and in increasing access to services. On an annual basis, refresher trainings were provided for community teams in the 5+1 focus states to further increase their knowledge and skills to deliver quality and coordinated essential services to women and girls in their communities. This has supported the review and updating of existing referral directories and bridging the gaps to ensure institutional memory among community members and that more members of the community are empowered with knowledge on issues of domestic and sexual violence.

Cumulatively, a total of 4,688 government service providers (2,886 men and 1,802 women) demonstrated increased knowledge and capacities to deliver quality and coordinated essential services to women and girl survivors of violence. The targets reached include justice sector actors, legislative aides, legislators, and officials of MDAs from education, health, justice, women's affairs, youth and social development. Their capacities were built on multi-sectoral service provision as reported in Outcomes 1 and 2. Furthermore, a total of 417 WROs, one network of persons with disabilities, have increased capacity to facilitate access to essential services. Additionally, 205 WROs, 55 representing marginalised communities including persons living with disabilities and 100 grassroots organisations, demonstrated an increased capacity to better integrate VAWG response into SRHR education.

Education institutions in the 5+1 focus states have incorporated second-chance education as part of holistic recovery for survivors of SGBV. 2,811 (2,290 women, 521 girls) now have basic numeracy and literacy skills, ensuring better long-term recovery and reducing the risk of further violence whilst also opening opportunities for personal and career development. SCE sessions have been conducted in safe, confidential, and non-judgmental spaces which have increased access to support networks and



strengthened awareness and knowledge of SRHR. Participants have improved reading and writing skills, the ability to spell and write their names, identify days of the week, body parts, months of the year, different Nigerian currencies, the English alphabet and perform basic arithmetic. Furthermore, 143 basic literacy learners are committed to entering formal education and registering for the first school leaving certificate examination. The learners have been properly documented to enable mainstreaming, as well as support the registration for the first school leaving certificate.

The second chance education programme has strengthened referral pathways and enhanced holistic service provision in the 5+1 focus states. Two guidelines for SCE for Ebonyi and Cross River states have been further developed. Learners are now able to identify and report cases of VAWG to the appropriate authorities such as the State Ministry of Women Affairs, the Project Support and Advocacy Committees within their communities, as well as civil society strategic partnership with the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), Nana Khadija Sexual Referral Centre (SARC), and other Spotlight implementing partners have further been strengthened and leveraged to identify and enrol women and girls at risk of, and survivors of, SGBV into the second chance education programme. In Ebonyi and Cross River, 17 Project Support and Advocacy Committees (PSAC) were formed in all the 17 benefiting communities to support project implementation and sustainability efforts. They have hugely supported project implementation during community mobilisation, reporting, and referral of VAWG cases, ensuring adequate security and availability of venue, chairs/desks during SCE sessions, etc. The PSAC members are actively involved in monitoring the SCE classes as they visited the classes and attended to various challenges both facilitators and students encountered in the process.

Through the programme's SCE interventions, 428 women and girls are now generating income to support their independence through the sale of products manufactured with skills acquired from the second chance programme. In the life of the project, a total of 1,928 women and girls have benefited from vocational skills training across the two states. The skills are shoe making, computer appreciation, tailoring, soap making, hairdressing, bag making, barbing, fixing of eyelashes/nails, confectionery, decoration, tying of head ties (gele), making of hair fascinators, polythene bags production, and beading. Participants have shown improved knowledge and skills in the various skills taught as well as customer relations, negotiation, and communication. Further, a total of 10 business development, financial literacy and mentoring sessions were conducted for 526 participants in Cross River State. The overall strategy is that economic empowerment affords GBV survivors the financial independence to leave abusive relationships to prevent GBV. An in-house survey conducted amongst 300 survivors of GBV in northern Nigeria revealed that female GBV survivors have reported significantly less incidence of GBV after their empowerment through the second chance education.

Mentorship and coaching have sustained the successful running of 37 cooperatives established in 2020 in Ebonyi and Cross River states with an additional 50 cooperatives established in Sokoto in 2022. The cooperatives are now more functional as they hold their meetings regularly with supervision from

cooperative officers from the government ministries. They have expanded their membership, opened bank accounts, and are contributing and making savings. Some cooperatives have started investing and utilising their funds for businesses, providing small loans for members to begin their businesses, and getting interest in return. Some have conducted fundraising events towards the building of the proposed fashion centre in their community.

1,000 survivors of GBV have had increased access to group and individual psychosocial support and counselling. In Sokoto state, 700 participants from Sokoto North LGA and 300 from Binji LGA were assessed and provided services using structured clinical psychological assessment tools - Depression Anxiety and Stress Scale (DASS) and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) - which facilitated the development of 871 care plans for participants. There has been a 90% reduction in survivors presenting with PTSD and an 80% reduction in those presenting with depression, anxiety, and stress after post-assessment. The two LGAs provided individual counselling to 1,000 clients and conducted 288 group counselling sessions reaching a total of 1,000 participants across project sites. This has helped the participants through their healing process. Sporting and recreational activities have created safe spaces for survivors to reintegrate socially into their communities and to dispel negative energy and feelings. Survivors have greater access to community support networks and experience increased confidence and team spirit. All 1,000 participants have been engaged in 219 expressive therapy sessions which have promoted social cohesion and community bonding. It has further promoted self-confidence and self-worth among participants, supporting healing processes.

#### **GBV-Virtual Referral & Response Services (VRRS):**

The service provided access to referrals and counselling for thousands of women and girls who otherwise would not have access. It targeted all socio-economic strata of society, linking security and health services to individuals. This has become a mainstream reporting channel, now managed by the government to ensure sustainability. It is a 24-hour digital service provision that utilises a toll-free line to enable the vulnerable access service from any location within the state.

#### **Forensic Setup:**

In a society of impunity rigged against women and girls, DNA technology has revolutionised legal evidence beyond testimonies. This has been efficient in aiding women to seek justice with greater confidence than deniable word of mouth. The lab has run about 60 samples this year alone, enabling the opening of 11 investigation cases with three in court. This will soon become mainstream and can only increase the confidence of the vulnerable towards accessing justice. Before now, prosecutors faced the challenge of not having proof to convict perpetrators. The DNA forensic lab now provides expert evidence for the conviction of perpetrators.

## Outcome 5: Data

The Federal Ministry of Women's Affairs now has the capacity to coordinate GBV data collection and analysis from the 36 states in the GBV data hub at the Ministry through State Ministries of Women's Affairs nationwide. This intervention has brought various GBV programming stakeholders and donor organisations in Nigeria together. Through advocacy, the team secured the buy-in of governments, NGOs/CSOs like FHI and Jhpiego, donor organisations like USAID, and other key stakeholders for enabling responses/actions to end GBV in Nigeria. This promotes a multi-sectoral approach to GBV prevention and response. Presently, the FMOWA is now championing, sustaining, and galvanising other donor agencies to support this great initiative and, currently, we have Jhpiego, USAID, and other stakeholders funding the Situation Room. The most recent national GBV data highlights a total number of 13,933 cases have been reported so far: 532 fatal cases; 731 closed cases; 4,410 open cases; and 54 convicted perpetrators. Similarly, in all six geo-political zones, the Spotlight programme supported the development of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and data-sharing protocols of the Child Protection Information Management System V2. The programme provided technical support and capacity building to enhance the integrated case management system. This system has strengthened and improved the quality of the digitalised information management system that tracks incidents, referrals, service provision, and programme monitoring for cases of abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence against children.

The system is operational in the six Spotlight states with fully functional units domiciled in the federal and respective state Ministries of Women Affairs and Social Development. In 2023, gender-friendly policies in the state were informed by knowledge products (newsletters, information sheets) that were created and distributed to pertinent stakeholders and the public. Data from the National GBV Dashboard was also utilised to influence public policy and the nation's response to GBV. Programmes aimed at reducing violence against women and girls have been informed by the data examined from the National GBV Data Situation Room and Dashboard. In a similar vein, the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs oversaw data quality assessments (DQA) that were conducted to guarantee the accuracy of the presented data. 29 CSOs participated in this study, which was done in the 5+1 states as well as 29 non-spotlight focus states. Ensuring data availability, consistency, and validity of the provided GBV data was the outcome attained. With the technical capacity of the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs built for the conduct of DQAs, a costed budget was set aside to support a bi-annual conduct of DQAs.



# LAND OVER

## REMEMORANCE



Stage drama at the Handover/Closeout ceremony in Abuja  
The Federal Capital Territory

# LAND



R 28TH NOV.

Congress Hall  
Transocon Hilton



## Outcome 6: The Women's Movement

Women's rights groups, autonomous social movements, and CSOs, including those representing youth and groups facing intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalisation, more effectively influence and advance progress towards ending VAWGs/SGBV/HP. Through the use of traditional and non-traditional media engagements including the use of Round-table dialogues, the voices of the women's movement are respected, high-level influential networks including WOMANIFESTO, African Women Leaders Network (AWLN) Nigerian Chapter are formally recognised, and the women's movement is seen as a critical driver of political and social change in Nigeria. This is demonstrated through eight jointly agreed-on recommendations on ending VAWG that have emerged from multi-stakeholder dialogues held in Lagos, FCT, and Sokoto. Furthermore, 18 official dialogues were held with government officials facilitated by the programme and WROs. There is now a better environment for partnership and co-working between government and CSOs, including those representing marginalised groups, to partner on EAWG. The women's movement is inclusive of influential male allies including COTLA. Resultantly, the increased spotlight created around GBV, has led to an increase in GBV reportage in 2023. This is a progressive improvement against the backdrop of the "culture of silence" promoted by patriarchy.

1,505 CSOs and WROs are better positioned to make strategic political asks through strengthened knowledge of GRB. This has improved their advocacy skills for demanding accountability from state actors on favourable budgetary appropriations on eliminating all forms of VAWG. Women's movements sustain the advocacy gains made around the declaration of the State of Emergency on Rape and GBV, driven by the women's movement and have leveraged this platform to respond and issue strong position statements such as that of AWLN on the extrajudicial killing of Barr Bolanle Raheem and decrying all instances of extrajudicial killings of women in Nigeria by a member of the Nigeria Police Force.

A total of 1,505 WROs and women-led, youth-led and persons with disabilities-led CSOs had their capacities strengthened to design, plan, implement, and monitor EAWG programmes and monitor social accountability mechanisms relating to EAWG at national and sub-national levels. There has been a 70% use of social accountability tools by WROs.

This was done through mentorship, workshops and strengthening coordination mechanism in collaboration with Ministries of Women Affairs at the sub-national level to mobilize CSOs to conduct joint advocacies for EAWG programs. In the same manner, the Network of Women with Disabilities was supported to improve awareness of and strengthen access to essential services for women and girls with disabilities towards minimizing the impact of SGBV through facilitating capacity building sessions for Situation Room Data Officers and focal persons of Network of Women with Disabilities in the six Spotlight states.

The collaboration also resulted in the review of SGBV data collection tools to incorporate subsections for capturing data from survivors among women and girls with disabilities. The capacity-building initiative



reached a total of 46 persons (37 females, 9 males), 27 of whom were women with disabilities who, in turn, facilitated awareness sessions for 30 women and girls with disabilities. These activities were conducted in response to some of the significant findings of the assessment carried out in 2022, which aimed to identify the factors affecting access to essential services and data reporting by women and girls with disabilities in Nigeria.

Over the life of the project, the capacity of the CSRG to provide strategic direction and feedback on the implementation of the Spotlight Initiative in Nigeria was enhanced. An inception meeting was facilitated to clarify the role and responsibilities of the CSRG, review, and align the CSRG work plan with the larger work plan for the Spotlight Initiative. The inception meeting further strengthened the synergies between UN agencies and members of the CSRG to collaborate on a larger scale towards addressing VAWG/HP and promoting SRHR at national and local levels. A kick-off meeting was organised to clarify the objectives of the CSRG, their roles and responsibilities with the overall Spotlight Initiative work plan. The inaugural workshop reinforced the enhanced collaboration between UN agencies and CSRG members to collaborate on a larger scale in tackling VAWG/HP and advancing SRHR at local and national levels. Over the course of the project, the ability of CSRG members to provide strategic guidance and feedback on the implementation of the Spotlight Initiative in Nigeria has improved, as evidenced by the annual advisories provided to the Spotlight technical team, amongst others.

Knowledge and visibility of the importance of Nigeria's women's movement in cross-cutting themes of sustainable development, including democracy and climate action, and the intersection between violence against women and girls, have been strengthened among 1,700 women and men. Learning sessions were facilitated among key stakeholders around the learnings from the Global Spotlight symposium held in Mexico in 2022. The adoption of best practices, i.e., GBV reporting tools and templates from the Global symposium, has enhanced the capacity of the Ministry of Women's Affairs and the CSRG members in documenting and reporting on the gains made in addressing SGBV in Nigeria. In line with Outcome 4, a total of 38 local networks have been established to prevent and respond to VAWG, comprising 877 community surveillance groups, seven school-related GBV clubs, eight male networks, and COTLA.

**Reporting on SRHR:** The Spotlight Initiative in Nigeria has utilised its funds to expand access to SRHR information and services to mitigate certain challenges. Common among these challenges are maternal mortality and obstetric fistula.

- Maternal mortality encompasses all pregnancy-related deaths, for which Nigeria has some of the highest figures globally. These high rates informed the establishment of maternity waiting homes to improve access to emergency obstetric care by bringing pregnant women closer to facilities. This approach has reduced or eliminated all delays associated with transporting a pregnant woman to a facility.

- Similarly, pregnant young girls often face stigma when they attempt to access services. To ensure that young girls access services in a safe and convenient manner, the programme supported the establishment of a Young Mum's Clinic to ensure safe and hassle-free access to service delivery.
- Furthermore, the programme has continued to support the repairs of obstetric fistulas. It also integrated SRHR into other services, including the shelter programme through the OSC model and incorporated SRHR information into the entrepreneurship programme.

Finally, Spotlight has also incorporated SRHR information into religious teachings through its social and behavioural change programme on religious leaders and teachings.

Indicative Numbers	Direct (2019-2023)	Indirect (2019-2023)	Comments/ Explanations
Women (18yrs. and above)	2,252,748	27.9M	Second Chance Education Beneficiaries One-Stop Centre GBV Survivors. GBV Services Awareness Campaigns. COTLA Traditional Leader convenings. Women reached with messages on harmful practices including FGM. Persons reached through anti-GBV documentary video. Women reached through 16 Days of Activism campaign.
Girls (5-17)	1,745,776	21.6M	One-Stop Centre GBV Survivors. GBV Services Awareness Campaigns. Girls who received support to access services and messages on SRHR. Girls reached through social media campaigns. Girls reached through radio campaigns. Girl survivors who benefited from livelihood programme. Girls reached through 16 Days of Activism campaign. Second Chance Education Beneficiaries
Men (18yrs. and above)	971,555	3.8M	COTLA Traditional Leader convenings. GBV Services Awareness Campaigns Men who attended the community. Awareness programmes on violence against girls. Men reached through anti-GBV documentary video
Boys (5-17)	1,306,728	13.5M	Boys who attended the community awareness programmes on violence against girls. Boys reached through social media campaigns. Boys reached through radio campaigns. Men reached through anti-GBV documentary videos.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,549,807M</b>	<b>66.3M</b>	

# Challenges and Mitigating Measures

(i) Some changes in the internal financial system affected programme delivery timelines. This was particularly true during the transition from the ATLAS financial system to Quantum. To mitigate the challenges posed by the new system, the programme identified key activities and advanced funding beyond the usual quarterly system to ensure continuity in service delivery.

(ii) Insufficient funding for the Legislative Pillar, Access to Justice, and Law Enforcement (Case Response and Investigation): It has become evident that the VAWG/SGBV response within policy, access to justice, and law enforcement has not been allocated sufficient funds to allow for policy-focused interventions and conduct thorough responses and investigations of cases. The lack of funds leads to victims, CSOs involved in the case, or law enforcement officers themselves making out-of-pocket payments for transportation, medical examinations, legal fees, and other associated costs. Members of the Nigeria Police Force have also been indicted in several reports on violence for perpetuating violence, including sexual violence. This further discourages survivors from reporting cases. These challenges are being addressed through interventions on Gender-Responsive Budgeting (GRB) to secure sustainable funding for cases of VAWG/SGBV, training law enforcement officers on prevention and response to VAWG/SGBV, and high-level advocacy to ensure that the leadership of relevant institutions is on board.

(iii) The problem of Law Enforcement and Access to Justice (Case Response and Investigation): Insufficient funding committed to the VAWG/SGBV response within policy, access to justice, and law enforcement to support policy-focused interventions, comprehensive case investigations, and a complete response. Due to inadequate funding, victims, the CSOs working on the case, and the law enforcement officials themselves are forced to pay for associated expenditures such as transportation, medical exams, and legal bills out of pocket. There are emerging reports on security operatives' intimidation and aggression, including unlawful detention of suspects. This deters survivors even more from filing case reports. Interventions on Gender-Responsive Budgeting (GRB) are being deployed to address some of the issues around securing long-term funding for GBV cases. Similarly, retraining security operatives on the human rights approach to conducting GBV arrests is yielding the desired results.

(iv) Government staff turnovers challenged the institutionalisation of the sustainability plans: Deploying staff who work under different civil service rules made continuity quite difficult. This was managed by using the geographical locations of staff with proximity to service centres. Secondly, all staff of the Ministry of Women Affairs were trained so that there would always be replacement staff should there be a gap in human resources.

(v) Comparable data and reporting of GBV challenges at the sub-national level: The programme encountered issues with coordination and reporting of GBV data at the state level. To address this, discussions were initiated with the federal and state Ministry of Women's Affairs as they own the new

data dashboard for national GBV data. We have also conducted state-level advocacy, capacity building, and monitoring visits that have facilitated a better understanding of the need to work together on the harmonised system of GBV data reporting approved by the Minister of Women Affairs.

(vi) The challenge of comparable GBV datasets and quality data reporting at the sub-national level: The problem of comparable data and coordination at the state level around GBV data reporting was witnessed. Talks were initiated with the federal and state ministries of women's affairs to solve this issue. Additionally, advocacy, capacity building, and the conduct of routine data quality assessments were deployed. We have helped stakeholders realise how important it is to collaborate on the unified method of GBV data reporting that the Minister of Women Affairs authorised.

On the programme delivery side, environmental factors, including a general election and industrial strikes, for instance in tertiary institutions, led to the delayed delivery of interventions. The programme was able to anticipate and mitigate these challenges by planning interventions to end earlier, leaving a comfortable timeframe for costed and no-cost extensions to responsible parties. The time loss due to ASUU industrial strike action and elections.

## Lessons Learnt and New Opportunities

- Environmental circumstances, such as the general election and industrial strikes, for example, at higher education institutions, caused delays in the delivery of interventions on the programme delivery side. By scheduling interventions to conclude in the first quarter of the final programme, the programme was able to foresee and alleviate these difficulties and provide responsible parties with a comfortable window of opportunity for both paid and unpaid extensions.
- In order to create long-lasting and fruitful collaborations, it is critical to respect local customs and beliefs, speak in a way that is acceptable to the community (culturally sensitive), and ensure that local leaders serve as the main advocates for change. This is especially important in areas where the majority of the population are Muslim, such as Adamawa and Sokoto State.
- Early and persistent engagements with key stakeholders, like government officials and traditional and religious leaders, are key to achieving effective implementation and avoiding delays. Another central part of this is to identify key champions within the government agencies and other actors we are collaborating with to facilitate communication and commitment from our partners. It is imperative for local ownership and sustainability of the project to create opportunities for national and local stakeholders to actively engage from the onset of the project.
- The importance of disaggregating data, especially by responders to SGBV to include persons with disabilities, provides a holistic and inclusive approach to addressing the epidemic of abuse.
- Data disaggregation, particularly by SGBV responders to include people with disabilities, is crucial for tackling the abuse epidemic in a comprehensive and inclusive manner.

## New Opportunities:

- Engaging the Government from the early budget commitment stage improves Government ownership and guarantees sustainability for the long-term programme. This will broaden our opportunities for bigger advocacies toward the elimination of VAWG.
- During the reporting period, the Spotlight Initiative broadened its scope to engage the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) with the opportunity arising to sensitise ECOWAS parliamentarians on the scope of SGBV, its causes, ECOWAS regional frameworks for addressing VAWG, and potential avenues for collaboration across member states. This engagement was the first of its kind to be undertaken with the economic bloc.

## Innovative, Promising, or Good Practices

(i) Adopted a state-driven multisectoral response to SGBV: In partnership with the Sokoto State Government, the Sokoto State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Welfare (MOWASW) set up a multisectoral response team under the Spotlight Initiative, i.e., the Sexual and Gender-Based Violence/ Child Protection Response Team (SGBVCPRT-Sokoto). This is a promising approach to actively use existing grassroots and mainstream religious leaders to become actors through community action and sermons against VAWG/HP and to encourage the uptake of SRHR following the influence of religion on societies in Nigeria.

(ii) The Spotlight National Barometer Tracking Tool tracks the status of GBV policy implementation in the country. The Spotlight Initiative has supported the integration of the National Barometer with the Nigeria Governors' Wives Forum (NGWF) Tracker, now known as "GBV Accountability Tracker". The new GBV Accountability Tracker was launched on 5 December 2022, at Shehu Musa Yar'Adua Centre. The SGBV Accountability Tracker will support reporting on GBV across pillars, feeding from the Situation Room and informing Presidential Bi-Monthly Press Briefing on GBV in Nigeria. The Barometer Tracker is positioned to provide the status of GBV policy implementation at the sub-national level to aid decision-making.

The Spotlight National Barometer Tracking Tool monitors the state of the nation's GBV policy implementation. The Nigeria Governors' Wives Forum (NGWF) Tracker and the National Barometer have been integrated; the result is now known as the "GBV Accountability Tracker," thanks to sponsorship from the Spotlight Initiative. At the Shehu Musa Yar'Adua Centre, the new GBV Accountability Tracker was introduced on 5 December 2022. The GBV Accountability Tracker feeds from the Situation Room and informs the Presidential Bi-Monthly Press Briefing on GBV in Nigeria, supporting reporting on GBV across pillars. To support timely decision-making, the Barometer Tracker provides information on the state of GBV policy implementation at the sub-national level.

# Communications and Visibility

## a. Overview

Throughout the life of the project, significant progress was made in promoting the visibility of the Spotlight Initiative across the six geo-political regions of Nigeria, including the Federal Capital Territory. A good number of media hits were achieved through media articles and reports on Spotlight interventions. Visibility also increased significantly across our social media platforms on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube. In September 2023, a 2-month social media campaign titled, '**Did you know?**', was run to highlight key achievements of the project in Nigeria. The campaign reached 16,654 people on X, Facebook and Instagram.

During high-level events such as the launch of the National GBV Accountability Framework and the inauguration of the Strategic Knowledge Management Technical Working Group on SGBV in Nigeria, over 25 media articles were written by both national and international media. Social media posts on both events reached over 4,000 impressions via social media platforms.

In 2020, two pages of the UN Nigeria monthly Newsletter were devoted to Spotlight Initiative stories. By 31 December 2023, forty (40) Spotlight stories had been published: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FNBkw7jK-0k\\_kmo4OjjiWd-0wQWD0tOV/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FNBkw7jK-0k_kmo4OjjiWd-0wQWD0tOV/view?usp=sharing). The Newsletter circulates to the media, diplomatic community, civil society organisations, academia and other members of the public.

An estimated 7 million people have been reached through radio jingles and social media. The visibility resulted in increased public awareness of the Spotlight Initiative and the prevention of VAWG, as well as referral pathways and response mechanisms for cases of VAWG.

To document the key achievements (in infographics) of the Spotlight Initiative in Nigeria since 2019 in a permanent and retrievable format, the "EU-UN Spotlight Initiative Interventions and Impacts in Nigeria (2019 – 2023)" was published in December 2023, and uploaded on the UN Nigeria website. As of 20 March 2024, the document had been downloaded 273 times.

Interestingly, as many as 32 stories of Spotlight Initiative interventions in Nigeria got published on the EU-UN Spotlight global website: <https://www.spotlightinitiative.org/news/nigeria-one-mans-mission-end-violence-against-women-and-girls>;

<https://www.spotlightinitiative.org/press/eu-un-spotlight-initiative-inaugurates-women-film-and-television-international-network-wifti>;

<https://www.spotlightinitiative.org/news/how-better-data-helping-prevent-gender-based-violence-nigeria>; among many others.



The Spotlight communication/ knowledge management products developed are accessible here:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1nZ8b1cKNb9To1ZhOEVytRq\\_4ECmoa5IW?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1nZ8b1cKNb9To1ZhOEVytRq_4ECmoa5IW?usp=sharing)

## b. Messages

EU-UN Spotlight Initiative in Nigeria remained consistent in its messaging which was hinged on the six pillars of its interventions in Nigeria.

Examples included the following:

- EU-UN Spotlight Initiative: Prevention of Campus Sexual Violence Programme: <https://warifng.org/eu-un-spotlight-initiative/>

EU-UN condemns the increased trafficking in Ebonyi State: The message was effective as it was a high-level event and was shared across several traditional & new agency:

- <https://nationalglint.com.ng/spotlight-eu-un-condemns-increase-rate-of-trafficking-in-ebonyi/>

EU-UN Spotlight initiative in Nigeria trained 48 female adolescents/54 girls with life skills in Ebonyi State:

This major event is generating more interest from other adolescents. A critical mass is building:

- <https://apnewsng.com/eu-un-trains-48-female-adolescents-in-ebonyi/>
- <https://www.blueprint.ng/eu-un-empowers-54-girls-with-life-skills/>
- <https://nationalglint.com.ng/spotlight-eu-un-trains-346-peer-educators-in-ebonyi/>

EU-UN Spotlight initiative in Nigeria and the National orientation Agency renew action to fight SGBV at all levels:

- <https://peoplereporters.com/unicef-eu-program-clarifies-traditional-leaders-and-other-stakeholders-on-gender-base-violence/>
- <https://theeagleonline.com.ng/sgbv-noa-other-agencies-renew-commitment-to-stem-violence-against-women-girls/>
- Video: SPOTLIGHT - Sokoto State interventions on obstetric fistula: <https://nigeria.unfpa.org/en/video/spotlight-sokoto-state-interventions-obstetric-fistula>

# PREVENT AND END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS



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



### C. Media and visibility event

#### Government of Nigeria and EU-UN Spotlight Initiative Jointly Launch the National Gender-Based Violence Data Situation Room and Dashboard in Nigeria



ABUJA, Nigeria - The Government of Nigeria and the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative have launched the first-ever gender-based violence (GBV) data situation room and dashboard in Nigeria. The UN Deputy-Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed declared the data situation room open in Abuja, Nigeria on 17 November 2020. Dignitaries at the launch included the Honourable Minister of Women Affairs, Dame Pauline Tallen; the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr. Edward Kallon; the Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Sadiya Umar Farouq; the EU Ambassador, represented by Mr Clement Boutillier; the UNDP Resident Representative, Mr Yahya Mohammed; the UN Women Resident Representative to Nigeria and ECOWAS, Ms. Comfort Lamptey.

The Honourable Minister of Women Affairs introduced the National Data Situation Room: "The National Data Situation Room is an innovation data management and visualisation platform which is expected to use technology to enable government, decision-makers, and programme managers to view and analyse gender-based violence data with ease. The situation room is hinged on pillar five of the Spotlight Initiative: Data management in Nigeria. Full Story Link: [National GBV Data Situation Room and Dashboard Launch](#)



## Government of Nigeria and EU-UN Spotlight Initiative Jointly Launch the National Gender-Based Violence Data Situation Room and Dashboard in Nigeria



At the high-level event of the Nigerian Governors' Forum in Abuja, on December 5th, 2022, The GBV Tracker, now known as the SGBV Accountability Tracker, was formally launched, and presented to stakeholders. The tracker supports the monitoring and implementation of the laws & policies at national and sub-national levels.

Photo caption: Ms. Samuela Isopi, the EU Ambassador and Head of the EU Delegation in Nigeria and ECOWAS at the launch of the SGBV Accountability Tracker in Nigeria



The Strategic Knowledge Management Technical Working Group (SKMTWG) brings together technical experts in GBV Data to review and improve the GBV reporting system in Nigeria.



The UN Resident Coordinator lead the National Steering committee members to Sokoto for a two-day high-level monitoring visit to community.

Photos from Sokoto High-level visit in November 2022.

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## Active Video Links:

- <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1DeAHV0KnlwqD57C3opyrgwHVS5AX-GO0?usp=sharing>
- Livelihood Programme: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1O7sXtp5S8dsjecQkaknjQxBOO7zuT5nl/view>
- Animated Video: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ceNMNnqXdk1-afRtgpKyVfdzzFcjNKKL/view>
- No Means No: <https://youtu.be/FU5ego2ITyY>
- Domestic Violence and Abusive Relationships: <https://youtu.be/s5B6Q13CIF0>
- Documentary: <https://youtu.be/D4PfsZwRCyc>



Handover/closeout ceremony in Cross Rivers State

#### d. Campaigns

The Speak Up Campaign aims to change norms and behaviours around gender and violence, encourages the reporting of VAG, and engages adolescent girls through motorised campaigns on EVAWG. It took place in Mainland LGA on 6 September 2022 and resulted in engagement with 5,000 women and girls.

Novelty Football Match: As part of activities to commemorate the 2022 edition of the 16 days of activism against SGBV, the Spotlight Initiative organised a novelty match to raise awareness on GBV issues, prevention, and response in the country. The match brought together key stakeholders including government partners and members of the wider development community programming around GBV in the country. Through this activity, awareness was raised, and people were educated on the dangers of GBV, prevention, and discussions were held on the available referral services for survivors.

#### e. Human interest stories

**From Survivors to Business Owner: “Fibi’s dream comes true”.**

Chef Fibi Francis with her start-up kits

“Violence against disabled women and girls is a serious problem linked to gender and disability-based discrimination and exclusion. Research has found that persons with disabilities are three times more likely to experience physical, sexual, and emotional violence than those without disabilities.

This is particularly true for 27-year-old Fibi Francis who suffered sexual abuse due to her disability and unfavourable financial circumstances. Her mother is bedridden and cannot provide for her and her siblings. “I sold puff-puff (doughnuts) at motor parks to make ends meet, but still, I could not afford my basic needs.”





“When I first heard about this opportunity, I could not believe I would be getting training for free. I am grateful for this opportunity, and I am no longer depressed; my disability is no longer a barrier for me. I am now confident and have higher self-esteem. With the start-up kits, I can now provide for myself, return to school, and purchase medicine for my mother.”

Fibi received a Professional Diploma in culinary arts, food safety, and business management from the Culinary Arts Training Institute. She has launched an official Facebook business account to market her products and gain customersStory Link: [Spotlight provides livelihood skills and start-up kits for vulnerable women and girls](#)

### **The Abolition of Money-Woman Practice in Obanliku Local Government Area of Cross River State**

The EU-UN Spotlight Initiative has played a pivotal role in transforming harmful traditional practices and combating gender-based violence (GBV) in Nigeria, particularly in the Obanliku local government area of Cross River State. The debasing practice known as “Money woman” or “Money wife,” where parents offered their daughters as wives to creditors for debt repayment, had persisted in this region for generations. However, in 2021, the initiative spearheaded change through the intervention of His Royal Majesty (HRM) Amos Item Uyumulan of Obanliku, who declared the abolition of the ‘money woman’ tradition.

This age-long tradition affecting about 5,000 survivors, led to early marriage, gender inequality, and financial burdens on families, limiting women’s choices in marriage. Money-Woman was abolished by the Obanliku community with support from the Spotlight Initiative. Grassroots communities led by traditional leaders convened through community dialogues and storytelling to facilitate social and behaviour change, challenge harmful gender perceptions that gave rise to Money-Woman. Through collective efforts, the community successfully eradicated Money-Woman, highlighting the power of human determination and sensitization to transform harmful traditions and promote positive change for women and the entire community. Press Conference of Traditional and Faith Leaders on Abolishing Money Woman Practice in Obanliku LGA of Cross River State

## Wife Battery ends in Kurudu Community, says Chief Ezra

The EU-UN Spotlight Initiative has brought about transformative change in Kurudu Community, Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC), by raising awareness and empowering traditional leaders, women, and youth groups to combat violence against women and girls. Positive outcomes include the eradication of Wife Battery and gender-based violence, driven by the establishment of a Safe Space.

During the official Commissioning of the Safe Space, the community's traditional leader, Chief Gomna Ezra, decreed a groundbreaking shift in how Gender-Based Violence cases would be handled. He declared, "Henceforth, perpetrators of Gender-Based Violence cases reported by victims at the Safe Space will be prosecuted by my Cabinet members, and legal actions will be taken against such persons." This proclamation marks a crucial step towards holding those responsible for violence accountable and ensuring a safer environment for women and girls in Kurudu Community.

The Safe Space, a tangible symbol of the community's commitment, provides support and justice for survivors. Chief Gomna Ezra's strong stance reflects the community's determination to eliminate gender-based violence, signaling a pivotal moment in fostering a culture of safety and equality in Kurudu community.



Chief Gomna Ezra

## Beneficiary of Inclusive Second Chance Education

Ifeoma Oga, a 20-year-old from Echara in Ebonyi State, faced adversity when poverty compelled her to live with relatives as a young girl. Enrolled in elementary school, she hawked after classes to support her guardian. A tragic accident in 2001 led to the amputation of her left foot and interrupted her education.

Reflecting on her challenges, Ifeoma expressed the sorrow of a two-year break from school and losing touch with the classroom. The EU/UN Spotlight Initiative's Accelerated Second Chance Education in her community became a lifeline, offering her a renewed educational opportunity. Witnessing the Spotlight team's efforts in 2020, sensitizing communities on Gender-Based Violence prevention, Ifeoma eagerly enrolled in the literacy program, foreseeing numerous opportunities ahead.

Through the Accelerated Second Chance Education Programme, Ifeoma gradually rebuilt her confidence and enhanced her English proficiency. The initiative's Life Skills Program developed her assertiveness and resilience, aiding in overcoming societal stigma associated with her disability. Now able to face the public confidently, Ifeoma advocates for a more inclusive educational system for people with disabilities, expressing gratitude for the transformative impact of the Spotlight Initiative on her life and prospects.

### f. Testimonial:

"I have known about health education, but on paper. This programme has helped me to hear things firsthand and debunked a lot of theories about sex and some abortion practices. I am better informed on protection beyond condoms and how to use my relationship as a leveraging tool to educate others"

– Tolulope Akanbi @ the peer-to-peer education outreach.

"Honestly, my life has greatly improved [since the incident]. Before now, I didn't know how to go about life. But now I know how I can pick up the pieces and regain my life." – Survivor of sexual violence.

"We hold weekly meetings for people with special needs and create awareness on GBV and how to report cases." – Khadija Bello, Community Surveillance Team member and representative of Persons Living With Disability, Sokoto.

"Let us focus on prevention efforts as this is much cheaper." – Honourable Minister of Budget and National Planning, Clem Agba.

"Through the Spotlight Initiative, we have been able to break the culture of silence." – Dame Pauline Tallen, Minister of Women Affairs.

## Looking forward – ensuring Spotlight’s contributions are sustained

The Spotlight Initiative considers sustainability as a vital component of its exit strategy. A draft of the “Nigeria Spotlight Exit Strategy” has been developed. The key principles that were unanimously adopted to guide the sustainability framework are (i) the principle of collaboration and partnership, (ii) the do-no-harm, (iii) survivor-centred approach, (iv) cultural sensitivity approach, amongst others. The draft exit strategy identified the following critical stakeholders and their role in sustaining the gains of the project: (i) The Federal Ministry of Women Affairs will continue to lead the Spotlight Initiative, ensuring the protection and welfare of women and girls; (ii) The Federal Ministry of Budget & National Planning will continue to provide leadership and coordination, ensuring there is adequate budgetary provision for the continuity of the project; (iii) The Federal Ministries of Health, Education, Justice, Police will continue to provide critical services including access to essential services at health centres, access to GBV information in tertiary, secondary, and primary schools, access to justice, and to implement GBV laws and bring offenders to court. A thorough work plan was developed for the 5+1 states with all the important stakeholders in order to accomplish this. The different MDAs with the authority to provide these services were tasked with assuming responsibility for certain essential routine tasks. For each of the specified activities, a budget cost estimate was assigned.

At the sub-national level, the programme met with partners to determine programme structure, investments required, human resources, and commodities required, and where sustainability needs to be focused on. Certain key strategies were developed in line with SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals. These include:

Creating a programming strategy ecosystem. This approach involves a variety of partners, identifying places where a shortage of funding or human resources could lead to the project’s termination and connecting it to other partners with access to resources to maintain collaboration and continuity. This applies to government and CSO partners as well as other implementing partners. Examples include: (i) given that NAPTIP is a law enforcement organisation, collaborating with the GBV DNA forensic laboratory to facilitate access to justice. The technological elements are simultaneously provided by the Yola University laboratory. These are all budgeted government tasks, such as (ii) connecting the Neem Foundation’s psychosocial counselling services with NAPTIP. In this case, the Neem Foundation’s regular counselling service is provided.

Mainstreaming activities into existing structures. This was demonstrated in Spotlight investments into the existing government structure for the OSC model for service delivery. Specifically, the Spotlight Initiative further mobilised additional resources from the government in terms of both money and staffing and upgraded the existing rapid response unit at NAPTIP.



Community ownership is another strategic angle adopted, where Spotlight invested in existing platforms and structures among communities. An example is the training of religious leaders to include GBV messaging in their routine sermons to congregations at no cost to the project. This strategic partnership is already yielding results and sustaining the needed sensitisation at the grassroots level.



Handover/closeout ceremony in Abuja



Handover/closeout ceremony in Adamawa



# Annexes

**Annex A:** Results Framework

**Annex B:** Risk Matrix

**Annex C:** CSO Engagement Report

**Annex D:** Innovative, Promising or Good Practices Reporting Template

**Annex F:** Assets/ Equipment /Major Supplies





# Spotlight Initiative