

MPTF OFFICE FINAL SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE SECRETARIAT NARRATIVE REPORT
REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JULY 2017 – 15 DECEMBER 2024

<p>Programme Title & Project Number</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programme Title: Spotlight Initiative Secretariat MPTF Office Reference Number:² 00108307 	<p>Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results¹</p> <p>Global Activities in support of 34 programmes in Africa, ASEAN, Caribbean, Central Asia, Latin America, and Pacific</p> <p><i>Priority area/ strategic results:</i> Eliminating Violence Against Women and Girls, Sustainable Development, UN Reform</p>
<p>Participating Organisation(s)</p> <p>Organisations that have received direct funding from the MPTF Office under this programme: UNDP, UN Women, UNFPA</p>	<p>Implementing Partners</p> <p>N/A</p>
<p>Programme/Project Cost (US\$)</p> <p>Total approved budget as per project document³: \$27,108,493</p> <p>MPTF/JP Contribution⁴:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MPTFO (UNDP): \$10,869,432 UN Women: \$16,173,870 UNFPA: \$65,190 <p>Agency Contribution: \$744,264</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MPTFO (UNDP): \$235,714 UN Women: \$351,984 UNFPA: \$156,566 <p>Government Contribution</p>	<p>Programme Duration</p> <p>Overall Duration: September 2017 - December 2024</p> <p>Start Date⁵: 1 Jul 2017</p> <p>Original End Date⁶: 31 Dec 2024</p>

¹ Strategic Results, as formulated in the Strategic UN Planning Framework (e.g. UNDAF) or project document.

² The 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](#).

³ The updated Spotlight Initiative Fund Secretariat Project Document, and updated Budget, were approved by the Operational Steering Committee on OSC meeting #25, on 21 Dec. 2022. The figures included here reflect this latest approved version.

⁴ The MPTF or JP Contribution, refers to the amount transferred to the Participating UN Organisations, which is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#).

⁵ The start date is the date of the first transfer of the funds from the MPTF Office as Administrative Agent. Transfer date is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#).

⁶ As per approval of the original project document by the relevant decision-making body/Steering Committee.

<div>Other Contributions (donors)</div> <div>TOTAL: \$27,852,757</div>	<div>Current End date⁷ 15 Dec 2024</div>
<div>Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.</div> <div>Assessments were further carried out for all programmes as mid-term assessment, various thematic assessments are being conducted, and a final evaluation is underway.</div>	<div>Report Submitted By</div> <div> Name: María Teresa Benito Lopez Title: Head of Management, Spotlight Initiative Participating Organisation: UNDP Email Address: teresa.benito@un.org; teresa.benito@undp.org </div>

⁷ If there has been an extension, then the revised, approved end date should be reflected here. If there has been no extension approved, then the current end date is the same as the original end date. The end date is the same as the operational closure date which is when all activities for which a Participating Organisation is responsible under an approved MPTF / JP have been completed. As per the MOU, agencies are to notify the MPTF Office when a programme completes its operational activities.

List of Acronyms

CPD: Country Programme Document
CSRG: Civil Society Reference Group
CSO: Civil society organisation
CSW66: Commission on the Status of Women
DCO: United Nations Development Coordination Office
DG INTPA: Directorate-General for International Partnerships (European Commission)
ECA: European Court of Auditors
EOSG: Executive Office of the Secretary-General
EU: European Union
EVAWG: Eliminating violence against women and girls
EVAW: Eliminating violence against women
FTR: Funds Transfer Request
GAR: Global Annual Report
GBV: Gender-based violence
GRG: Global Reference Group
HLPF: High-Level Political Forum
HQ: Headquarters
KM: Knowledge Management
M&E: Monitoring & Evaluation
MPTF Office: UN Multi Partner Trust Fund Office
OM: Operations Manual
OSC: Operational Steering Committee
RCO: UN Resident Coordinator's Office
RPD: Regional Programme Document
RUNO: Recipient United Nations Organisation
SDGs: Sustainable Development Goals
SI Secretariat/Secretariat/FS: Spotlight Initiative Secretariat
SMART: Spotlight Monitoring and Reporting Tool
SOP: Standard Operating Procedures
UN: United Nations
UNCT: United Nations Country Team
UNDAF/UNSDCF: United Nations Development Assistance Framework / United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
UNDP: United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA: United Nations Population Fund
UNGA: United Nations General Assembly
UNICEF: United Nations Children's Fund
UNSDG: United Nations Sustainable Development Group
UN Trust Fund: UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women
UN Women: United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
VAWG: Violence against women and girls
WPHF: Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund

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Introduction

This report is produced at the request of the Multi Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTFO) as the Administrative Agent and host of the Spotlight Initiative Fund Secretariat (FS). It offers an overview of the progress made by the Spotlight Initiative Secretariat from 2017-2024 against the overarching functions and goals set out in the Spotlight Initiative Project Document and the Fund's [Terms of Reference](#), namely:

- Provide strategic advice and quality control over implementation of Spotlight Initiative;
- Exercise accountability for the technical quality and coherence of the Initiative in responding to country and regional programme needs;
- Provide management, operational, and administrative support to the Governing Body and the Operational Steering Committee (OSC), and ensure the submission of country-level/regional programme proposals to the OSC;
- Foster coherence, alignment, quality and sharing of knowledge and lessons learned, and ensure that these feed into wider United Nations Reform discussions;
- Facilitate collaboration and communication between the Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG), recipient United Nations organisations (RUNOs), the administrative agent and the United Nations Resident Coordinators regarding the operations of the Fund;
- Support the monitoring and evaluation of programme technical quality, coherence and potential replicability of actions in other countries/contexts;
- Manage and support communication, public information and visibility, in close collaboration with the UN Department of Public Information, the EOSG and the implementing UN agencies to raise awareness on violence against women and girls (VAWG) and to illustrate impact;
- Coordinate with the implementing UN agencies and the wider UN system, and leverage their collective capacities and gender expertise to deliver on the goal of eliminating violence against women and girls (EVAWG);
- Coordinate action amongst relevant international development actors and promote a streamlined process of information-sharing for EVAWG;
- Facilitate spaces for the meaningful engagement of civil society at all levels of programming;
- Produce high quality data analysis and practical tools for decision makers aimed at ensuring Spotlight Initiative interventions are based on sound research;
- Elaborate and periodically update a comprehensive [Operations Manual](#), to codify policies and rules of procedure in accordance with signed legal agreements, and ensure compliance;
- Manage the monitoring and control of operational risks and ensure activities are implemented as planned, having the intended impact on rights-holders, effectively owned by communities, relevant to the needs of rights-holders, and captured through knowledge management strategies to be converted into policy tools;
- Broaden the evidence base on ending violence against women and girls, and collect and disseminate knowledge and best practices on the issue;
- Coordinate and oversee the annual reporting process, both at fund-level and programme-level, and consolidate narrative annual and final reports;

- Ensure collaboration and streamlined communication with all relevant stakeholders and foster constant engagement with civil society;
- Guide programme teams during the Phase I to Phase II transition, and implementation acceleration processes, including dedicated quality assurance reviews to ensure quality of submissions and adherence to requirements;
- Provide support and coordination for operational and financial closure of Spotlight Initiative 1.0 including final cumulative reporting and data collection, guiding on operational and financial closure procedures and ensuring UN Country Teams develop sustainability strategies and transition plans to safeguard and scale up the results achieved to date;
- Actively engage UNCTs, host governments, civil society partners, and donors to develop and promote the Initiative's next phase of programming (Spotlight Initiative 2.0) including by creating evidence-based programming concepts, strengthening partnerships, and engaging in resource mobilisation to broaden the donor portfolio.

This report has been structured around these main responsibilities.

Background

In 2017, the European Union (EU) and the United Nations (UN) launched Spotlight Initiative, a global partnership to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, accompanied by an initial financial investment of USD 530 million. As a complement to the EU's historic seed investment, the Government of Portugal contributed USD 68,474 to the Initiative, and the Government of Albania contributed USD 5,000. The Initiative is aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) and has supported development actors to drive progress across the Sustainable Development Goals, including SDG 5 on gender equality. The Initiative is also a UN Development System Reform model fund, pioneering unprecedented levels of collaboration and coherence across the UN system, under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator at country level, the Development Coordination Office (DCO) Regional Directors at regional level, and the Executive Office of the Secretary-General at the global level.

The Spotlight Initiative Fund Secretariat (referred to henceforth as the Secretariat) is a fund support structure that, under the first iteration of Spotlight Initiative, consisted of two units that worked in close collaboration: the Management Unit and the Technical Unit. Over the course of implementation of Spotlight Initiative "1.0" during 2017-2024, the Secretariat supported and serviced the Governing Body and Operational Steering Committee, as the key governing bodies of the Fund at global level, executed the management and coordination activities of the Fund, and provided both management and technical support to programme teams across the Spotlight Initiative portfolio. Given that Spotlight Initiative is a Demonstration Fund for the United Nations Development System Reform, the Secretariat also facilitated coordination across implementing UN agencies in service of this new way of working. The Management Unit acted as the secretariat of the Governing Body and Operational Steering Committee and was hosted by the Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) Office (UNDP), while the Technical Unit was hosted by UN Women and provided technical and programmatic leadership and support. The Executive Office of the Secretary-General provided overall coordination of the Secretariat.

2024 marked the seventh year of the Secretariat's operations, overall, and its last year of operations under the first iteration of the Spotlight Initiative Fund ("1.0"), as the investment by the key donor, the European Union, came to a close, and the portfolio of Spotlight Initiative 1.0 country, regional and grant-giving programmes came to a close at the end of 2023.

Cumulative Results

Overseeing implementation and guiding acceleration

Portfolio Implementation and Management Support

Over the course of implementation, the Secretariat played a critical, cross-functional role in ensuring effective Fund and programme management and implementation, supporting programmes' efforts to drive transformative results. The Secretariat was responsible for overseeing **34 Spotlight Initiative programmes**: 32 country and regional programmes and 2 civil society grant-giving programmes, in partnership with the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (UN Trust Fund) and the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF).

From 2017 to 2024, the Secretariat ensured programmes were well-equipped to secure effective implementation, accelerate programmatic delivery, address and constructively mitigate challenges, and drive impactful results. The Secretariat also provided substantive support to programmes in operational and financial closure, amplifying and communicating results, harnessing lessons learned and disseminating knowledge, sustaining impact achieved, and strengthening resource mobilisation efforts to continue driving transformative change in the lives of women and girls. As of the end of December 2024, the Fund has demonstrated strong financial delivery. Implementation of the complete programme portfolio of country and regional programmes under the first iteration of the Spotlight Initiative successfully concluded at the end of December 2023.

Effective country and regional programme support

During the implementation of the programmatic portfolio, the Secretariat worked to develop and disseminate guidance and resources in a timely manner, as well as ensure that governance decisions reached teams efficiently, so that programmes were equipped to carry out effective and efficient programming in the spirit of UN Reform, and that implementation issues were addressed and resolved efficiently.

Throughout the reporting period, the Executive Office of the Secretary General (EOSG) and Spotlight Initiative Secretariat convened in person meetings and calls with Resident Coordinators and their respective teams to review the progress of Spotlight Initiative programmes, discuss strategies aimed at sustaining results and explore potential follow-up programmes. The Resident Coordinator's leadership of Spotlight Initiative programmes proved critical by facilitating further dialogue and collaboration among UN Country Teams to take stock of progress made, identify opportunities to accelerate implementation, streamline work across implementing agencies to advance UN Reform efforts, strengthen partnerships and articulation with national actors, and secure timely operational and financial closure by the end of programme implementation.

Spotlight Initiative programme teams and heads of office across UN agencies were invited to join these spaces of dialogue and collaboration, as well. The calls offered a space for effective

troubleshooting at the highest level, and efficient, collaborative work planning to ensure as close to 100% delivery of planned activities as possible.

To ensure a well-organised programmatic and operational closure, the Secretariat coordinated calls with programme teams with the twin purpose of sharing requirements and timelines for programme operational and financial closure and discussing the status of closure processes, as well as exploring resource mobilisation for successor programmes. The calls the second half of 2023 and were geared towards ensuring accountability and timely closure processes, building on results and amplifying impact.

Moreover, the Secretariat provided substantial support to programme teams on the ground through various field missions. Throughout the programme implementation period, multiple official programme visits took place to diverse locations, ensuring comprehensive geographical representation and alignment with programmes' implementation timelines. These visits were instrumental in addressing implementation challenges, accelerating financial delivery, enhancing the programmes' preparations for operational and financial closure, and exploring opportunities for scaling up results – all in full compliance with EU contractual frameworks, UN agency rules and regulations, and administrative agent guidelines.

Ad-hoc implementation support: Additional programme management and implementation support was also provided by the Secretariat throughout the reporting period, including:

- Induction sessions for new Spotlight Initiative programme personnel. The inductions provided information on the background and key features of Spotlight Initiative as well as key programme management principles and guidance, including on UN Reform, programme work plans and budget revisions, implementation through civil society organisations, reporting and operational closure requirements.
- Day-to-day support to coordinators through implementation guidance and troubleshooting, including daily email support and ad hoc calls to provide guidance and address questions on implementation, budget revisions, and other issues in close collaboration with UN agency focal points at the HQ and Brussels level, as well as the MPTFO and EU DG INTPA.
- Regular, comprehensive webinar sessions on the annual reporting cycle, aimed at providing additional details on guidance to programme teams, including dedicated sessions on development of annexes to report on indicators (Annex A) and CSO engagement (Annex C). Towards the end of the reporting period, tailored webinars were carried out to provide additional support for the final reporting process.
- Sustained support to ensure meaningful civil society engagement. Various guidance notes were developed, covering topics such as effective engagement strategies, the establishment of Civil Society Reference Groups (CSRG), outreach to and meaningful participation by grassroots organizations, and the protection of women human rights defenders. The UN country and regional teams received assistance in adapting their partnerships with civil society, facilitated through the CSRG mechanism, grant-making processes, and partnerships with implementing partners. The Secretariat also organized quarterly regional meetings with CSRG representatives at national and regional levels, creating a platform for streamlined communication with civil society partners, including to raise and mitigate challenges encountered during implementation. Throughout the reporting period, dedicated sessions

were held with CSRG focal points across regions to discuss their roles as the initial generation of programs concluded. The CSRG provided valuable input into sustainability plans, while the Secretariat distributed an updated toolkit to monitor implementing partners and grantees' activities. Additionally, a package was provided to support engagement with European Union Delegations, encouraging investment in Spotlight Initiative 2.0 programs within respective countries and regions.

- Multiple global-level knowledge exchanges to support dialogue and knowledge dissemination across programmes. The Secretariat organised a variety of such sessions throughout the reporting period, including multiple sessions on how to embed sustainability within programming and ensure the durability of programme achievements beyond the implementation cycle. More on these sessions can be found below in the section on “knowledge management and capacity development”.

Supporting the agency focal point system at the HQ and Brussels level

The Secretariat held regular meetings with focal points from Spotlight Initiative implementing agencies at the HQ and Brussels level throughout the years, geared towards streamlining communication channels with agencies and facilitating coordinated collaboration with multiple stakeholders. Agency focal points are headquarters-level representatives of each Recipient UN Organization, covering both technical and operational/managerial issues. Frequent inter-agency meetings at global level offered a critical opportunity to discuss progress across the programme portfolio; facilitated communication and information management across UN agencies and Spotlight Initiative programmes; ensured swift troubleshooting; improved efficiency in implementation; enhanced the quality of technical programming; and allowed stakeholders to explore avenues for collaboration around resource mobilisation, including to jointly develop the vision for the Initiative's future. This engagement of agency focal points underscored a commitment to furthering UN Reform and streamlining inter-agency coordination to better leverage synergies across UN system actors and capitalise on agencies' individual mandates and expertise, and will continue under future iterations of Spotlight Initiative. It also allowed for continuous knowledge sharing and scaling up best practices to drive success across country and regional programmes.

These discussions also fostered stronger multi-stakeholder coordination and coherence, and improved communication among Spotlight Initiative programmes, UN country teams, UN agencies at the HQ and Brussels levels, the SI Secretariat and the administrative agent, as applicable, for enhanced support to programmes to effectively and efficiently deliver jointly and coalesce around strategic priorities to end VAWG.

Facilitating decision-making and cooperation through governance and coordination structures

Spotlight Initiative operated under a multi-tiered governance system helmed by the Governing Body, the Fund's highest level of governance. It set the strategic direction of the Initiative and strengthens partnerships, collaboration, and coherence across the Initiative. This high-level forum facilitated

consultation among key stakeholders, provides strategic oversight, and develops common strategic communication messaging. The Secretariat provided strategic support to the Governing Body by advising on compliance, decision-making and accountability; servicing meetings (including by setting the agenda, compiling briefing packages for members, drafting talking points and background notes, convening participants, holding pre-negotiation meetings with key stakeholders, planning logistics, and compiling background documents for decisions); engaging in detailed record-keeping; and ensuring timely follow-up. A total of five (5) meetings of the Governing Body took place over the reporting period.

The second tier of governance was the Operational Steering Committee (OSC). The OSC ensured effective management and coordinated all operational and technical aspects of the Initiative, with operational and administrative support from the Secretariat. Throughout the reporting period, the OSC launched programmatic cycles, made recommendations on Investment Plans, advised on resource allocation, agreed on programme documents and budgets, made decisions on evaluation plans and direct cost budgets, among others. The Secretariat provided the OSC with feedback on overall management of the Initiative, as well as advice on any substantive issues associated with programme implementation. From 2017-2014, the OSC held a total of 31 proceedings. Key decisions are summarised in Annex I.

In addition to its aforementioned support to the Governing Body and OSC, the Secretariat also coordinated several meetings with Heads of UN Agencies (HoAs) of implementing UN Agencies and other stakeholders across the UN system to foster strategic collaboration, communication and cohesion in programming to end violence against women and girls. Throughout the course of the reporting period, these meetings provided a valuable dialogue space for Principals, the UN Deputy Secretary-General, other stakeholders in the Executive Office of the Secretary General, and the administrative agent to reach a common understanding of the Initiative's strategic direction and key decisions. Towards the last year of implementation, these spaces also proved conducive to reach common agreements on the 2.0 architecture and global resource mobilisation efforts.

At the same time, the EOSG and the Secretariat convened meetings with Director-level representatives of the four aforementioned UN Agencies during the reporting period. The overarching purpose of these meetings was to take stock of progress and results achieved, as well as address challenges to mitigate any bottlenecks or delays. Throughout the reporting period, Directors of Spotlight Initiative implementing agencies leveraged these spaces to discuss the Initiative's resource mobilisation strategy, the capitalisation of the Fund, and the Performance Review of the Initiative by the European Court of Auditors (ECA), programme extensions, ways to ensure 100% delivery rates across the programme portfolio, and more. These meetings reaffirmed the Initiative's important role in amplifying the global commitment to end violence against women and girls (by ensuring the issue remains high on political and development agendas globally), in modelling the UN System Reform, and scaling up existing resources and efforts in a new generation of programming.

Finally, the Secretariat team held regular briefings for the UN Deputy Secretary-General with a focus on programme implementation and financial delivery, results achieved, evaluations, communication and advocacy efforts. The Secretariat ensured robust preparation, servicing, and follow-up for these meetings, including strategic agenda-setting, compiling background documents, drafting briefing

notes, talking points and meeting reports, and by engaging relevant counterparts both ahead of meetings and in strategic follow-up.

Supporting the engagement of the Civil Society Global Reference Group

Another key governance and coordination mechanism of Spotlight Initiative is the Civil Society Global Reference Group (GRG). The GRG is an established institutional mechanism of diverse, peer-selected women's rights activists who advise the Initiative, advocate and partner for the realisation of its objectives, and hold the Initiative accountable to its commitments to civil society and rights-holders. A Civil Society Global Reference Group representative served as a full member of the Operational Steering Committee and a member of the Governing Body of the first Spotlight Initiative Fund. As a Sustainable Development Goal model fund, the representation of a GRG member in the highest governance mechanisms embodies a new way of working with civil society and reflects the Initiative's commitment to meaningfully engage civil society at all levels. Civil Society representatives will therefore continue to participate as key advisors on Fund governance in future iterations of Spotlight Initiative.

Over the duration of the Initiative, the Secretariat ensured the GRG was supported to develop a budgeted workplan to fulfill the group's triple function to advocate for and advise Spotlight Initiative while holding it accountable to its commitments, informed by the women's and feminist movements as key partners for the realization of the Initiative's objectives. This workplan and support helped ensure the autonomy of the GRG to define their priorities and engage in relevant activities.

In 2023, the GRG led a year-long co-design process with diverse civil society organisations with the support of the Secretariat in order to inform the evolution of SPotlight Initiative into its second generation (Spotlight Initiative 2.0). A series of hybrid and online workshops were held over the course of 2023, involving 700 Civil Society stakeholders from all over the world. Through continuous collaboration, this process generated four key principles for programming, centred around women's human rights, civil society engagement, funding mechanisms and quality of programming, each accompanied by concrete recommendations. An advocacy plan for the dissemination of these principles was drafted, along with an implementation strategy developed by the Secretariat to ensure these principles were meaningfully integrated into the new Spotlight Initiative fund. The Global Reference Group (GRG) received support to promote the principles across diverse, global advocacy platforms, including the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), and the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). The implementation process can be summarized into three main projects led by the Secretariat. The first project focuses on coordinating the development of a UN Feminist Funding Framework to enhance UN funding practices and support for civil society organizations. The second project involves integrating human rights mechanisms within Spotlight Initiative programmes. The third project aims to review all guidance documents, the results framework, and the theory of change to ensure they align with the co-designed principles.

Following the conclusion of the first Global Reference Group's (GRG) mandate in December 2023, a civil society-led selection process was initiated to appoint a new Civil Society Global Reference Group. The former GRG developed updated terms of reference in December 2023 to guide this

process. The application period, open from January to February 2024, was widely disseminated across various channels. The Spotlight Initiative Secretariat convened a civil society-led selection committee, which reviewed over 140 applications from 60+ countries. In June 2024, the selection committee announced the nomination of 17 new GRG members. This new group began monthly meetings leading up to their first in-person retreat in October 2024 in Cape Town, South Africa. Additionally, the Secretariat supported GRG representation at the 2024 HLPF and the Summit of the Future, along with the full group's participation at the SVRI Forum in October 2024.

Following a longstanding demand for transparency regarding Spotlight Initiative's financial investment in civil society, the Secretariat created an online [Civil Society Funding Dashboard](#), which is featured on the Spotlight Initiative website as well as the MPTFO Gateway online portal. Endorsed by the Global Civil Society Reference Group, the platform provides a comprehensive database and visualisation of the data on funding civil society organisations in all Spotlight Initiative programmes, including the UN Trust Fund and Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund, enhancing transparency and accountability. It offers a user-friendly interface with multiple layers of information that can serve as a valuable resource for tracking and advocacy purposes. Additionally, it showcases the diversity and breadth of CSOs that have received funding from Spotlight Initiative, reinforcing the Initiative's commitment to leaving no one behind.

Fund and Programme Replenishment

Since the Fund received its initial funding tranche from the EU to launch the programmes in 2017, the Secretariat has provided extensive quality assurance and liaison support with the MPTFO to request and receive funding from the donor and process funding to recipient UN organizations upon approvals of the Fund's OSC. The Secretariat collaborated closely with programme teams in partner countries, UN Agency HQs and Brussels offices, the EOSG and the MPTFO to ensure the efficient and timely transfer of funds, addressing the programmes' financial needs through the funds transfer request (FTR) process. Over the years, the Secretariat supported fund transfers by the MPTFO to Spotlight Initiative programmes, the Secretariat, and the Global Platform in a total amount of USD 529.1 million.

In order to trigger the replenishment to the Fund itself, the Secretariat also has prepared Fund replenishment reports to the EU over the years.

Reporting on results

As noted above, the Secretariat was responsible for reporting on Spotlight Initiative's results and for supporting programmes to fulfil requirements to do the same, as detailed in Spotlight Initiative's legal and contractual agreements. To that end, the Secretariat produced global annual reports and the global final report, in line with contractual requirements, and ensured submission to the MPTFO in accordance with agreed deadlines. More details on the global annual and final reporting process are included below, and can also be referenced in previous years' Spotlight Initiative Fund Secretariat Reports. In addition to this, the Secretariat worked closely with programme teams as they produced

their programme annual and final narrative reports, which were submitted for each country/regional programme, in adherence to contractual terms and deadlines.

Since the Initiative's launch, the Secretariat has produced guidance and offered targeted support to programmes to produce high-quality, results-oriented reports. The guidance included annotated templates, detailed timelines, comprehensive guidance packages, tips for producing strong, results-based reports, dedicated guidance notes on participatory monitoring, evaluation and reporting, example reports, a comprehensive frequently asked questions platform, among others. In every reporting cycle, the Secretariat held multiple webinar series to support programmes produce quality reports in a timely manner, including sessions in French, Spanish, and English across various time zones. Dedicated sessions were also held on specific annexes to the report, to ensure reporting on indicators, civil society engagement, among others. For instance, the Secretariat also held several sessions focused specifically on the Spotlight Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART), the Initiative's indicator reporting system, to support programmes to submit quality monitoring and reporting data. The webinars served as a space for the Secretariat to reiterate key criteria and timelines, and answer any questions on the reporting cycle. Reporting webinars offered the opportunity to improve the uptake of results-based reporting guidance and tips, clarify questions, and provide targeted results-based reporting support to programmes to help ensure high-quality submissions.

In addition, each programme annual report submission was rigorously quality assured by the Secretariat and relevant feedback was provided to programme teams, prior to report submission to programmes' respective EU Delegations. This quality assurance process involved a range of internal coordination and preparation across the Secretariat team - including on results-based reporting and quality criteria - to ensure coherent feedback that consistently helped strengthen results-based reporting efforts and adherence to contractual requirements.

Moreover, every year, the Secretariat distilled the contents of programme reports across the entire portfolio, analysed additional data and information, and produced the global annual report to capture and communicate the Initiative's key results and impact across its 34 programmes. In the final year of implementation of the first iteration of Spotlight Initiative, a Global Final Report of the programmatic portfolio was produced, capturing the work done and results achieved throughout the entire duration of the implementation period. The latter was submitted to the EU at the end of September 2024 per contractual requirements.

During the last reporting period, as Spotlight Initiative programmes wound down and staff moved on to other roles, final reporting webinars also offered a space to introduce new colleagues to the reporting cycle, helping ensure the transfer and continuity of institutional (reporting) knowledge. Final programme reports were finalised on a rolling basis, with submission to programmes' respective EU delegations by 30 April 2024 (per contractual obligations). As noted above, the final programme reports fed into the final global report which covers the Initiative's contributions from its inception. During 2024, the Secretariat mobilised relevant teams to prepare the final global report ensuring that it captured the significant achievements and lessons learned along the way, as the Initiative looks ahead to its next iteration (Spotlight Initiative "2.0").

In addition to global annual reporting and continuous support to programme-level reporting, the Secretariat is responsible for the production of various other reports. In 2024, for instance, the

Secretariat prepared and submitted to the MPTF Office the Final Report of the Spotlight Initiative Global Platform programme. Additionally, though financial reporting is managed between RUNOs and the MPTF Office, the Secretariat proactively coordinated with programme teams to produce ad hoc provisional financial reports (required to request additional funding from the MPTF Office). To do this, the Secretariat provided instructions and report templates to teams, in order to collect all the necessary information on results achieved during the allotted time frame, collated and packaged the required information, and coordinated with the MPTF Office to review requests and all relevant supporting documents.

Furthermore, over the years, RUNOs submitted quarterly financial reports to the MPTFO to allow for regular monitoring of programme financial implementation status. Each quarter, the Secretariat coordinated with the MPTF Office to analyse the data and course-correct as needed, with a focus on supporting programmes that required acceleration measures to expend funding more efficiently and on time.

Finally, the Secretariat was also responsible for responding to requests to feed the Initiative's contributions and lessons learned into other UN processes and entities' reports, including UN Women's Annual Report, the Annual Report of the MPTF Office, the Annual Report of the Development Cooperation Office, the Report of the Secretary-General on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR), among others. Reporting into these processes supports UN system-wide efforts for improved efficiency, effectiveness and accountability, including in efforts to end violence against women and girls, and advance gender equality.

Monitoring and evaluating the Initiative: Capturing Progress, Ensuring Relevance and Responsiveness, and Promoting Sustainability

Monitoring and evaluation help ensure that the right decisions are taken at the appropriate time so that the Initiative's interventions: (i) are implemented according to plan and challenges are identified early on, and course-corrected; (ii) effectively deliver relevant (and sustainable) results; and (iii) have the intended impact on rights holders and communities (including structurally marginalised women and girls, and those facing multiple, intersecting forms of violence and discrimination).

To that end, the Secretariat oversaw the implementation of the [Initiative's M&E Strategy](#), including by [managing various assessments](#) and evaluations critical for learning and accountability, and offering tailored monitoring (and reporting) guidance and advice to support programmes across the Initiative's portfolio.

Monitoring and Reporting

Over the years, the Secretariat provided targeted monitoring support to Spotlight Initiative programmes, to help capture progress across their results frameworks, and deepen the use of participatory monitoring, evaluation and reporting. The Secretariat developed a [range of guidance](#)

[and held a series of knowledge exchanges](#) to improve the quality and dissemination of knowledge products, as well as the use of participatory approaches. These efforts - together with others - have helped ensure that programmes place a particular emphasis on capturing the perspectives of rights holders, community members, and structurally marginalised groups. By providing programme teams with extensive results-based reporting tools, templates and guidance, and targeted support through standing webinars throughout the reporting cycle to share guidance and address methodological questions on indicator reporting, the Secretariat helped enhance the quality of results-based reporting across programmes.

As noted above, the Secretariat provided guidance and technical advice to programmes to monitor progress and report against indicators in the Spotlight Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART), which facilitates the consolidation of high-quality data across programmes, allowing the Initiative to capture (and communicate) global impact more effectively. Taken together, these support tools helped strengthen results-based reporting, and ensure programmes were well-equipped to report under the Initiative. More information on support towards reporting efforts can be found above.

Concurrently, the Secretariat's efforts helped advance knowledge of participatory practices across the UN system as well, helping drive system-wide coherence in rights-based approaches to monitoring. As noted in previous reports, the Secretariat contributed to a United Nations System Staff College course titled [“Improving People’s Lives through UNSDCF Guiding Principles: HRBA, GEWE & LNOB.”](#)⁸ The course is offered to all UN personnel, and, in so doing, helps ensure that participatory monitoring, evaluation and reporting approaches are further institutionalised and used across the system. Emphasising the importance of engaging with those directly impacted by rights violations (including gender-based violence) across the programme cycle, the course is expected to increase the use of participatory monitoring, evaluation and reporting approaches, and improve the relevance and responsiveness of programming over time.

Assessments, Evaluations, and Reviews / Studies

In addition to providing targeted guidance and support on monitoring and reporting, the Secretariat coordinated a series of studies, assessments, and evaluations to document the Initiative’s achievements, lessons and challenges. These pieces helped foster accountability and contributed to the evidence base of what works, what is not effective (and why), in monitoring progress tied to ending violence against women and girls.

- ***Mid-term assessments and its meta-review***

In 2020, several years into programme implementation, the Spotlight Initiative Secretariat commissioned an [independent mid-term assessment \(MTA\) of Spotlight Initiative](#) programmes. Conducted by Hera, an evaluation and research company based in Brussels, the MTA offered an opportunity to assess the performance of each programme, take stock of programme efficiency, effectiveness, relevance and sustainability, improve programme management by informing stakeholders about key findings, and identify lessons learned regarding Spotlight Initiative’s Theory of Change. The assessments provided critical information to guide the Operational Steering Committee

⁸ The acronyms stand as follows: Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA); Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment (GEWE); and Leave-No-One-Behind (LNOB).

make decisions on additional budget allocations, while helping programme teams adjust programming if/as needed as they entered Phase II.

Following the completion of the MTA, a meta-review was developed, analysing the learning and results from Phase I across regions in order to bring to the fore common building blocks and driving forces for successful programming to end violence against women and girls.

The mid-term assessments and the meta-review confirmed the impact of the Initiative's model through its comprehensive, global and whole-of-society approach. Spotlight Initiative principles of inclusivity, strong national ownership, and participatory stakeholder engagement, in particular through the central role given to civil society, proved to be essential factors driving success.

- ***Thematic Assessment***

An independent evaluation company (Social Development Direct) was commissioned to conduct a thematic assessment of the Initiative's contributions to three interconnected dimensions of its work: the meaningful engagement of civil society organisations, particularly local and grassroots groups; the implementation of the principle of leaving no one behind; and support to movement-building.

The assessment took a case study approach complemented by a global document review, key informant interviews, and story collection to gather data and insights, with a focus on capturing the perspectives of civil society and rights holders. Findings and conclusions were discussed and validated through several workshops with the Thematic Assessment Reference Group and others in Spotlight Initiative country and regional programmes, and recommendations were co-designed with the reference group as well. The [final report and complementary briefs](#) were published in July 2024.

- ***Impact modelling study***

In 2022, the Secretariat commissioned a modelling study conducted by Dalberg Advisors, a global development consulting firm, that modelled the potential long-term impact of implementing a comprehensive approach (like the one used by Spotlight Initiative) to end violence against women and girls. The [‘Imperative to Invest’ report](#) showed that, by working simultaneously across multiple, mutually reinforcing pillars - and centering efforts around partnerships, particularly with civil society - the Initiative's approach is 70-90 per cent more effective at reducing the prevalence of violence against women and girls than single-pillar or siloed approaches. The study also estimated that the Initiative has the potential to prevent violence for 47 million more women and girls if it were to continue for another five years (in the same 26 countries).

In 2024, Dalberg updated the modelling study to take a deeper dive into several factors that drive and intersect with VAWG, including interlinkages of climate change and violence against women and girls, the importance of the ‘Leaving No One Behind’ principle in the Initiative's approach and its impact, and the importance of addressing poverty and inequality. Taken together, this additional learning will contribute to the sector's understanding and knowledge base on the ways in which addressing violence against women and girls through a comprehensive, whole-of-society approach contributes to progress across all SDGs.

- ***Domestic resources mobilisation study***

In 2024, Spotlight Initiative Secretariat – with the support of Dalberg – conducted an assessment to analyse the ways in which the Initiative contributed to an increase in domestic resources toward efforts to end violence against women and girls. The study found that over the years, and through various approaches (including advocacy and training in gender responsive budgeting), Spotlight Initiative contributed to an increase in national budgets to end violence against women and girls. The study – which the Initiative expect to share and disseminate in 2025 – provides learning on the factors that help drive sustainable financing for this work, as well as those that constrain this progress.

- ***Scoping Study: Contributing to the evidence based to EVAWG***

In 2024, Spotlight Initiative Secretariat undertook the development of a Learning Agenda focusing on filling knowledge gaps, building on past research, and amplifying local and global efforts. With the support of Dalberg, the Secretariat conducted a participatory scoping exercise to unearth gaps, and areas for collaboration, and opportunities to contribute to the broader sector. Engaging and seeking the the inputs of a wide range of diverse stakeholders, including from academia, civil society, the UN system, other international development partners, and policy makers, the Learning Agenda will guide Spotlight Initiative Secretariat’s work in terms of knowledge management and production for the next three years (and potentially beyond), while ensuring the Initiative’s contributions in this area are both transformative and useful to / additive to the EVAWG sector more broadly

- ***Final Evaluation***

As per Spotlight Initiative’s Terms of Reference, a [final evaluation was conducted](#) between November 2022 and October 2024 under the overall leadership of the UN Development System-Wide Evaluation Office and with the support of the Secretariat. The purpose of the evaluation was to assess the Initiative’s overall performance, inclusive of its design (including its commitment to UN Reform and the principle of leaving no one behind), its management and operations, and the results it achieved (vis-à-vis its global results framework and other measures of success).

The evaluation focused on the first generation of Spotlight Initiative from December 2017 to December 2023. It covered implementation at the global, regional, and country levels, including two civil society grant-giving programmes (in partnership with the UN Trust Fund and WPHF). The Secretariat supported the desk review, data collection and country visits for case studies in eight countries and five regional programmes. Additionally, visits to five non-programme countries offered insights into how gender-based violence programming is undertaken outside of the Initiative, and provided evidence on potential spillover effects from the Initiative. The Secretariat has also engaged in a participatory process (across the UN system) to develop the management response, highlighting the ways in which the Initiative (together with the system more broadly) will take forward the critical recommendations. This will help ensure the system works even more coherently and collaboratively – in the spirit of UN Reform – to end violence against women and girls and advance women’s rights.

The final evaluation highlighted significant achievements in addressing violence against women and girls through an integrated, systems-oriented approach while supporting UN Reform objectives. It validated the Initiative’s “proof of concept” by demonstrating the effectiveness of the comprehensive, six pillar approach, of collective UN action, and sustained engagement with diverse

stakeholders. Key insights include the importance of governance improvements, coordinated management, and inclusive programme designs. These findings will inform the Initiative's future strategies, enhance its monitoring, refine its theory of change, and strengthen multi-level accountability, especially as the Initiative transitions to its second iteration, Spotlight Initiative "2.0".

Knowledge management and capacity development

Spotlight Initiative is committed to advancing evidence-based programming and has invested deeply in strengthening knowledge management efforts among the Initiative's stakeholders throughout the years of implementation. Since the Initiative's inception, the Secretariat has placed a significant focus on curating, analysing and disseminating lessons learned and good practices to enhance the quality of programme implementation and support global policy, programming, and advocacy to end violence against women and girls, culminating in the development of a [Global Compendium of Innovative and Good Practices and Lessons Learned](#) and a [Spotlight Initiative Learning Centre](#), as well as multiple global knowledge exchanges across a range of thematic areas convened throughout the reporting period.⁹

Across the years of implementation, the Secretariat has produced and widely disseminated more than 50 knowledge briefs on strategic themes related to ending violence against women and girls, including: [Integrating gender-based violence prevention into climate action](#), [A Comprehensive Approach to Ending Violence against Women and Girls](#), [Ending Child Marriage](#), [Engaging the private sector to eliminate violence against women and girls](#), and [Lessons and Promising Practices of Spotlight Initiative: Delivery of Quality Essential Services](#). More than 1,000 knowledge products and tools produced by Spotlight Initiative programmes, as well as those produced by the Secretariat, have been consolidated into a single repository, the Global Knowledge Product Tracker, available in the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office Gateway online portal. The Tracker provides a one-stop space for ease of access to all Spotlight Initiative knowledge products for practitioners working to end violence against women and girls.

Throughout the duration of the Initiative, the Secretariat has placed a significant focus on peer, cross-regional and intra-regional exchange to enhance the quality of programme implementation and contribute to the exchange of expertise among a broader network of practitioners working to end violence against women and girls. Since the Initiative's inception, the Secretariat has convened over 20 global knowledge exchanges, reaching over 3,300 people, including stakeholders from the UN, EU, civil society, government and donors. The thematic focus of each knowledge exchange has been demand-driven, encompassing diverse topics such as sustaining civil society engagement, addressing harmful practices and SRHR, adapting programming in the COVID-19 context, and fostering innovative coordination in the spirit of UN Reform. Feedback surveys following these exchanges have captured the impact of the sessions in enhancing stakeholders' knowledge and expertise on the topics concerned, and in deepening connections among stakeholders within the Initiative's global community.

Throughout the reporting period, the Community of the Spotlight Initiative (COSI) and monthly newsletters enabled the Secretariat to share resources with a global network of EVAWG

⁹ The Knowledge Management portfolio was funded through Secretariat funds and, from 2022-2024, was supplemented by funding received through the Global Platform budget.

practitioners. The COSI mailing list has over 600 members, with over 530 conversations having taken place thus far. Supporting coordination among programmes in support of efforts to end GBV, the Knowledge Management (KM) Focal Points Network met on a quarterly basis, providing critical insights on the needs of programmes at regional, country, and local levels, and illuminating key ideas, challenges and opportunities related to knowledge management. Similarly, the UN HQ Knowledge Management Group on EVAWG, which provides a platform for focal points at headquarters level to enhance synergies on knowledge management activities on EVAWG across different funds and initiatives, including the WPHF, the UN Trust Fund and UN Women, also met on a quarterly basis, and continued to be pivotal in identifying opportunities for collaboration and strengthening coordination on knowledge management on EVAWG across the UN system.

Four years into Spotlight Initiative's implementation, an abundance of knowledge, lessons and best practices on ending violence against women and girls had been accumulated. To further disseminate this wealth of expertise and model integrated and comprehensive programming on gender-based violence for increased global impact, the Secretariat began to implement the Global Platform, funded by the European Union, from 2021 onwards. Offering the combined power of a knowledge hub, a community of practice and an advocacy platform on ending violence against women and girls, the objective of the Global Platform is to amplify knowledge, lessons and good practices generated by Spotlight Initiative to inform global policy, programming and advocacy on EVAWG. Throughout its duration, the Global Platform has strengthened a coalition of key actors working in EVAWG across the UN, the EU, civil society, donors, private sector, practitioners, academia and others, facilitating diverse connections and fostering direct links between stakeholders, including local civil society groups and government (duty bearers). These efforts have moved beyond the Spotlight Initiative's traditional stakeholder base to engage the wider global community for increased and well-informed decision-making power and impact on ending violence against women and girls. The Global Platform project has resulted in the investment of additional resources from the EU to advance this area of work, which have been translated into the launch of the Spotlight Initiative's High-Impact Programme for Violence Elimination by 2030 (HIVE Joint Programme), funded by the EU throughout 2024-2026.

Moreover, in 2022, the Secretariat partnered with the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women to launch [SHINE](#), a multi-stakeholder online hub for global exchange on ending violence against women and girls. A key tenet of the Global Platform, SHINE is the first online knowledge exchange hub to bring together government, civil society, the UN, the EU and other practitioners to actively engage on ending violence against women and girls and the co-creation of knowledge. Accessible in more than 50 languages, SHINE presents a strategic online space for exchange on key thematic areas, groups for networking and access to tailored resources in service of global policy, programming, and advocacy on EVAWG. To raise awareness of and engagement with SHINE among a wide audience, demonstrations of the hub were conducted throughout the reporting period for over 100 Civil Society Reference Group members from Argentina, the Africa Regional Programme, and the Latin America and Caribbean regions, as well as for EU gender focal points, technical agency focal points, and participants of Spotlight Initiative's Global Learning Symposium. To deepen connections across the digital ecosystem of efforts to end violence against women and girls, a mapping of existing relevant platforms was also undertaken. Global and regional platforms across Africa, Latin America, Asia, the Pacific and Caribbean have been linked to SHINE to increase the accessibility of knowledge and good practices related to EVAWG, and to sustain the efforts of the Global Platform. To date, the

SHINE hub has a total of 2,100 users, surpassing initial targets. Thirteen online discussions have been held, encompassing diverse topics related to EVAWG, such as sustaining essential services, engaging the private sector, and embedding the principle of *leaving no one behind*. The rich insights generated by these discussions have been collected, analysed and distilled into multiple knowledge products.

The most significant in-person convening since the launch of Spotlight Initiative was organized by the Secretariat in 2022. Convened at the sidelines of the SVRI Forum, the Global Learning Symposium, which was a key activity of the Global Platform project, drew over 200 participants from the UN, government, civil society and other stakeholders and aimed to consolidate the gains made throughout the first five years of Spotlight Initiative programming. A total of 45 plenary and thematic sessions took place at the Symposium, providing a space for deep reflection and exchange of scalable results, lessons learned and best practices across contexts, and supporting the development of a global community working to end violence against women and girls. Subsequently, a [Global Learning Symposium Resource Package](#) was developed and disseminated widely. The resource package summarizes key highlights from each session, and includes all presentations, relevant tools and resources presented, allowing those unable to attend the Symposium to access the rich knowledge generated.

A significant focus of the Secretariat's work in supporting capacity development in service of comprehensive EVAWG programming centred around the development of the [Spotlight Initiative Learning Centre](#), which synthesizes the Initiative's wealth of knowledge and successes, innovative and promising practices, and lessons learned into a definitive guide on how to design and implement EVAWG programmes. A legacy of the Initiative, and a tool in service of global policy, programming and advocacy on EVAWG, the Learning Centre is intended to sustain the learnings of the Spotlight Initiative and ensure its practices can be modelled widely. The Learning Centre combines Spotlight Initiative's learnings with the critical expertise, guidance and tools emerging from the wider UN system to create a holistic online learning centre, designed to be user-friendly and visually appealing to support optimal uptake and learning across stakeholder groups. As part of the development process, a User Reference Group, representing a cross-section of Spotlight Initiative stakeholders, was convened to provide specialist feedback and ensure the Learning Centre met the needs of policymakers and practitioners working the field. A capacity development tool by design, the Learning Centre comprises seven modules, which are closely aligned to the Initiative's six pillars and distinctive model: EVAWG Programme Design and Implementation, Effective Partnerships, Laws, Policies and Institutions, VAWG Prevention, VAWG Response, Women's Movements, and Data, Evidence and Learning. The Learning Centre was launched in June 2024, with significant attention directed to promoting the new resource in key EVAWG spaces to support wide uptake and utilization.

Additionally, to capture the depth and breadth of knowledge and lessons learned over the years of Spotlight Initiative programming, the Secretariat also worked to develop a [Compendium of Innovative and Good Practices and Lessons Learned](#), published in April 2024. Principally intended to provide reflections on Spotlight Initiative's comprehensive model to support programmatic learning on EVAWG, the Compendium was developed through a process of review of programme documents, a survey of all programmes to capture stories of change and lessons learned, and a series of five programme visits, during which key stakeholders were interviewed to illuminate innovative and good practices. The findings from this process were distilled into a series of 50 case studies and 47 lessons learned across the six original 'pillars' of the Spotlight Initiative, as well as cross-cutting themes,

which are presented throughout the Compendium. Intended for use by policymakers and practitioners working to end violence against women and girls, the Compendium presents practice-based knowledge on ending VAWG that is high-impact, innovative, sustainable by design and rooted in local needs and context.

Over the years, these activities and products demonstrated the strategic contribution of the KM portfolio in reflecting on the progress made towards ending violence against women and girls through Spotlight Initiative, supporting the sustainability of programmes' impacts, and deepening evidence-based and quality programme implementation.

Raising awareness and visibility

Spotlight Initiative's digital presence grew substantially throughout the reporting period. From mid-2019, when Spotlight Initiative launched its website, to the end of December 2024, [Spotlight Initiative's global website](#) recorded 650,000 sessions and over 1.26 million page views. In addition, Spotlight Initiative's social media presence grew continuously from 2017 to 2024. By the end of December 2024, the Initiative had more than 68,737 followers across its platforms. Spotlight Initiative gained more than 49 million impressions since 2017 through Facebook, X (formerly Twitter) and Instagram. Additionally, more than 18,000 Spotlight Initiative-specific articles and stories have been published by approximately 4,500 media outlets across more than 160 countries, with an estimated annual cumulative reach of over 3.7 billion.

During the reporting period, the Initiative hosted a number of events to raise visibility and continued to build on key partnerships. Some of these include:

- ["What were you wearing?"](#) in partnership with [RISE](#) — a high-profile exhibit raising awareness around sexual violence that was shown at the United Nations Headquarters visitors' centre in New York twice (in [2021](#) and [2022](#)) and in the [Brussels Parliament](#) in 2023.
- The United Nations Climate Change Conference in Dubai (COP 28) highlighting [the links between the climate crisis and gender](#).
- A partnership with the [Group of Friends for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls \(Group of Friends\)](#). Since the [formation of the Group in December 2020](#), The Group of Friends and Spotlight Initiative have co-hosted high-level events and meetings over the course of each year. Together, they presented a television-style [Sustainable Development Goal \(SDG\) dialogue "From perpetrators to allies"](#) in 2022 on the role and responsibility of men and boys in ending gender-based violence, which was published on the United Nations YouTube channel to more than 2.66 million subscribers.
- High-level event on the sidelines of the [Generation Equality Forum in Paris](#) (2021).
- High-level events [on the sidelines of the Commission on the Status of Women](#) (CSW).
- High-level events on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, including as part of the SDG Action Zone. This includes a [live demonstration of an interactive game at the SDG Media Zone in 2018](#) and a [virtual panel discussion on the role of social media in preventing violence against women and girls](#) at the height of the pandemic in 2020.
- A [high-profile SDG Summit event](#) in 2023 to celebrate the Initiative's selection as one of the [UN's 12 High-Impact Initiatives](#). Celebrity speakers and UN Global Advocates such as Cecilia

Suárez, Natalie Portman and Ashley Judd helped to generate media interest, publicize the Initiative's impressive results and amplify calls for reinvestment.

Further, Spotlight Initiative's flagship digital engagement campaign, [#WithHer](#), has raised awareness about gender-based violence and global efforts to address the issue using the hashtag #WithHer, focusing on curating online conversations among cultural influencers and providing a platform for the stories of activists and survivors. The campaign has reached more than 224 million users on X (formerly Twitter), Facebook and Instagram since 2021. The [WithHer Fund](#), launched in partnership with the UN Foundation in December 2021, provides resources directly to grassroots women's organizations working to end violence against women and girls.

The Initiative leveraged the global digital audiences of implementing UN agencies and entities for increased visibility across the broader UN system through the co-creation of 'A brighter future'. This series of [web stories and videos](#) was published during the 2023 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence and ran on the global websites and social media accounts of [UN Women](#), [UNICEF](#), [UNDP](#), [UNFPA](#) and [UNHCR](#), as well as DCO and United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG). Two stories were also published by UN News in English, Swahili and Portuguese.

The global [X/Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#) accounts are being administered by the Spotlight Initiative Secretariat. The [X/Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) in Spanish are administered by the country teams and the [X/Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) social media accounts in Russian were administered by Spotlight Initiative Communications teams working in the region.

Mobilising partners and stakeholders to eliminate violence against women and girls

Over the years, the Secretariat has coordinated action among international development actors to end violence against women and girls, in line with the UN Secretary General's [call for action](#) and appeal for "peace at home — and in homes — around the world" issued in April 2020. To that end, the Secretariat supported the EU and Member States in organising meetings of the Group of Friends for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls, in accordance with the commitments made by the Group at its launch in December 2020.

To achieve a world where women and girls live free from all forms of violence, Spotlight Initiative has pursued the objective of collectively identifying viable solutions and mobilising partners and multilateral collaboration in support of ending violence against women and girls. By continuing to deepen its existing partnerships with government, multilateral institutions, the private sector and civil society, and mobilizing new partners to invest in order to scale up this proven model, the Initiative can continue to implement across its current locations and expand its programmes to include additional countries and regions.

As we look ahead, collaboration between the Spotlight Initiative 1.0 Secretariat and the structures of Spotlight Initiative 2.0, particularly the HIVE joint programme, has been successful in cultivating new

partnerships, with new support provided at global, regional and country levels in 2024 — including from Belgium, Ireland, the Netherlands, USAID, and the World Bank — as well as continued investment from the European Union. Additionally, through the complementary work of the HIVE joint programme team throughout 2024, over 50 countries were supported in their efforts to design and resource new Spotlight Initiative programmes throughout 2024, expanding the scope of the Initiative's work.

Responding and adapting to challenges

By responding to challenges and adapting accordingly, the Secretariat ensured effective support and management of the Fund's programme portfolio throughout the reporting period, continuing to contribute to global efforts to end GBV in an increasingly difficult climate (marked by ongoing and intersecting economic, political, social, climate, and humanitarian crises and a sustained backlash to women's rights).

As noted above, over the years, the Secretariat provided targeted and relevant support services to programmes to ensure high-quality implementation and strong financial delivery rates. The Secretariat continued to act as liaison between UN Agency teams at HQ and Brussels level and Agency country and regional offices to highlight closure requirements and timelines, streamline communications, identify and address programme-specific issues and clearly communicate the importance of ensuring continuity of and adherence to the closure process beyond the end of 2023 within UNCTs.

Finally, throughout the reporting period, the Secretariat provided targeted guidance and support to Spotlight Initiative programmes facing challenges in implementation due to a range of complex contextual factors including, notably, high turnover of government personnel, challenging security contexts, conflict, and natural disasters. Programmes facing these challenges included Afghanistan, the Africa Regional Programme, Haiti, Niger, and Ecuador. While navigating these challenges, the Secretariat continued to support programme teams to monitor, evaluate and report on their work, meaningfully engage civil society, strengthen visibility of results, and capture and disseminate the wealth of knowledge and lessons learned.

Sustainability as the Initiative looks ahead

Partnerships and Resource Mobilisation

As Spotlight Initiative moves into its second phase of programming, it will continue to drive forward its commitment to broadening its donor base and mobilising new political and financial commitments towards ending violence against women and girls. This diversification is critical for the realisation of Spotlight Initiative's goal of becoming a \$1 billion Fund to support programming in 60 countries by the end of 2028. This target aims to sustain and scale up the results achieved by the Initiative to date, as the first portfolio of programmes funded by the EU investment concluded at the end of 2023. The Spotlight Initiative Secretariat conducted an extensive donor mapping, in

consultation with key UN and external stakeholders. As a result, the Spotlight Initiative Secretariat developed a Partnerships Strategy 2024-2028 that will guide its engagement with a diverse network of government and institutional donors, international financial institutions, and the private sector.

At the global level, EUR 16.5 million was allocated by the European Union to launch Spotlight Initiative's High-Impact Programme for Violence and Elimination by 2030 (HIVE Programme) and a fully-flexible, unearmarked contribution of USD 2.1 was secured from Belgium for the Spotlight Initiative 2.0 Fund.

During 2023 and 2024, through country-based resource mobilisation, the Initiative saw the successful transition of two past Spotlight Initiative programmes into the next generation of programming (Spotlight Initiative 2.0), securing a total of USD 30 million in Uganda with contributions from the European Union Delegation (EUD) and the Netherlands, and USD 2.1 million designated for the programme in Ecuador with contributions from the EU Delegation and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), to continue the successful Spotlight Initiative programming in these countries. With support from Ireland, a new Spotlight Initiative programme was also developed in Zambia and implementation will begin in 2025. In addition, funding has been identified for programmes in Liberia, Sierra Leone, as well as the Africa Regional Programme. As any country is eligible for Spotlight Initiative programming, resource mobilisation efforts are currently underway in a variety of countries around the globe.

Critically, in [2024 Spotlight Initiative established its partnership with the World Bank](#), teaming up with the World Bank Gender and Fragility, Conflict and Violence (FCV) Groups to promote investment in global and country-led priorities, including Spotlight Initiative programmes, as well as highlighting the need for additional investment through shared events and policy priorities in the areas of data and knowledge management. On the margins of the 79th United Nations General Assembly, the World Bank, the European Union, and Spotlight Initiative announced their commitment to “make gender equality and ending violence against women and girls a priority of their cooperation to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.” Specifically, “they agreed to advance global policy dialogue on gender-based violence, including through shared research, high-visibility events, and collective investment in countries with established Spotlight Initiative programs.” Looking ahead, Spotlight Initiative aims to expand its partnership with the World Bank, focusing on specific countries of shared interest, while establishing additional entry points with other IFIs and regional banks.

Building on significant demand for country programming and successful mobilisation of additional resources for the next generation of Spotlight Initiative programmes at global, regional, and country levels, the Spotlight Initiative 2.0 structures (the Spotlight Initiative 2.0 Fund Secretariat and the HIVE joint programme team) will continue to cultivate and drive new partnerships and alliances as the Initiative looks ahead. These efforts are undertaken in close coordination with UN Country Teams, under the leadership of the Resident Coordinators, as well as UN Agency HQs.

Sustainability Guidance to Spotlight Initiative Programmes

Throughout the reporting period, and looking ahead for Spotlight Initiative 2.0, a significant focus was placed on how to sustain the momentum, partnerships, resourcing, and impact of the Initiative. All Spotlight Initiative programmes worked to produce a Sustainability Strategy (building off the approaches outlined in their programme documents, and responding to a key recommendation of the performance review of the Initiative by the European Court of Auditors). These strategies outlined how progress towards programme goals would continue and be locally owned and carried out by local, national or regional stakeholders. The Secretariat provided support to the development of these strategies through a process of review, quality assurance and feedback on strategy drafts.

As part of this process, the Secretariat also convened multiple global-level dialogues and exchanges with a focus on the principles of sustainability, as well as approaches to implementing sustainability strategies (including discussions on the division of labour and accountability). Drawing over 200 participants in total from across the UN, civil society and other programme stakeholders, each exchange was convened in close collaboration with country programmes and featured presentations from programme teams on their approach to integrating sustainability throughout programme activities, enabling the sharing of experiences and lessons learned across programmes. One of the exchanges was also preceded by a three-week online discussion among programme stakeholders on SHINE, which specifically considered the issue of sustaining essential services for survivors of violence.

Sustaining Meaningful Engagement of Civil Society

Over the course of implementation, fostering true, meaningful partnership with civil society remained a key priority. Civil society partnerships are fundamental to Spotlight Initiative's governance, set up and functioning and, especially the Civil Society Reference Group members played a critical role. This helped to ensure that plans were responsive to the needs of local communities and rights holders, further fostering sustainability. At the national and regional level, National and Regional Steering Committees—the key governance mechanism at programme level—were established to provide strategic direction and oversight, and to help facilitate coordination among stakeholders. National and Regional Steering Committees included a minimum of 20% civil society representation. Some UN country and regional teams have decided to maintain the Civil Society Reference Group mechanism as an advisory board to the RCO to continue to improve programmes' responsiveness to diverse communities. In other settings, the reference group continues to function as a collective to advise multilateral and international organisations. In addition, the abovementioned CSO 2.0 co-design process (which was conducted throughout 2023) provided recommendations that help sustain and build on gains made thus far, through meaningfully engaging civil society.



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



MPTF OFFICE FINAL SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE SECRETARIAT NARRATIVE REPORT
REPORTING PERIOD: 20 SEPTEMBER 2017 – 15 DECEMBER 2024

Annex I. Key Decisions of the Operational Steering Committee during the Reporting Period

Operational Steering Committee 31 - 5 June 2024

- Approval of the Spotlight Initiative Fund Secretariat Project Document, with updated budget. The total cost for 2017 - 2024 is updated to USD 27,108,493 EU contribution (of which USD 387,407 of interest earned are allocated in this decision). Agency contributions remain unchanged at USD 744,264.
- Approval of the 2024 Global Communications Action Plan, as included in the Fund Secretariat Project Document and budget. The corresponding budget approved for 2024 is USD 423,106, out of which USD 387,407 are approved for allocation from interest earned by the Fund (as stated under decision 1.a).
- Approval for the creation of a Temporary Appointment (TA) at the General Service (GS) 5 level for an Administrative Associate to support the final evaluation work and provide administrative support to the Fund Secretariat until 15 December 2024.
- **Information Point:** The Spotlight Initiative Secretariat shared the “Key Principles and Initial Actions to Guide Spotlight 2.0” as the outcome of a year-long co-design process involving a diverse set of civil society organisations and led by the Civil Society - Global Reference Group.

Operational Steering Committee 30 - 22 December 2023

- Approval of the extension until 30 April 2024 for the Spotlight Initiative Global Platform project with updated Project Document and Budget, with no changes to the overall financial allocation.
- Endorsement of the 2022 Spotlight Initiative Global Annual Report.
- Approval of the Spotlight Initiative Afghanistan Country Programme 2023 Annual Work Plan.

Operational Steering Committee 29 - 11 September 2023

- Approval of updated Fund Secretariat Direct Cost Project Document allocating USD 171,200 of interest earned to cover costs associated with Spotlight Initiative designation as High Impact Initiative and related campaign activation.
- Approval of Extension of the Implementation Period of the Spotlight Initiative Niger Country Programme until 31 December 2023, within the approved country envelope.

Operational Steering Committee 28 - 31 July 2023

- Approval of the Updated Global Visibility and Communications Strategy for 2023, which has been updated to reflect the changes in Spotlight Initiative's communications and visibility operations since 2018.

Operational Steering Committee 27 - 10 May 2023

- Approval of the updated Belize Country Programme Document and Budget for the reallocation of the programme's evaluation funds to UN Women, previously allocated to UNDP.
- Approval of the updated Vanuatu Country Programme Document and Budget for the reallocation of the programme's evaluation funds to UN Women, previously allocated to UNFPA.
- Approval of the revised budget of the Spotlight Initiative's grant-giving programme of the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, with no additional allocation to the programme.
- Approval of the revised Spotlight Initiative Global Results Framework to incorporate minor adjustments that address data collection.

Operational Steering Committee 26 - 20 March 2023

- Approval of the Phase II allocation and updated Regional Programme Document (RPD) for the Caribbean Regional Programme, including Phase II.

Operational Steering Committee 25 - 21 December 2022

- Approval of the Spotlight Initiative Fund Secretariat Project Document with updated Budget.
- Approval of the Global Platform Programme Document and updated Budget.
- Approval of the Phase II allocation and updated Regional Programme Document (RPD) for the Central Asia Regional Programme, including Phase II.
- Approval of the CPD for the Grenada Country Programme, including Phase II.
- Adoption of the updated Operations Manual Compendium.

Operational Steering Committee 24 - 29 November 2022

- Approval of updated CPDs for Belize and Samoa, including Phase II.
- Approval of Phase II allocations and updated CPD and budget for Guyana, including Phase II.
- The OSC will not consider any Phase II programmes for approval after 31 March 2023.
- Acknowledgement of the Mid-Term Assessment for the Ecuador Country Programme and updates of Mid-Term Assessments for the Pacific Regional Programme, Trinidad and Tobago, Vanuatu, Belize, Grenada, Jamaica, and Kyrgyzstan Country Programme.
- Acknowledgement of updated CPD for Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund Haiti.



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Operational Steering Committee 23 - 13 October 2022

- The programme extensions for Africa Regional Programme, Ecuador and El Salvador Programmes are approved.
- The Global Platform Programme document and programme budget as well as the extension until 31 December 2023, are approved. The total budget allocation for the Global Platform remains unchanged at a total of USD 767,337.
- Approval of the Phase II allocation and updated Country Programme Document (CPD) for the Haiti Country Programme, including Phase II.
- Approval of the Phase II allocation and updated CPD for the Tajikistan Country Programme, including Phase II.
- Approval of the Phase II allocation and updated CPD for the Pacific Regional Programme, including Phase II.
- Approval of the updated CPD for the Jamaica Country Programme, including Phase II.
- Approval of the updated CPD for the Timor-Leste Country Programme, including Phase II.
- Approval of the updated CPD for the Vanuatu Country Programme, including Phase II.
- The 2021 Spotlight Initiative Global Annual Report is endorsed.

Operational Steering Committee 22 - 26 August 2022

- Programme extensions are approved for Africa and Latin America regions, [as per the requests of the Resident Coordinators], with an adjusted Programme Management Costs threshold from 18% to 22% within the available country envelope.
- The programme extension until 31 December 2023 as approved by the OSC#19 of 15 March 2022, is applicable to the following programmes: Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund Haiti; Safe & Fair ASEAN; Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund Afghanistan; and Women's Peace Humanitarian Fund Papua New Guinea.
- Approval of the updated Country Programme Document for the Trinidad and Tobago Country Programme, including Phase II.
- Approval of the updated Country Programme Document for the Papua New Guinea Country Programme, including Phase II.

Operational Steering Committee 21 - 31 May 2022

- Approval for Phase II as per the Spotlight Initiative Investment Plans, with an additional allocation (30%) of the total budgets per country programme for: Belize, Grenada, Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Timor Leste and Vanuatu.

Operational Steering Committee 20 - 7 April 2022



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- Approval of the Phase II allocation and updated Country Programme Document (CPD) for the Kyrgyzstan Country Programme, including Phase II.

Operational Steering Committee 19 - 15 March 2022

- The Spotlight Initiative Afghanistan Programme 2022 Annual Work Plan was approved, with affirmation of the Joint Operating Principles based on the UN's Transitional Engagement Framework in alignment with EU principles.
- The maximum implementation timeframe for Spotlight Initiative programmes in the Caribbean, Asia, and Pacific is extended by one year from 31 December 2022 to 31 December 2023. The extension will be applied with adjusted Programme Management Costs from 18% to 22% for small programmes (with a phase II budget under or around USD 2 million).
- The possible extension of Spotlight Initiative Programmes in Latin America and Africa to a maximum date of 31 December 2023 will be decided based upon the written request by the Resident Coordinator to the OSC. The extension will be applied with an adjusted Programme Management Cost from 18% to 22% for those with an approved fifth year of implementation within the available country envelope.
- Approval of a resource mobilisation position at senior level with corresponding allocation of funding from currently unallocated Spotlight Initiative funds.

Operational Steering Committee 18 - 23 December 2021

- The Spotlight Initiative Mali Country Programme Document and full Programme Budget, including for Phase II were approved.
- The Spotlight Initiative Mexico Country Programme Document and full Programme Budget, including for Phase II were approved.
- The Spotlight Initiative Niger Country Programme Document and full Programme Budget, including for Phase II were approved.
- The Spotlight Initiative Nigeria Country Programme Document and full Programme Budget, including for Phase II were approved.

Operational Steering Committee 17 - 15 October 2021

- The Spotlight Initiative Liberia Country Programme Document and full Programme Budget, including for Phase II were approved.
- The Spotlight Initiative Uganda Country Programme Document and full Programme Budget, including for Phase II were approved.
- The Spotlight Initiative Latin America Regional Programme Document and full Programme Budget, including for Phase II were approved.
- The Tajikistan Country Programme revision approved.



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- The 2020 Spotlight Initiative Global Annual Report was endorsed.

Operational Steering Committee 16 - 6 August 2021

- The Spotlight Initiative Argentina Country Programme Document and full Programme Budget, including for Phase II were approved.
- The Spotlight Initiative Honduras Country Programme Document and full Programme Budget, including for Phase II were approved.
- The Spotlight Initiative Malawi Country Programme Document and full Programme Budget, including for Phase II were approved.
- The Spotlight Initiative Mozambique Country Programme Document and full Programme Budget, including for Phase II were approved.
- The Spotlight Initiative Zimbabwe Country Programme Document and full Programme Budget, including for Phase II were approved.

Operational Steering Committee 15 - 16 July 2021

- Spotlight Initiative El Salvador Country Programme document and Budget were approved, including the allocation for Phase II.

Operational Steering Committee 14 - 23 April 2021

- Approval on Phase II programme continuation until 31 December 2022, as per the Spotlight Initiative Investment Plans, with an additional allocation (30%) of the total budgets per country programme, for the following countries: Argentina, El Salvador, Honduras, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Uganda, Zimbabwe.
- The OSC concluded that both Mali and Niger can go to a provisional Phase II, but the decision on the possible further financial allocation will only be considered at a later stage, pending an analysis to be conducted at country level and an agreement between the EU and UN on the way forward.
- For Mexico, the decision for a Phase II has been postponed to the next OSC, planned for the end of June. A workshop will be organised inviting all relevant stakeholders beforehand.
- The harmonised programme start dates were acknowledged as per documents submitted to the OSC.

Operational Steering Committee 13 - 12 April 2021

- The Spotlight Initiative Revised Global Communications and Visibility Plan for 2021-22 was approved.
- The Spotlight Initiative Global Platform Concept Note was approved.



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<i>Operational Steering Committee 12 - 4 March 2021</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Spotlight Secretariat Direct Cost Budget was approved.
<i>Operational Steering Committee 11 - 10 November 2020</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Afghanistan and Ecuador country programmes approved
<i>Operational Steering Committee 10 - 8 September 2020</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Guatemala country programme closure approved
<i>Operational Steering Committee 9 - 24 July 2020</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Additional Pillar 6 (Women's Movements) to the Pacific Regional Programme approved.• Central Asia and Afghanistan Regional Programme (inclusive of Pillar 6) approved.• Caribbean Regional Programme (inclusive of Pillar 6) approved.• Grant-giving programmes for civil society organizations through the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) for Papua New Guinea, Haiti, and Afghanistan approved.• Reallocation of USD 9.1 million in response to the Covid-19 pandemic from the Spotlight Initiative Sub-Saharan Africa multi-country grants envelope of the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (UNTF EVAW).• Civil Society Global Reference Group budget totalling USD 250,000 for 2020-2021 approved.
<i>Operational Steering Committee 8.1 - 22 January 2020</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan country programmes approved.
<i>Operational Steering Committee 8 - 17 December 2019</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approval of four Pacific Country Programmes – PNG, Samoa, Timor-Leste, and Vanuatu – and the Pacific Regional Programme.• Approval of six Caribbean Country Programmes: Belize, Haiti, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago.• Approval of the Africa Regional Programme with the clause that implementation will begin including disbursement of funds upon the finalization of outstanding issues with AUC.• Provisional validation of Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan country programme documents pending the contracting. Once the contract is signed, the two CPDs will be submitted to OSC for a virtual approval.• Approval of the use of the CSO Regional Budget through WPHF for PNG, Haiti and Afghanistan and the remaining USD 7.7 million as per the split mentioned earlier to the three regional



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programmes, with details to be finalised at technical level.

- Approval of the allocation for Ecuador in the amount of USD 2.9 million, a country programme can be developed.
- Approval of the use of the interest, amounting to \$ 427,913 to support communication activities of the Spotlight Initiative.
- Approval of the 2020 Communications Visibility and Action Plan.
- Decision to prioritize the following launches for high level visibility and participation: Africa Regional Programme, Haiti, Jamaica, Nigeria, PNG, Tajikistan, and Uganda.
- Decision to plan a Governing Body meeting in 1st quarter of 2020.
- Approval of a member of the Civil Society Global Reference Group to join the OSC on the terms defined.
- Approval of the Budget Guidance Revision to be sent to the UN offices at country level. EU Delegation to be informed.

Operational Steering Committee 7.2 - 18 July 2019

- Approval of Asia Investment Plan.
- Approval of the following documents: UNTF: Latin America ProDoc and Budget; UNTF: Africa ProDoc and Budget; Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund: Africa ProDoc and Budget; Revised Direct Cost Project of the Spotlight Secretariat.

Operational Steering Committee 7.1 - 14 May 2019

- Approval of the Pacific Investment Plan and list of countries.
- Approval of the Caribbean Investment plan and list of countries.
- Approval of Latin America Regional Programme.

Operational Steering Committee 7 - 6 April 2019

- Approval of the revised Secretariat Direct Cost project document.

Operational Steering Committee 6 - 14 December 2018

- Approval of funding for eight (8) Africa country programmes.
- Approval of funding for five (5) Latin America country programmes.
- Agreement on CSO engagement in Africa, with an envelope of EUR 23.5 million.
- Endorsement of resource mobilisation strategy updated.
- Endorsement of Spotlight Initiative Champions.

Operational Steering Committee 5 - 15 August 2018 and 13 September 2018



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- Approval of disbursement of nine Advances based on the Pre-Funding Programme Documents (incl. budgets) for a total of USD 1,336,444.98 for Argentina, Guatemala, Mexico, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Uganda, and Zimbabwe.
- Approval of disbursement of four Advances based on the Pre-Funding Programme Documents (incl. budgets) for a total of USD 498,769 for El Salvador, Honduras, Nigeria, and Liberia.
- Approval of disbursement of USD 65,189.75 for UNFPA for the Spotlights website.

Operational Steering Committee 4 - 27 June 2018

- Approval of the Africa Investment Plan
- Agreement to have Spotlight Goodwill Ambassadors at global, regional level, and country level, both men and women, preferably celebrities and actors, and non-political.
- Agreement to prioritise the organisation of a successful launch event for the Latin America programme on 26 or 27 September and explore collaboration with Global Citizens for the concert in Central Park.
- Agreement to launch the Africa Country Programmes in Brussels and/or Addis Ababa around 25 November 2018.
- Agreement to organise launch events in each Spotlight country and support attendance by Cmmr Mimica and UN DSG Amina Mohammad, where feasible.
- Confirmation on inclusion of an Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Group representative as an observer on the EU side as and when ACP issues are discussed.

Operational Steering Committee 3 - 9 March 2018

- Confirmation of the selection of Mexico.
- Endorsement of the Latin America Investment Plan, with requested adjustments to be made in the next two weeks.
- Launch of the five Country Programmes in Latin America during the UN General Assembly.
- Disbursement of the Latin America funding in October 2018, with request to reconsider disbursement in September.
- Provisional agreement on seven Africa Countries (Nigeria, Liberia, Niger, Malawi, Mozambique, provisionally Uganda and Zimbabwe with a footnote on keeping a close eye on the evolving political context).
- Decision on the 8th Africa Country (the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Mali or Chad) to be made by the Governing Body.
- Finalization of the Africa Investment Plan by April 2018.
- Launch of the Africa Country Programmes on 25 November 2018, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.



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- Endorsement of the Resource Mobilization Modality paper that will be followed by the development of a Resource Mobilization Strategy with the EU.

Operational Steering Committee 2 - 13 December 2017

- The civil society engagement proposal was approved.
- It was agreed that the first 4 countries for comprehensive programming in Latin America will be [in alphabetical order]: Argentina, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. Mexico was provisionally approved. Bolivia, Brazil and Paraguay were retained on a reserve list, to be included if additional funding becomes available from other donors or if for some reason the top 4/5 countries were deemed not suitable.
- Initial agreement was given on the modalities for mobilizing other donor resources for Spotlight.
- The Communications and Visibility Strategy was endorsed and approved.
- There was agreement to organize a joint high-level event on Spotlight Initiative during the first week of the Commission on the Status of Women in March 2018 [12-14/3].
- There was agreement that the first draft Africa Investment Plan will be presented to the EU for consideration during the next OSC.

Operational Steering Committee 1 - 24 October 2017

- The 2017-2018 budget for the Secretariat was approved assuming comprehensive programming in 15 countries.
- The 25.5 MEUR ASEAN programme was acknowledged with a request to reduce staffing costs as a proportion of the total programme budget and ensure a clear visibility plan for this first programme in Asia under the Initiative.
- The first PAGODA contract and the accompanying Terms of Reference and contract were acknowledged with the understanding that for interventions in emergency (humanitarian) situations alternative sources of funding will need to be secured; therefore, the references to intervening in emergency situations and emergency preparedness should be adapted accordingly.
- The country selection criteria were approved along with the principle of flexibility with suggested weightings for each criterion.
- There was agreement to exclude countries in active conflict but not to exclude countries in post-conflict (*overarching principle*).
- The outline of the Latin America Regional Investment Plan and roadmap were approved.
- The conceptual framework for the Africa Regional Theory of Change was presented and discussed.

Annex II. Spotlight Initiative Secretariat 1.0_List of End-Use of Equipment by Programme

Spotlight Initiative

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

Programme: **Spotlight Initiative 1.0 Fund Secretariat programme**



Agency	Item	Tag ID	Model	Serial ID	Purchase date	Total USD	Action	Comment
UNDP	Laptop	N/A	Lenovo ThinkPad z13. Color Grey	PF-3ZB3SA	July-23	\$1,193.25	For disposal	Equipment is obsolete
UNDP	Laptop	91603	Lenovo ThinkPad X1 Carbon Gen 9 // Lenovo 11th Gen Intel (R) Core (T	MJ-0G9EN1	December-21	\$2,057.40	For disposal	Equipment is obsolete
UNDP	Laptop	91667	Lenovo Think Pad X1 Carbon	PF21LTYL	March-20	\$2,245.00	For disposal	Equipment is obsolete
UNDP	Laptop	91601	Lenovo ThinkPad X1 Gen 9 Intel	MJ0G9H16	September-22	\$2,057.40	For disposal	Equipment is obsolete
UNDP	Laptop	91721	Lenovo Think Pad X1 Carbon	PF-21LNSH	April-20	\$2,245.00	For disposal	Equipment is obsolete
UNDP	Laptop	91672	Lenovo Think Pad X1 Carbon	PF27WMMR	April-20	\$2,362.76	For disposal	Equipment is obsolete
UNDP	Laptop	91609	Lenovo ThinkPad X1 Carbon Gen 9	MJ0G9EGC	February-22	\$2,003.50	For disposal	Equipment is obsolete
UNDP	Phone	N/A	I Phone 14 Blue 128 GB Model A2649	FG94H321PD	February-24	\$729.99	Transfer to HIVE Programme	Equipment is in good condition
UNDP	Laptop	91635	Lenovo ThinkPad X1 Carbon Gen 11 Intel (14")	PF-4V664G	February-24	\$2,057.40	Transfer to HIVE Programme	Equipment is in good condition
UNDP	Laptop	91610	Lenovo ThinkPad X1; DockStation; Monitor; Keyboard; Mouse	6VVPL2/MJ0GDSY5	February-23	\$2,003.50	Transfer to HIVE Programme	Equipment is in good condition
UNDP	Laptop	127555	Dell Latitude 7480	3BWPL2	January-18	Not available	Disposed	
UNDP	Laptop	91702	Dell Latitude 7480	G8WPL2	March-18	Not available	Disposed	
UNDP	Laptop	91720/125723	Dell Latitude 7490	7XYV1R2	March-19	Not available	Disposed	
UNDP	Laptop	91616/127549	Dell Latitude 7480	FHVPL2	March-18	Not available	Disposed	
UN Women	Laptop	00000008071	Lenovo ThinkPad T14s Gen 2 AMDAMD Ryzen 7 PRO 5850U Processor	PC-2FFEQ9	May-2022	\$1,740.00	Transfer to HIVE Programme	Equipment is in good condition
UN Women	Network Equipment	00000008367	POLY STUDIO X50 & TC8; 4K Video Conf/Collab/Wireless Pres Sys;	8L2226699035FB	September-2022	\$2,029.42	Transfer to HIVE Programme	Equipment is in good condition
UN Women	Network Equipment	00000008020	Meraki MS120-48 1G L2 Cloud Managed 48x GigE Switch	Q4AF-4BT7-4PRE	August-2022	\$1,800.95	Transfer to HIVE Programme	Equipment is in good condition

Note: Laptops were provided to the Spotlight Initiative Secretariat's Technical Unit (UNWOMEN) team members by UN Women at no cost to the programme.