



REGIONAL PROGRAMME DOCUMENT

LATIN AMERICA

May 2019

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REGIONAL PROGRAMME DOCUMENT

<p>Programme Title: Spotlight Regional Programme</p>	<p>Recipient UN Organizations (RUNOs): UN Women UNDP UNFPA</p>																		
<p>Programme Contact: Name and Title: Kathy Taylor Regional Violence against Women Policy Specialist UN Women, ACRO Address: UN House, Building 128, 3rd floor, city of Knowledge, Panama City, Panama Telephone: +507-305-4859 Email: Kathleen.taylor@unwomen.org</p>	<p>Programme Partner(s):</p> <p>a. United Nations Partner Agencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) • Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights (OHCHR) • Pan America Health Organisation (PAHO) • United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) <p>b. Regional inter-governmental bodies, civil society organisations and networks.</p>																		
<p>Programme Region: Latin American Region with a strong focus in Central America and Mexico. The programme will combine initiatives and partnerships at regional level with activities focused in Central America and Mexico due to the strategic role of regional and sub-regional bodies in agenda setting and the relevance of the programme's achievements to the whole region.</p>	<p>Total cost: of the Spotlight Regional Programme (including the estimated Spotlight contribution, contributions by United Nations Agencies, the budget financed by the EU and the estimated unfunded Budget): USD 6,065,458</p> <p>Total Funded Cost of the Spotlight Regional Programme (Phase I Spotlight and contribution of the United Nations Agency): USD 4,218,686</p>																		
<p>Programme Lines of action: Using a comprehensive and intersectional approach, the Latin American Regional programme will work to prevent, respond and eliminate VAWG and femicide at regional and sub-regional levels, building on regional platforms, entities and processes and convening a critical mass of traditional and non-traditional actors to lead positive change. Due to the regional nature of the work, the Regional Programme will focus on 3 out of the 6 pillars included in the Latin American Regional Investment Plan for the Spotlight Initiative: Pillars 1, 3 and 5.</p>	<p>Breakdown of Total Funded Cost by RUNO:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Name of the RUNOs</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Spotlight Phase I (USD)</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Contributions made by United Nations Agencies (USD)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: left;">UN Women</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,365,211</td> <td style="text-align: right;">231,475</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: left;">UNDP</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,067,395</td> <td style="text-align: right;">205,904</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: left;">UNFPA</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,067,395</td> <td style="text-align: right;">281,306</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: left;">TOTAL</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3,500,000</td> <td style="text-align: right;">718,686</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Other sources of funding: Government contributions (including in-kind): Other Donors</p>	Name of the RUNOs	Spotlight Phase I (USD)	Contributions made by United Nations Agencies (USD)	UN Women	1,365,211	231,475	UNDP	1,067,395	205,904	UNFPA	1,067,395	281,306	TOTAL	3,500,000	718,686			
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<p>Recipient UN Organization: UN Women</p> <p><i>María Noel Vaeza, Director, Programme Division</i></p> <p>Signature: [Redacted]</p> <p>Agency name: UN Women</p> <p>Date and seal: 4 June 2019</p>	<p><i>The UN Executive Office of the Secretary General:</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Amina J. Mohammed</i></p> <p>Signature: [Redacted]</p>
<p>Recipient UN Organization: UNFPA</p> <p><i>Esteban Caballero, Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean</i></p> <p>Signature: [Redacted]</p> <p>Agency Name: UNFPA</p> <p>Date and seal: 04 June 2019</p>	<p>Date: _____</p>
<p>Recipient UN Organization: UNDP</p> <p><i>Luis Felipe Lopez Calva</i></p> <p>Signature: [Redacted]</p> <p>Agency Name: [Redacted]</p> <p>Date and seal: [Redacted]</p>	

ACRONYMS

- AFM: Articulación Feminista Marcosur
- AIAMP: Ibero-american Association of Public Prosecutors
- APR: Annual Performance Reports
- C4D: Communication for Development
- CAAAMI: Andine Council for Women and Equal Opportunities
- CAF: Andean Development Corporation
- CAN: The Andean Community
- CEDAW: Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
- CEJIL: Center for Justice and International Law
- CELADE: Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre
- CENTROESTAD: Central America Statistical Commission
- CEPAL: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
- CEVI: Committee of Experts
- CIM: Interamerican Commission on Women
- CLACSO: Latin American Social Science Council
- CLADEM: Latin American and Caribbean Committee for the Defense of Women's Rights
- CLAICAI: International Consortium for Medical Abortion
- COMISCA: Council of Health Ministers of Central America

COMMCA:	Council of Ministers for Women of Central America and the Dominican Republic
CRC:	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRM:	Regional Migration Conference
CSA:	Civil Society Association
CSE:	National Program of Direct Support to the Poorest
CSO:	Civil Society Organization
CSW:	Commission on the Status of Women
CSO WG:	Regional Civil Society Working Group
ECLAC:	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ECMIA:	Continental Network of Indigenous Women
EVAW:	Ending violence against women
FILAC:	Development Fund for Indigenous Populations in Latin America
FEIM:	Foundation for the Study and Research of Women
FLACSO:	Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences
GAP:	Gender Action Plan
GBV:	Gender based violence
GEWE:	Gender equality and women's empowerment
RSCRG:	Regional Civil Society Reference Group of
GSWG:	Gender Statistics Working Group
GTOC:	Global Theory of Global Change
HRD:	Human rights defenders
ICCO:	ICCO Cooperation is a Dutch cooperative with an international organizational structure.
ICHR:	Inter-American Court on Human Rights
ILANUD:	United Nations Latin American Institute for Crime Prevention and Penal Justice
INEGI:	National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico
IOM:	International Organization for Migration
IPPF:	International Planned Parenthood Federation
ISO:	International Organization for Standardization
JASS:	Just Associates
LAC:	Latin America and the Caribbean
LACRO:	Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Office
LGTBI:	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex
M&E:	Monitoring and evaluation
MERCOSUR:	Common Market of South America
MESECVI:	Follow-up Mechanism of the Convention of Belém do Pará
MOU:	Memorandum of understanding
MOVILH:	Homosexual Integration and Liberation Movement
NGOs:	Non-Governmental Organizations
NUNV:	National United Nations Volunteer
OAS:	Organization of American States
OHCHR:	Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights
OMS:	World Health Organization
OXFAM:	Oxford Committee for Famine Relief

PA:	Partner Agencies
PAHO:	Pan American Health Organization
PLWHIV:	People living with HIV
PMA:	World Food Programme
PRIEG:	The Regional Policy of Equality and Gender Equity
PROMSEX:	Centre for the Promotion and Defense of Sexual and Reproductive Rights
REDLAC:	Latin American and Caribbean Network of Environmental Funds
RMAAM:	Meeting of Ministers and High Level Authorities of Women's Affairs
RMMAD:	Network of Afro-Latinamerican, Afrocaribbean and Diaspora Women
RSMLAC:	Latin America and Caribbean Women's Health Network
RUNOs:	Recipient United Nations Organizations
SC:	Service contract
SDG:	Sustainable Development Goals
SICA:	Central American Integration System
SIGOB:	Information and Management System for Democratic Governance
SP:	Strategic Plan
TBC:	To be confirmed
ICT:	Information and Communication Technology
ToT:	Training of Trainers
UN Women:	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UN:	United Nations
UNASUR:	Union of South American Nations
UNDP:	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO:	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA:	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF:	United Nations Children's Fund
UNODC:	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
VAW:	Violence against women
VAWG:	Violence against women and girls
VAW-VAC:	Violence against women – violence against children
WHO:	World Health Organization

Executive Summary

Using a comprehensive and intersectional approach, the Latin American Regional Programme will work to prevent, respond and eliminate VAWG and femicide at regional and sub-regional levels, building on regional platforms and institutions and multilateral processes, convening a critical mass

of traditional and non-traditional actors to lead positive change. The programme will combine initiatives and partnerships (e.g. RMAAM/COMMCA, ECLAC and MESECVI) at regional level with activities focused in Central America and Mexico, due to the strategic role of regional and sub-regional bodies in agenda setting and the relevance of the programme's achievements to the whole region. The focus in Central America (and Mexico) is because of the high prevalence of femicide with unique aggravating factors such as migration in unsafe conditions, organized crime, disappearances, common between these countries and Mexico; and to use the opportunity to create synergies with the four Spotlight countries in the sub-region. The Regional Programme will focus on three out of the six pillars included in the Latin American Regional Investment Plan for Spotlight: Pillars 1, 3 and 5.

The adoption and implementation of normative framework and policies (Pillar 1) will be guided by the Model Law on Femicide, the Latin American Model Protocol for the investigation of femicides and reforms to civil and family legislation; also, on issues such as disappearances, femicides links to organized crime, migration, with an emphasis on groups facing multiple forms of discrimination. The work under this Pillar will support instruments to monitor implementation, research and implement robust finance and cost policies, and foster a regional learning community of decision makers.

Prevention of VAWG and femicide (Pillar 3) will draw on work with the private sector, mass and alternative media networks including independent and community-based journalists and women's organizations. The recovery of the historical memory of women's organizations' fight against femicide and their advocacy will also be a priority. It will work with decision makers in preventing VAWG in by using comprehensive sexual education; promoting knowledge about women's human rights and gender equality in the education sector; and building evidence for policy dialogue with governments and advocacy for CSO on "what works" for prevention initiatives.

Collection, analysis and use of data on VAWG and femicide (Pillar 5) includes promoting the use of a unique regional indicator on femicide and the harmonization of administrative records. This includes the support of user-producer dialogues to produce and increase accessibility and analysis of data and increase knowledge on femicide and disappearances; working with groups living in a context of chronic violence and organized crime; women in situations of poverty and social exclusion; the development of a regional map of VAWG femicide with georeferenced data. In addition, support to COMMCA to develop regional strategy to collect and analyse information and statistical data on VAWG in Central America, and strengthen capacities of statistical offices in Central America to improve the collection, processing and generation of information and statistics on violence against women.

The Regional Programme of Spotlight will contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, more specifically in SDG 5 achieving gender equality, SDG 1 ending poverty, SDG 3 ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being, and SDG 16, promoting peaceful societies, justice and strong institutions.^{1 2}

Situational Analysis

Violence against women and girls³ (VAWG) is a form of discrimination that undermines and affects

¹ UN System, "UN Framework to Underpin Action to Prevent Violence Against Women", 2015, p. 4.

² Given the cross-cutting character of the gender approach and the implications of VAWG in a variety of aspects of development, the Programme aims to impact different SDGs, even though its focus is centered on 5.

³ For the purpose of this programme we refer to violence against women and girls, at all times, with the understanding that girls also includes teenagers, in consideration of what is established in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) in article 1^o: For the purpose of the present Convention, it is understood as child every human being younger than eighteen years of age, unless, in virtue of the law that is applicable, has reached adulthood before.

women and girl's enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms. Health, social and economic impacts of VAWG extend to children, families, communities and societies as a whole, and it is an obstacle for national, regional and global development, the reduction of poverty, peaceful coexistence, and public safety. Therefore, VAWG has been incorporated into the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, more specifically in target 5.2 and 5.3 of SDG 5, focused on gender equality, and is a fundamental part of the achievement of SDG 1 ending poverty, SDG 3 ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being, and SDG 16, promoting peaceful societies, justice and strong institutions.^{4,5}

In the Latin America and Caribbean Region VAWG and femicide, its most extreme expression, is a serious problem for public health, development and general well-being, and it is particularly problematic given its prevalence and impunity. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimated that between 27 and 40 percent of women between 15 and 49 years of age have suffered violence from their partners in the region.⁶ According to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), official information for 19 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean shows a total of 2,559 women victims of feminicide or femicide in 2017. If we add to these figures data from 4 other countries in the region that only record the feminicide committed by victim's intimate partner or former partner, this number amounts to 2,795 women killed by femicide this year.⁷ The femicide phenomenon is particularly complex because it is often linked to other challenges; violence by intimate partners or family members; organized crime; public insecurity; human trafficking; migration of women in unsafe conditions; and discrimination, exclusion and structural racism against women of African descent and indigenous women. These challenges are more likely to be present in countries with persistent inequality and discrimination against women and girls that reproduce violent and non-cohesive societies.

Current statistics are problematic and underestimate the magnitude of the problem in the region. As with all forms of VAWG, femicides are significantly underreported, undetected or not properly classified by authorities. Adding to the difficulties are biases in national priorities and processes related to the way in which murders are recorded. These biases are illustrated by the persistent lack of prioritization or resources devoted to recording administrative data on the killing of women, particularly for those killings outside of intimate partner relationships and the family. In addition, due to the lack of a common and homologous way of registering femicides, it is quite difficult to monitor state commitments under the Belem dó Pará Convention or under the SDG framework⁸.

According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)⁹, the estimated number of women killed by intimate partners or family members in the world is increasing. In 2012, the number of women killed by an intimate partner or family member was 47 percent of all female homicide victims, a percentage that increased more than 10 points by 2017 (to 58 percent). The Americas is the region with the third largest number of women killed by intimate partners or family members (8,000), leading to an intimate partner/family-related homicide rate of 1.6 per 100,000 for female population.

But intimate violence is not the only cause of lethal death for women, and despite the global increase and the high numbers of femicides that can be explained by intimate and family violence, other factors come into play and have to be addressed to eliminate femicide in some countries in the region. There is growing evidence that in some countries the proportion of intimate murders is far lower than the

⁴ UN System, "UN Framework to Underpin Action to Prevent Violence Against Women", 2015, p. 4.

⁵ Given the cross-cutting character of the gender approach and the implications of VAWG in a variety of aspects of development, the Programme aims to impact different SDGs, even though its focus is centered on 5.

⁶ World Health Organization and Pan American Health Organization, "Understanding and Addressing Violence Against Women and Girls", (2012).

⁷ <https://oig.cepal.org/es/infografias/femicidio>

⁸ LAC states working under the Statistical Conference of the Americas have committed to include femicide as an additional indicator to be reported under the SDGs.

⁹ GLOBAL STUDY ON HOMICIDE 2018: Gender-related killing of women and girls.

regional average, as is the case of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Venezuela¹⁰. Lethal violence in the central American sub-region is disproportionately high; the percentage of women victims of lethal violence is in some cases double the regional average and four times higher than the global average, according to InfoSegura¹¹. Despite efforts to measure femicide, these numbers continue to underestimate the prevalence of femicide in the region.

While GBV affects women, children, and LGBTI people throughout the region, those who lived in countries such as El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala, in gang-controlled areas experience widespread and extremely brutal forms of gender-based violence. Gang presence¹² also limits access to justice for those affected by violence by creating additional barriers to reporting, investigation, and prosecution, and further entrenching impunity—heightening the need for refugee protection for its victims.

As gangs have increased their control in El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala over the past several years, they have systematically used sexual violence as a principal tactic for establishing and maintaining dominance over the communities and territories in which they operate, similar to violent tactics used in other contexts of armed conflict¹³.

If we look at disappearances of women, many of which are might be linked to femicide, the prevalence rate for some countries should be even higher. For example, sexual violence and disappearances are two factors heavily affecting women and girls in Central America (including Belize). In Guatemala in 2017, six out of every 10 disappearances were of women and girls (InfoSegura, UNDP). In Mexico in 2017, more than 3,174 women disappeared; 70 percent of them were minors between 10-17 years old, according to the National Citizen Observatory of Femicide.

Disappearances of women is a concern in the region as a whole, with strong links to migrant flows and trafficking. In recent decades, evidence has shown an increase in women migrating across the Americas and the Caribbean. According to ILO data¹⁴, women make up more than half of the migrant population in North and South America, 50 percent in Central America and 49 percent in the Caribbean. Women make up 54 percent of migrants from South America to USA and Europe. Migrant and refugee women experience violence at all stages of the migration process. Gender-based violence may force women and girls to migrate, and they may be subject to violence during transit or at their destination. Migrant girls are more likely to be trafficked or experience sexual exploitation¹⁵.

Data from UNODC for the 2014-2015 period shows that women and girls make up significantly more than 50 percent of figures reporting trafficking in persons. (See below)

¹⁰ <http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/index.php?id=1458> <https://www.cepal.org/en/pressreleases/eclac-least-2795-women-were-victims-femicide-23-countries-latin-america-and-caribbean>

¹¹ <https://www.infosegura.org/?s=femicidio>

¹² Roxana Delgado y Jorge Vargas Méndez, "La Violencia de Maras y su Impacto en la Vida, la Seguridad y las Libertades de las Mujeres." Organization of Salvadoran Women for Peace (ORMUSA), El Salvador 2016 [Hereafter "Delgado and Vargas Méndez, 2016"]; Interpeace Regional Office for Latin America, "Violentas y Violentadas: Relaciones de Género en las Maras Salvatrucha y Barrio 18 del Triángulo Norte de Centroamerica," May 2013, http://www.interpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/2013_05_14_Central_Am_Violentas_y_Violentadas_es.pdf (accessed March 28, 2017); Kyra Gurney, "Report Details How El Salvador Gangs Use Rape As Weapon," post to "InSight Crime," November 7,

¹³ Alberto Arce, "Violación de Mujeres: Otro Sello de las Pandillas," *Diario Libre*, November 8, 2014, <http://www.diariolibre.com/noticias/violacinde-mujeres-otro-sello-de-las-pandillas-1-de-2-AHDL870761> (accessed March 28, 2017) [Hereafter "Arce, 2014"]; KIND interview, Thomas Boerman, PhD, Attorney and Gang Violence Expert, phone, September 30, 2016 [Hereafter "Boerman Interview"].

¹⁴ International Labour Organization (ILO) (2015). ILO Global Estimates on Migrant Workers: Results and Methodology - Special Focus on Migrant Domestic Workers. Geneva: International Labour Office

¹⁵ Tam O'Neil, Anjali Fleury and Marta Foresti (2016) Women on the move: Migration, gender equality and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, ODI London UK <https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/resource-documents/10731.pdf>

Table 1

Country	Population, Women 2019 1/		Number of femicides or feminicide 2017 1/		Percentage of female intentional homicide * victims (latest available year 2010-2015) 2/	Number of Victims of Trafficking in Persons Detected (2014-2015) 2/			Female victims of lethal violence 2016 3/	
	Number (Thousands of persons)	Percent	Number	Rate (100.000 women)		Total - Victims	Victims - Adult Women	Victims - Girls	Number	Rate (100.000 women)
Argentina	22 836	50,8	251	1,1	13,7	243	115	7	419	1,9
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	5 693	49,9	110	2,0	22,7	986	374	309	364	6,7
Brazil	109 596	51,1	1 133	1,1	8,8	NA	NA	NA	5 662	5,4
Chile	9 323	50,4	ND	ND	19,3	2	1	0	125	1,4
Colombia	25 331	50,8	ND	ND	8,1	38	34	0	1 166	4,7
Costa Rica	2 506	50,0	26	1,1	8,8	3	3	0	105	4,3
Ecuador	8 557	50,0	109	1,3	14,2	60	10	42	131	1,6
El Salvador	3 398	53,1	345	10,2	8,6	45	16	26	545	16,2
Guatemala	8 693	50,7	221	2,6	12,6	273	85	110	682	8,1
Honduras	4 672	50,2	235	5,1	9,3	24	0	5	577	12,6
México	65 956	50,3	760	1,2	10,7	104	59	44	2 352	3,7
Nicaragua	3 218	50,7	ND	ND	10,0	52	na	na	44	1,4
Panamá	2 087	49,9	18	0,9	11,0	21	19	0	35	1,7
Paraguay	3 436	49,3	53	1,6	9,2	NA	NA	NA	52	1,6
Perú	16 489	50,1	116	0,7	18,1	NA	NA	NA	459	2,9
Uruguay	1 798	51,6	23	1,3	17,3	NA	NA	NA	50	2,8
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	16 134	50,4	122 a/	0,8	8,1	NA	NA	NA	3 878	24,5

Note: NA = Not available a/ Data 2016

* Intentional homicide is defined as unlawful death purposefully inflicted on a person by another person

**** VHHD: VERY HIGH HUMAN DEVELOPMENT / HHD: HIGH HUMAN DEVELOPMENT / MHD: MEDIUM HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

***** It ranges from 0, where women and men fare equally, to 1, where one gender fares as poorly as possible in all measured dimensions

Source: 1/ CEPAL. CEPALSTAT 2/ UNODC Statistics 3/ The Small Arms Survey Database on Violent Deaths

As women expand their leadership in politics and the defence of human rights, more violence, including femicide violence, is exercised against them. This requires new tools and standards to bring protection and to quantify these new types of violence. The situation of women human rights defenders in the region is one of the most alarming factors in the escalation of violence against women. According to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights¹⁶ the current environment is one of continued threats, killings, excessive use of force and harassment. Based on information presented by NGOs, three out of every four murders of human rights defenders occurred in the Americas, often in relation to land or environmental disputes; but an increased number of murders are linked to the defence of sexual orientation and gender equality.¹⁷ Brazil and Honduras stand out as the most lethal countries for human rights defenders, followed by Colombia and Nicaragua. Often, the Commission reports, human rights defenders are threatened with legal proceedings and intimidated, creating an increased need for legal support to counter accusations.¹⁸

Despite the absence of disaggregated data, information stemming from organizations that keep track of these killings show that women human rights defenders are over-represented in these killings. For example, in Guatemala between January and October 2017, 45 out of the 52 murders of human rights defenders were of women. Women are placed in a situation of double vulnerability; they face increased threats by being both human rights activists and for being women. In addition, indigenous and Afro-descendant women suffer more violence and discrimination for being human rights activists.

It has been almost five decades since the international community took on a commitment to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls, reflected in the adoption of regulatory frameworks based on human rights and establishing mandates for states. The main instruments of this regulatory framework, which reflect a commitment to the prevention, response and eradication of VAWG, are the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) (1979); the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC); the 1994 Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of violence Against Women (Belém do Pará), the first treaty in history that specifically covers the issue of violence against women; the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action; and the Programme of Action of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development. Monitoring mechanisms, such as the CEDAW Committee and the Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI), also provide important guidance to the states regarding their obligations towards the eradication of VAWG.

The contribution and historical significance of the inter-American system under which the Belem Do Para Convention was approved and the establishment of the MESECVI, the follow-up mechanism for the Convention cannot be understated. The multilateral evaluation methodology, based on exchange and technical cooperation between states party to the Convention and a Committee of Experts, analyses progress in its implementation by the states as well as persistent challenges to an effective state response to violence against women, keeping track of the changing context and arising issues impeding full compliance. The convergence of governments and civil society experts gives legitimacy to the mechanism and makes it a space of dialogue between states and civil society.

The Spotlight Initiative, in its Regional Programme, will build on the gaps identified in the context and the achievements of the regional platforms that have served to recognise, prevent, address and quantify femicide. It will take stock of the existing limitations, especially the partial and uneven frameworks and regulations, the need for tools and protocols to guide actions in all areas falling

¹⁶ OEA . CIDH. Políticas integrales de Protección de Personas defensoras de Derechos Humanos OEA, 2017 <http://www.oas.org/es/cidh/informes/pdfs/Proteccion-Personas-Defensoras.pdf>

¹⁷ Op Cit p. 42

¹⁸ [op. cit.](#)

under a comprehensive, systematic and coordinated approach¹⁹ to the sanctioning, prevention and response (including reparation) to VAWG and proposes actions for advancement that protect and empower women and girls. The initiatives fall under three of the pillars of the Spotlight Initiative: legislation and policies; changes in social norms and attitudes; and behaviours and quality of comparable data.

The Spotlight Regional Programme will bring together a critical mass of regional inter-governmental and civil society organizations (feminist, indigenous, Afro-descendent, youth, people with disabilities), including non-traditional actors and stakeholders such as the private sector or independent journalists, and human rights defenders to work together around the three pillars; to revert the pervasiveness of VAWG and femicide by utilizing a comprehensive approach, contained in the regional and international framework protecting the rights of women, especially the right to a life free of violence.

Lessons learned from past experiences, such as the development of the Belém do Para Convention and regional efforts for its implementation in countries, shows that regional processes of advocacy and transformation of agendas in the eradication of violence against women are effective in generating national political commitments.

The Initiative will also work with relevant sub-regional entities, networks and organizations around the three pillars, ensuring cross-fertilization between the regional platforms and the sub-regional platforms as well as promoting collaboration between Latin American countries, especially but not limited to those that have been prioritized by the Spotlight Initiative.

PILLAR 1: Legislation and policies.

The region has made important progress in the formal recognition of women's rights (as well as girls' rights) through the adoption of international and Inter-American commitments that form a legal and political corpus of reference for the recognition of gender equality by states. Legal frameworks have incorporated specific laws to eliminate violence against women and girls, including criminal code reforms in which femicide is classified as a crime and recognizing it as the most extreme expression of violence against women and girls.

However, the legal frameworks regulating VAWG and femicide vary considerably across the region.

Eighteen countries in the region have laws stipulating femicide as a hate crime, with sanctions that are more severe than those applied to homicide. However, most countries have *first-generation laws*, i.e. laws that punish violence in the domestic/private sphere and recognize the rights of the victims, although not providing specific protection for women and girls, but more broadly for all family members in gender-neutral terms.²⁰

Thirteen countries have also passed comprehensive laws against gender-based violence. Five of them do not have comprehensive laws and even among those that do, an uneven treatment of the different areas of intervention stemming out of Belem Do Para and relevant regional rulings still exists. The case of the Cotton Field against the State of Mexico of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights is an example that shows that significant gaps still exist at the legal level to guide public policies and implementation. Added to this, androcentric and patriarchal legal thinking is a

¹⁹ A comprehensive, systematic and coordinated approach refers to an integrated method that includes prevention, sanction and control. For further information refer to the programme strategy.

²⁰ This is because initial legislative efforts in countries of the region were directed at the creation of agile mechanisms to respond to claims of violence in a family-related context or to domestic violence. These regulations created special legal procedures for the protection of the victims/survivors, in both civil and criminal instances.

reality in the institutional idiosyncrasies and practices of the region.

The approved Model Law on Femicide²¹ is the agreed tool to guide efforts in the region to adhere to the standards of the Belem do Para Convention in legal frameworks dealing with VAWG and femicide. The Model Law serves as a tool to build awareness and political will for the need to enhance sanctioning (investigation and punishment), prevention, and response, including reparation of VAWG and femicide in the region.²² The Model Law expands the understanding and mandates on reparation in the region. Reparation for damages is a fundamental issue for retributive justice in the restoration of the rights of victims and their family members. However, specific legislation that addresses means and processes for reparations for damages caused by gender-based violence is rare. Only Panama, Mexico and Guatemala address the right to restorative reparations for damage in the sentencing documents.

Another example is Uruguay, where the legislation provides for a social security pension and a special family allowance for orphans as a result of domestic violence, granted until the age of 21 or without term if being older and unable to work. In a more limited but innovative way, Brazil provides - free of charge - plastic surgery to repair injuries caused by acts of violence against women. In Argentina, the *Ley Brisa* creates an economic reparation regimen for children and adolescents up to the age of 21.

To address the widespread absence of procedural regulations to guarantee the security of women victims/survivors of violence and the high levels of impunity in countries of the region, the *Latin American Protocol for the investigation of gender-related killings of women (femicide/feminicide)* will be promoted in partnership with the Ibero-American Association of Public Prosecutors based on an already existing commitment to adapt and implement the protocol in the region.

While these two instruments offer a robust platform to advance in the desired direction, there are areas of neglect that still demand better and deeper understanding of the issues at stake for women and girl victims of violence and their families. The Regional Programme of the Spotlight Initiative will develop inputs and support the creation of thematic groups under the Committee of Experts on Violence (CEVI) to look into topics that revictimize women and girls and add to their vulnerability. Topics identified include custody and alimony regulations and the protection of family assets that will be subject to discussion under the CEVI.

Moreover, the legal frameworks also lack the link between violence against women and girls, femicide and other forms of gender-based violence derived from social, political and economic inequalities affecting women and girls. There is a need to consider the different contexts in which femicide is manifested and to consider emerging problems in the region such as public insecurity, organized crime, forced migration and the disappearance of women.²³ To address these topics, a change in the legal approach is needed, for example, by virtue of developing a better understanding between the Palermo Protocol²⁴ and its links to sexual violence and femicide.

Likewise, only in a few cases do laws and policies address VAWG and femicide from an intersectional perspective and recognize that violence and femicide affect women in all their diversity, with varying degrees of experience and resources to contend with violence according to age, race, ethnicity, disability condition, socio-economic conditions, sexual diversity or gender identity. In too

²¹ The Model Law on Femicide was approved in the month of December 2018.

²² <http://endviolence.un.org/pdf/LatinAmericanProtocolForInvestigationOfFemicide.pdf>

²³ Toledo Vásquez, P. (2012). Essay name in Spanish: La tipificación del femicidio/feminicidio en países latinoamericanos: Antecedentes y primeras sentencias (1999-2012). Barcelona Autonomous University

²⁴ The Palermo protocols are three protocols by the United Nations to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children; and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air. Against the Illicit Manufacturing and Trafficking in Firearms. They fall under the jurisdiction of UNODC.

many cases, legal frameworks and policies fail to acknowledge different conditions of vulnerability in girls, teenagers and adult women; this must be corrected²⁵. Challenges continue and there are still high prevalence rates of VAWG and femicide, and in the recognition of the specific risks faced by women and girls that are exposed to intersecting forms of discrimination, especially affecting indigenous, Afro-descendent, women with disabilities, migrants, young women adolescents and girls.

In spite of the gaps and challenges in ensuring a comprehensive approach to VAWG and femicide, the region has policy achievements and experiences worthy of being used as a basis for learning and cooperation and further development for improvement of the response. Some areas of expressed interest are identified, for example, working with male perpetrators, holistic multi-sectoral policies and models of care, how to respond to the specific needs of some groups with intercultural and inclusive approach, and effective routes for the care of women and girls who are victims of sexual violence.

An urgent problem is the implementation of laws and the allocation of adequate budgets; failure to move forward on these issues increases the impunity and the lack of attention and due diligence to address the issue and solve cases. A recent study by UNDP and UN Women identified that funding of laws and national plans of action on VAW is limited, usually circumscribed to the mechanisms for the advancement of women or to a lesser extent, to organizations providing services in referral pathways. Ensuring funding for national plans to eradicate VAWG and femicide depends on governments' capacities to use fiscal resources and apply proper costing mechanisms.

For many decades, the women's and feminist movement in the region has played a key role in making femicide visible, positioning the topic on the public and political agenda, pushing for the international and regional standards the region has today, strengthening the models of care, influencing the legal frameworks and embarking in strategic litigations of cases of high relevance, such as in the Mexican case known as *Campo Algodonero*²⁶.

Networks of civil society organizations, feminist organizations as well as entities focused on women's rights play a key role in pressuring and influencing state institutions at national and regional level. Likewise, they play a crucial role in the design and implementation of strategies and initiatives that aim to transform gender roles, provide services including free legal assistance to women and girls and to human rights defenders that are increasingly being criminalized, and defending/accompanying women in situations of violence. But they also face difficulties in accessing and utilising tools and updated information, lack direct dialogue with some governments, and encounter setbacks in terms of policies on women's rights.

Considering the relevance of the role that women's organizations and networks have played and continue to play, including those that work in favour of the rights of children as well as those defending the rights of groups facing intersecting forms of discrimination, it is important to strengthen their internal capacities and reach. Assistance is also needed to consolidate the articulated work of the organizations and networks in the region, facilitating the exchanges of experiences, observations, lessons, and strategies to increase their influence and impact. Special

²⁵ Third Hemispheric Report urges states that have not yet done so to approve legislation, design and implement public policies aimed at preventing and eradicating conduct, cultural or discriminatory practices based on the subordination or inferiority of women and girls, taking into account intersectionality of other dimensions of discrimination (girls, elderly, indigenous, Afro-descendants, immigrants, displaced persons, inmates, women from rural areas, with disabilities or in situations of poverty). Only 37.5 percent of the countries reported having laws or policies against violence that recognize the multiple faces of discrimination or have laws against discrimination that recognize gender-based violence. (MESECVI, 2017).

²⁶ The case refers to the international responsibility of the State for the lack of diligence in the investigations related to the disappearance and death of Claudia Ivette González, Esmeralda Herrera Monreal and Laura Berenice Ramos Monárrez.
http://www.corteidh.or.cr/cf/Jurisprudencia2/ficha_tecnica.cfm?lang=en&nld_Ficha=347

attention should be given to those networks and organizations that bring together young people and other groups of women that face intersecting forms of discrimination and marginalization, such as women of African descent and indigenous women.

In addition, human rights defenders face extreme challenges, such as the elevated number of women murdered in recent years. Many of these lives could have been saved if proper mechanisms for the protection of women rights defenders existed, but cases are often not reported and if they are, they do not trigger public action. Often such cases are not investigated in-depth and many perpetrators remain unpunished. There is a need for protocols that investigate the threats and violent experiences specifically faced by these human rights defenders. In the region, environmental activists are especially affected, with emblematic cases such as the case of Berta Cáceres or Marielle Franco.

Through the Spotlight Regional Programme, regional and sub-regional networks and systems to protect human rights defenders will be strengthened and protocols and protection modalities will be piloted in the region in partnership with a coalition of regional and international organizations led by the Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL).

PILLAR 3: Changes in social norms, attitudes and behaviours.

Efforts in the prevention of VAWG have been limited and insufficient^{27,28,29} despite the importance of primary prevention as a long-term strategy.

Evidence shows that prevention policies and programmes, as well as communication strategies aimed at changing behaviours, are effective when they are developed in a holistic and comprehensive manner. These strategies need to take into consideration the ecological model, addressing risk and protection factors, integrate specific interventions with women and men at community level, include programmes targeting fathers and the economic empowerment of women, and should be implemented for children, adolescence and youth. Policies and programmes are also effective when they place the transformation of gender norms, the construction of gender equality relations, the development of assertive, healthy and responsible sexuality, and the non-violent resolution of conflicts at the centre of each intervention^{30, 31, 32}.

Likewise, the prevention of VAWG and femicide is more successful if it is part of a broader strategy that includes the elimination of stereotypes, prejudices, and gender norms which are manifestations of the root cause of the perpetuation of violence, through the limitation of liberty and autonomy of

²⁷ ECLAC. (2007). ¡Not one more! The right to live a violence free life in Latin America and the Caribbean. Santiago Chile: CEPAL, Social Development Division.

²⁸ Essayag, S. (2017). From Commitment to Action: Policies to End Violence Against Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. Panama, Panama: UN Women/UNDP.

²⁹ MESECVI (2017). Third Hemispheric Report on the Implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention. This report has a focus on the obligation of the states to prevent. Only 29.76 percent of the responses from the 24 States that participated in the third round of evaluation provided information on the fulfillment of the standards established by the Convention associated with the obligation to prevent violence against women and girls and their right to be educated free from stereotyped patterns.

³⁰ Ellsberg, M., Arango, D. J., Morton, M., Gennari, F., Kiplesund, S., Contreras, M., & Watts, C. (2015). Prevention of violence against women and girls: What does the evidence say? *The Lancet*, 385(9977), 1555–1566.

³¹ Edström, J., Hassink, A., Shahrokh, T., & Stern, E. (2015). Engendering Men. A Collaborative Review of Evidence on Men and Boys in Social Change and Gender Equality. EMERGE Evidence Review, Promundo-US, Sonke Gender Justice and the Institute of Development Studies.

³² Fulu, E., Kerr-Wilson, A., & Lang, J. (2014). What Works to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls? Evidence Review of Interventions to Prevent Violence against Women and Girls. London UK: DFID. Retrieved from https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/337615/evidence-review-interventions-F.pdf

women and girls, and the reinforcement of subordinate images of women and girls which lead to the discriminatory and violent behaviours and social attitudes. The modification of these guidelines, norms and stereotypes are a response to mandates established in international and regional instruments to protect and fulfil human rights.³³

The region has ongoing promising initiatives involving government stakeholders³⁴ (such as ministries of education, health, human rights, of women), as well as civil society stakeholders (women and feminist organizations, youth organizations, organizations which work on new masculinities, etc.) to prevent VAWG in the education and health systems as well as at the community level and outside of schools. But these initiatives are limited³⁵.

The high levels of VAWG and femicide, the persistent normalization of intimate partner violence, and the persistent gender inequalities among young people³⁶, demonstrate that the strategies for the prevention of violence among adolescents and young girls and boys are insufficient. They are calling for more articulated, holistic and sustained strategies to transform social norms and practices adapted to different groups and with new approaches and tools.

Regional and national authorities (fora of the countries of LAC on sustainable development, ministries of women in the Regional Conference on Women, MESECVI, Central American Council of Women's Affairs Ministers (COMMCA), Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Women's Affairs (RMAAM) and other sub-regional bodies and meetings; ministries of education in the Regional Conference on Education; planning ministries and foreign affairs ministries in the Regional Conference on Population and Development, among others) must commit to investment in prevention. For this, it is necessary to put an end to two deeply entrenched beliefs in decision makers; first, that VAWG and gender discrimination is so complex and structural and has deep cultural roots that it is impossible to change; and second, that ending VAWG and femicide is solely the responsibility of the state.

It is the first problem we want to address in this Pillar. Countering VAWG requires increasing the regional commitment to develop comprehensive and sustainable strategies for the short, medium and long-term that respond to the ecological model on VAWG, as well as generating partnerships with non-traditional actors and sectors to be able to create a transformative social project (in special youth and feminist networks, social media and the private sector) to change social norms on gender

³³ Article 5 of the Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (CEDAW): "States Party will adopt all appropriate measures to modify the rules of social and cultural conduct in men and women, with the aim of achieving the elimination of prejudices and customs and all other practices based on the idea of inferiority or superiority of any of the sexes or in stereotyped roles for men or women".

³⁴ Initiatives include those that UNFPA has developed using regional and national strategies, in partnership with UNESCO and UNICEF, other UN Agencies, ministries of education, health, women, and other agencies linked to child protection, and CSO (such as feminist networks, international organizations such as population councils, youth and adolescents networks), to promote comprehensive sexual education, prevention of adolescent pregnancy and child marriage, and early and forced unions and gender-based violence. Transformation of social norms, girls and women empowerment and promotion of positive masculinities have been part of these strategies in countries like México, Guatemala, Uruguay, Perú, Bolivia, El Salvador, Colombia, Honduras, Nicaragua, Brazil, etc. Men Engage, PROMUNDO and Puntos de Encuentro, with support of UNFPA and other partners, have developed a regional training initiative to promote gender transformative approaches in the promotion of sexual and reproductive health and rights and the prevention of gender-based violence. REDLAC and OXFAM are working in strengthening regional youth networks for transforming images and social norms to eliminate violence against women.

³⁵ Only five states - Chile, El Salvador, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, and Uruguay report about action and treatment protocols for violations of the right of women and girl children to be educated free from stereotyped behavior patterns and social and cultural practices based on the inferiority or subordination of women (MESECVI,2017).

³⁶ OXFAM (2018): "Breaking molds: transform images and social regulations to eliminate violence against women."

equality and VAWG.

In addition to the difficulties in addressing VAWG and femicide in a holistic and comprehensive manner, we face a second problem consisting of an increase in obstacles and resistance from conservative, fundamentalist and religious groups in addressing comprehensive sexuality education in and out of the classroom and promoting gender equality in the education of girls and boys.³⁷ This resistance occurs despite the fact that evidence shows the importance of this strategy in the prevention of gender-based violence and the promotion of equal and respectful relations. It is important to put forward arguments to convince authorities in the region about the relevance of comprehensive sexuality education as an effective strategy for the prevention of gender-based violence and the promotion of gender equality in the education of girls and boys in Latin America. In this sense, it is necessary to increase the knowledge about women's human rights, gender equality and prevention of VAWG in the education sector.

A third problem is the lack of regional evidence and analysis for the identification of the most effective and sustainable strategies relevant for social change in attitudes and behaviours for the empowerment of women and girls, gender equality and the elimination of violence against women and girls, including femicide. Special attention, therefore, should be given to the critical revision of the experiences and practices and the analysis of evidence to support and make change happen, with special attention to the population groups that face multiple forms of discrimination, such as those of African descent, indigenous people, people with disabilities, girls, adolescents and youth, and among other groups of women. This sharing of evidence in the region, will encourage long-term investment by governments and other interested stakeholders.

PILLAR 5: Quality, comparable data.

As shown in the sections above, there are still significant challenges in the collection and analysis of data on femicide. In many countries, the magnitude of the problem is not clear. Femicides are not reported or are not known, they are under-registered or wrongly classified in official statistics. Data is also many times aggregated and hides the disaggregated information of groups of women and girls, which makes it hard to understand how femicide is affecting women in different geographical settings and vulnerabilities.^{38,39,40} Data about missing women and girls is often not included in statistics on femicide.

One of the main challenges in the generation of reliable and comparable data is the fact that sources of data about femicide and the murders of women are diverse and heterogeneous, both between the countries of the region as well as within countries. Neither does the data available allow in-depth understanding of the different effects of violence on segments of women and girls who suffer multiple forms of discrimination, or those who live in places where there is a limited state presence, without access to services or those in areas of generalized violence.

In this scenario, various countries have devoted efforts to improve the registration, integration,

³⁷ Just 13 out of 23 countries in the region have a comprehensive sexual education programme and only six allocate specific resources. Half of the countries have curricular content that does not properly include content on gender, sexual rights and sexual diversity and they don't have training programmes for teachers. (According to *Mira que te Miro*, social monitoring of the health and sexual reproductive rights from the *Consenso de Montevideo* development and population consensus) <https://miraquetemiro.org/>. [Some countries of the region are promoting legal and political reforms to eliminate the word "gender" on different laws, policies and education curricula.](#)

³⁸ Nowak, M. (2012). Femicide: A Global Problem. *Research Notes, Small Arms Survey*, 14, 2010–2013.

³⁹ Mujica, J., & Tuesta, D. (2014). Femicide Penal Response in the Americas: Indicators and the Misuses of Crime Statistics, evidence from Peru, 7(1), 1–21.

⁴⁰ Corradi, C., Marcuello-Servós, C., Boira, S., & Weil, S. (2016). Theories of femicide and their significance for social research. *Current Sociology*, 64(7), 975–995.

systematization and development of data on femicide as well as data related to murders of women. These efforts to improve the measurement of femicide have been agreed upon in the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Regional Conference has had a significant impact since 2009, as several countries have started strengthening their capacities to generate data about femicide. Likewise, there has been important advances at a regional level with the involvement of actors such as ECLAC and the creation of the Observatory for Gender Equality of Latin America and the Caribbean. National statistics offices have started working on the production of data on femicide and VAW. This has allowed researchers to conduct some research on estimates and reporting and has increased the understanding of the prevalence in the region.

Notwithstanding these advances, the challenge to develop homogeneous, systematic, disaggregated data for relevant and robust analysis persist, complicating the regional analysis and the comparisons among countries or sub-regions.

Among the obstacles to collecting robust and appropriate statistical analysis at regional level is the fact that some countries do not criminalize femicide, while in some countries that do have such regulations, there is no common parameter for the definition of what constitutes femicide. In addition, each country classifies its information about femicides and violent deaths according to different categories and disaggregation, sometimes without making any distinction between intentional and non-intentional femicide. While there might be mechanisms to collect data on murders, these only record the gender of the victim without disaggregation by age, ethnicity, race or disability and do not include additional variables (such as settings, geographical location, link to perpetrator, among others). Therefore, factors such as gender, race, age, indigenous identity or ethnicity remain hidden, and this does not allow for the measurement and analysis of the implications of femicide amongst women in different groups and contexts⁴¹. This information gap also hinders the analysis of femicide within the continuum of violence, and in regard to other social and contextual issues such as organized crime, human trafficking and sexual violence, among others.

Likewise, there is an important gap between the generation of data about femicide and the need for data for the purpose of the design, follow-up and evaluation of public policies on prevention and response. This can lessen the potential use of the information and limit the development of statistics. As such, there is a need for dialogue and coordination amongst data generators, people responsible public policymakers and other stakeholders in the field of prevention and response.

The need to improve the collection, classification, processing and analysis of data related to femicide⁴² has been recognized by countries, regional organizations and United Nations agencies. These entities have been working on different initiatives⁴³ to diagnose and address the problem, such as projects focused on the analysis of the quality of the data on femicide in countries in the region⁴⁴ and the inclusion of indicators on violence and femicide in follow-up indicators of the SDGs. The Spotlight Initiative will support the improvement of regional synergies in the diagnosis of femicide statistics. Likewise, it will contribute to increase the capacity of specialized personnel, along with participation of civil society⁴⁵.

⁴¹ Saccomano, C (2017). El feminicidio en América Latina: ¿vacío legal o déficit del Estado de derecho?. Revista CIDOB d'Afers Internacionals n.117, p. 51-78.

Garita, A. (N.D.) La regulación del delito de femicidio/feminicidio en América Latina y el Caribe. Panamá, UNETE.

⁴² It should be noted that the data on prevalence and incidence of VAWG come from sources different than those of femicide, which comes from administrative records, which deserve special attention within this Pillar.

⁴³ In this sense, the efforts displayed to define Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence against Women: Statistical Surveys should be highlighted.

https://oig.cepal.org/sites/default/files/directrices_para_la_produccion_de_estadisticas_sobre_la_violencia_contra_la_mujer1.pdf

⁴⁴ ECLAC with the support of the Spanish Cooperation for Development.

⁴⁵ Santidrián, Emilio Ginés y otros. Guía de recomendaciones para la investigación eficaz del crimen de feminicidio. Madrid: Federación de Asociaciones de DDHH de España, 2013.

The Regional Programme strategy will bring together a critical mass of regional and sub-regional partners in a joint effort aimed at transforming the factors associated with VAWG and femicide, building on existing processes as presented above.

Programme Strategy

A comprehensive approach towards VAWG and femicide: The Latin American Regional Programme of the Spotlight Initiative will work to prevent, respond and eliminate VAWG and femicide, the most extreme manifestation of VAWG, at regional and sub-regional levels. The European Union and the United Nations agencies will collaborate, according to their mandates, with a wide range of regional stakeholders and actors, building on ongoing initiatives in a coordinated and sustainable manner, partnering with regional and sub-regional institutions, inter-governmental bodies, governments and civil society, and engaging with other initiatives, agencies and sectors.

This strategy is based on international human and women's right instruments such as the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará), the CEDAW, the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the recommendations of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). Taking into account the regional context, the programme is aligned with the Montevideo Consensus and the Montevideo Strategy for the Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework. These are the key regional political commitments establishing a roadmap for action. Drawing on these global, regional and sub-regional regulatory frameworks – such as the SICA/COMMCA Plan of Action for the Prevention of Violence Against Women, amongst others - normative mandates, and regional intergovernmental mechanisms, the programme proposes a strategy that is comprehensive and uses an intersectional⁴⁶, intercultural and intergenerational approach to VAWG.

The rationale of the programme is that a range of multi-disciplinary intervention models should be put in place to address VAWG and femicide:

Sanction and control: They include the measures that typify femicide as a crime, highlighting that the killing of women should be punished as such. These are measures of state control, generally involve the security sector, police, justice and criminal system, acting through the executive and the judiciary. As prosecution rate is still very low in the region - due to the persistence of gender biases within the police-justice and criminal system -, effective measures to control VAWG and femicide should address issues of coordination between institutions and support efforts to understand and overcome the barriers that interfere with women's access to justice, eliminating impunity. Effective control results cannot rely only on the tipification of the crime; it requires an adequate environment for fair and just prosecution and policy implementation.

Prevention: VAWG and femicide have deep-rooted causes in the region, and control measures will not eliminate them on their own. A second intervention mechanism included in a comprehensive response is prevention. Prevention can encompass a multiplicity of actions from primary prevention – in social norms and practices –preventing violence before it occurs, to secondary prevention by protecting and/or reducing the risk of exposure to violence by, for example, ensuring compliance with protection measures that impose restraining orders on perpetrators. All levels of intervention are equally important under a comprehensive systems approach. Effective measures demand acting simultaneously on all fronts implying a considerable overlap between levels of prevention,

⁴⁶ The intersectional approach addresses the multiple and interrelated forms of discrimination that women and girls face, due to their age, ethnicity, race, disability condition, sexual diversity, socio-economic status, amongst others.

and the measures taken before and after violence has occurred.

Protection and empowerment: The axis of prevention/response is not enough to address VAW and femicide. As the work of the women's movement shows, equally important are the measures to protect and empower women and girls. They are not passive subjects in the fight against femicide, but rather individuals and groups with agency and power to mobilize. The Regional Programme foresees the participation of civil society across all pillars, with emphasis on feminist and civil society groups working to protect the rights of women, human rights defenders, girls and adolescents to live a life free of violence. The Regional Programme will build on the unprecedented dynamism stemming from the renewal of the movement, influenced by the mobilization of young women and an increasing number of young men, demanding changes in gender norms and to put a stop to violence against women and girls. The manifestations of these movements are not restrained to traditional activism in the streets, but extend to social networks, art, music and new technologies that have brought regional momentum to otherwise localised protests and demands. The Regional Programme will strengthen alliances and platforms against femicide and sexual violence, a topic that has also been strongly included in the demands of these movements. Moreover, as a cross-cutting strategy, and under the principle of "leave no one behind", the programme will ensure that segments of women facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination are considered across the activities outlined in the programme.

Response: States also must implement intervention models that ensure that victims access a response that ensures their rights and wellbeing. This aspect of the state's response should also be included in policies and their implementation, with adequate monitoring mechanisms and budgets. These include immediate and direct response and support to victims and survivors by the health, security and justice system, and victims and survivors right to reparation. The reparations can take the form of resources, through court resolutions demanding payment from the perpetrator or via social schemes to provide women and girls with the means to leave a situation in which they are victims of violence. Reparation can also take other forms, for example, by ensuring that family assets are withdrawn from the control of the perpetrator and that custody of children whose mother has been murdered is not given to the perpetrator. Material reparation has been mostly absent from legal and policy schemes in place in the region and immaterial reparation involving the dignity of the victims involves highly contested and complex legal issues.

The relevance of data: Taking the strategic entry points above, all policies and intervention models must be based on data and evidence, including the understanding of what works. Significant and sustainable change can only be achieved if evidence-based regulatory frameworks, policies and plans are put in place⁴⁷, and only a better understanding of regional prevalence, trends and the factors involved in VAWG and femicide will provide the information needed to design them. The current gaps identified in the region include the lack of comparative and accurate data on prevalence of femicide and a comprehensive understanding of how these problems are manifested in the region, in different geographical and contextual settings, and amongst different groups of women and girls. This is particularly relevant in a region scarred by high levels of inequality amongst groups of women and girls and in different geographical contexts.

The trend towards evidence-based policymaking has a significant effect on regional, sub-regional and national development processes and guides the programme rationale, not only on evidence-based policymaking, but also in its approach to advocacy. This information and the increase in knowledge will be the result of coordination and cooperation between actors, tailored to policymakers and other stakeholders and widely disseminated in regional and sub-regional spaces. It will include an advocacy strategy that not only pushes for the evidence to be appropriated by regional and sub-regional mechanisms, but also to create momentum within these spaces to increase the commitment to collect, analyse and share knowledge on femicide in the region.

Coordination and strategic collaboration: The programme will ensure coordination and a

⁴⁷ Green, D., 2016. How change happens (p. 288). Oxford University Press.

strategic contribution to investments made both by the lead agencies through existing programmes and those of other actors in the region, to eradicate VAWG and femicide. It will strengthen, collaborate and build upon existing initiatives⁴⁸, generating evidence about their effectiveness and replicability at the regional level.

The United Nations System will work in conjunction with ongoing European Union initiatives, including the EUROsociAL+ programme, and other programmes that work on violence against women and relevant gender initiatives. EUROsociAL+ is a demand-driven programme, therefore the collaboration will start with a joint working session during the inception in the first weeks of implementation, to agree on the common lines of work of the regional Spotlight Initiative and EUROsociAL+. Notwithstanding, there are common areas of work already identified, such as the work supported by EUROsociAL+ on free legal advisory for women victims in Panama, work with perpetrators in Guatemala, support for litigation and investigations of femicide in Uruguay, etc. A detailed plan of collaboration will be developed with EUROsociAL+, identifying the initiatives where synergies could be promoted, and where the Regional Programme can build on the experience of EUROsociAL+ and vice versa.

The Programme will expand and enhance the Region's achievements by bringing visibility and developing responses to VAWG and femicide and working with recognized and legitimate sub-regional and regional intergovernmental bodies and civil society platforms active in Latin America and its sub-regions. It will build particularly on opportunities created by the SPOTLIGHT priority countries in the 3 Central American countries and by Mexico (given the commonality of some of the VAW and girls and femicide dynamics, especially around topics such as migration, organized crime and disappearances). This effort will benefit from the existing interest and working mechanisms that the Central American Integration process offers together with civil society networks active in those relevant topics and with connections to Mexico. Furthermore, given that Argentina is Chair of the RMAAM, this provides an added advantage as they are also part of the SPOTLIGHT priority countries and can play a key role directly influencing both the RMAAM agenda and that of other regional bodies which, in turn, have an impact on sub-regional organizations.

The Programme will generate evidence, promote advocacy and support regional and sub-regional institutions to spearhead the fight against VAWG and femicide, creating a series of regional and sub-regional platforms for action in line with international and regional human rights standards. As such, it will place its efforts at the regional and sub-regional levels, using existing platforms where legal frameworks and policies on femicide and VAW are being discussed.

These include, amongst others:

- MESECVI gathers the highest authorities on gender issues from countries in the region⁴⁹ to meet and agree on the steps needed to monitor compliance and implementation with the Convention of Belem Do Pará. It includes a concrete monitoring mechanism, the Committee of Experts of the Convention (CEVI), a committee of independent experts appointed by the states to review and draft legal recommendations on a set of topics defined periodically by consensus. The programme will make efforts to strengthen the CEVI in particular. Working with MESECVI - and CEVI – will strengthen the coordination within the Inter-American system and support follow-up of existing instruments and commitments of the states around EVAW, including Belem Do Para, CEDAW, Beijing +25, etc.

PARLATINO, the Latin American Parliament is a Latin America and the Caribbean permanent organization. It is a consultative assembly and currently is being considered to become the legislative organ of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States⁵⁰.

⁴⁸ See annexes

⁴⁹ The Chair of the MESECVI rotates over time. Currently, Panama acts as Chair of the Mechanism and will do so throughout 2019.

⁵⁰ The purpose of Parlatino is to defend democracy, promote human rights, and economic and social

It has 23 members, each of which sends 12 nominated plenipotentiaries who represent the views of the parliament of each country. In 2015, Parlatino and UN Women launched the Regulatory Framework to Consolidate Democratic Parity, to promote the adoption of parity by states across the region. Subsequently, the region increased women's political participation up to 30.7 percent in lower cameras above the global average of women's representation (23.4 percent, according to IPU⁵¹). Taking this into consideration, a similar alliance is planned to promote the adoption by states of the recent approved Model Law on Femicide, strengthening capacities to create or update legislation in the region, and taking action towards the adoption of a comprehensive strategy to address VAWG and femicide as described above (sanction, prevention, protection/empowerment, and response) including reparation to guarantee the rights of women and girls to a life free of violence.

- Regional spaces and meetings include the ECLAC [Statistical Conference of the Americas](#), the regional inter-governmental platform that promotes the development and improvement of national statistics and works to ensure that they are comparable regionally and internationally. The conference contributes to the progress of policies on statistics and statistical activities and cooperation among national statistical offices and agencies. The conference has discussed the meta data and data collection of femicide [as part of the SDG indicators](#). In addition the ECLAC [Regional Conference on Women](#) is a key discussion and decision making space for the region's national women's machineries that will be a key space for all pillars, to promote normative and policy change, present products of the programme and advocacy. This space interacts with the Commission on the Status of Women under which regional governments have also developed relevant platforms to monitor and promote women's rights in LAC.

At the sub-regional level, relevant bodies and entities to partner with include:

- Central American Integration System (SICA). The programme will work in coordination of the System's five-year Plan of Action for the Prevention of Violence Against Women, that has been agreed by the Council of Ministers of Women's Affairs of Central America (COMMCA). The Plan foresees 1) strengthening and increasing the availability of tools for prevention of violence against women; 2) strengthening capacities and competencies to capture, produce and analyse data on violence against women; and 3) improving capacities for protection and reparation for women victims of violence. Other relevant SICA/COMMCA frameworks and strategies include the Regional Policy of Equality and Gender Equity (PRIEG) and the Strategic Framework to Prevent Violence of the Democratic Security Section. In particular, under a financial and workplan agreement between Spotlight RUNOs and COMMCA, COMMCA will develop and implement a regional programme on women's human rights, gender equality and violence against women and girls with the education sector in Central America and a regional strategy to collect and analyse information and statistical data on VAWG in Central America, also strengthening capacities of statistical offices in Central America to improve the collection, processing and generation of information and statistics on violence against women.
- The Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Women's Affairs (RMAAM) of the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) and Associated States, that will be chaired by the Government of Argentina in 2019. During the ninth meeting of ministers and authorities of the RMAAM, participating governments agreed to strengthen the emphasis on prevention and the fight against trafficking of women and focus on indigenous women, women of African descent and migrant women. In its role as chair for the next period, the government of Argentina stated that the promotion of new masculinities will be a priority.

development, maintain and foster relations with other geographic parliaments and international organizations, and promote self-determination and defence against imperialism and colonialism.

⁵¹ <https://www.ipu.org/oversight>

- Both SICA/COMMCA and RMAAM offer a space to disseminate and plan the adaptation of the Model Law on Femicide and to address sub-regional specificities, for example, responding to the situation of disappearances in Central America or black women in the Southern Cone. The sub-regional integration platforms will also be used to disseminate the work done on the work on migration and in Pillar 5 on data collection on femicide and to increase knowledge on the issue.
- Regional Conference on Migration (*Conferencia Regional de Migración -CRM*), covers mostly Central America, i.e. the governments of Belize, Canada, Costa Rica, El Salvador, United States, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Dominican Republic, and is a space where states discuss and agree on approaches and frameworks to address the issue of formal and informal migration. In this space UNDP, in partnership with International Organization on Migration (IOM) has already started work to include issues such as the protection of migrant women with the recent adoption of guidelines for the attention and protection of women in the context of migration. The guidelines have been adopted by the conference, and there is political will to move forwards in their adaptation to different issues including VAWG, based on evidence, which needs to be built and deepened.
- Regional and sub regional civil society organizations such as the ones mentioned in the detailed description of the activities include CLADEM, JASS, CEJIL, AFM, ECMIA, *Red de Mujeres Afro*, AFM, RSMLAC, *Red Feminista Centroamericana Contra la Violencia de Género*, and others. The programme will use the opportunity to work with existing networks of civil society organizations, some of them working in the isthmus and others that include Mexico, as is the case of the *Iniciativa Mesoamericana de Mujeres Defensoras de Derechos Humanos*, bringing together organizations of human rights defenders.

Regional theory of change (RTOC)

To prevent, respond to and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, including femicide, a range of intervention models, under a comprehensive approach to femicide, should be put in place. To ensure impact and to provide focus, the Regional Programme will promote and adapt normative and policy frameworks to international standards and will work to ensure that institutions have the commitment, knowledge and capacities to legislate, plan, implement and monitor policies to address VAWG and femicide.

The Regional Programme will also support the capacities and knowledge required to design comprehensive, intercultural, intergenerational prevention programmes that are based on evidence and directed towards changing behaviours, attitudes and social norms, gender roles and stereotypes and address secondary prevention.

In addition, the programme will promote collaboration for the production, collection, analysis and use of comparable, quality data and will increase knowledge on the phenomenon of femicide in under-researched areas, in an effort to support the design of public policies and interventions.

Throughout its activities, the programme will also work in partnership with women's and feminist organizations to empower and protect women and girls, influence legislation, demand compliance with legal mandates, design and monitor policies, demand the right of organizations to exercise their right to association and to defend rights and ensure accountability as a cross cutting strategy. A comprehensive and multisectoral approach along with an understanding of how different segments of women, in particular groups facing multiple forms of discrimination, and a guarantee of adequate and relevant initiatives will also be a cross-cutting strategy.

ToC statement:

(1) If regional and sub-regional bodies and institutions are strengthened to exercise their role in

generating political will, convening, monitoring and promoting the highest standards in the prevention, sanctioning and response to VAW and femicide; (2) If there is an increase in regional capacities to create changes in social norms, attitudes and behaviours favourable to gender equality and the respect of women's rights, through dissemination of instruments, tools and models; (3) If regionally comparable, disaggregated, quality data on VAWG and femicide is generated and used and the analysis of poorly understood dimensions of femicide is expanded; and (4) If autonomous and strong civil society organizations actively participate in the empowerment of women and in influencing decision-making on VAWG and femicide as well as influence and monitor and demand accountability to the public actions of governments in the region; (5) Then we will make meaningful progress in the region to guarantee that all women and girls, specifically the ones in situations of greater vulnerability facing multiple forms of exclusion and discrimination, live a life free of violence and femicide; (6) Because the regulatory, programmatic, institutional, social and cultural regional environment will be strengthened in a coordinated and holistic manner, leading to effective sanctioning, prevention and response to VAWG, including femicide and other forms of discrimination, through laws, plans, programmes, projects, strategies of communication for change, the empowerment of women and girls and the transformation of social behaviours.

Pillar 1: Legislation and policies

Lead agency: UN Women

Pillar 1	Direct	Indirect (millions of people)
Women	143,875	45.7
Girls	0	27.4
Men	95,917	30.5
Boys	0	20.3
Total	239,792	76.2

Outcome 1: Legislative frameworks in the region follow and deepen the understanding of international human rights standards leading to effective sanctioning, prevention and response to all forms of violence against women and girls, including femicide.

Strategy:

Under this outcome, a **critical mass** of existing intergovernmental, civil society and other partners will be brought together to advance the design and implementation of normative frameworks and policies to sanction, prevent and respond to VAWG and femicide, including through the reparation to women and girl victims of VAWG and femicide (and their families).

Developing a critical mass of actors with regional outreach acting against the variety of forms of VAW and femicide is a priority for the Regional Programme. Along with NGOs, the Regional Programme recognises that remote areas are a locus of threat and violence for women, especially women rights defenders. Community media and community-based journalists and women activists are playing a critical role in bringing awareness about threats suffered. The effectiveness of their work and the possibility of bringing enhanced protection to women human rights defenders call for expanding their networking and visibility. The programme will work to ensure that their work is exercised with safety and in an enabling environment.

The activities under this outcome will target the entire region, with some sub-regional level engagement. Key partners include MESECVI/OAS, ECLAC, PARLATINO, SICA, COMMCA, RMAAM and other sub-regional mechanisms for the advancement of women, Regional Conference on Women, and the Regional Conference on Statistics.

The relationship between the UN and the Inter-American system will be strengthened to make progress in regional level policies, and in working collectively to address conservative and fundamentalist trends and backlashes to gender equality and VAWG in the region. A collective

regional strategy is required to address the growing strength of these tendencies.

The activities under Pillar 1 will build on the **strong existing partnership** between the UN Agencies and regional and sub-regional institutions. For example, this Pillar will spearhead work to promote the adoption and improvement of the legal frameworks by the use of the Model Law on Femicide; the Latin American Model Protocol for the investigation of gender-related killings of women as well as promoting reforms to civil and family legislation to ensure the protection of women survivors. This work will be based on UN Women and MESECVI/OAS' partnership, grounded in the legitimacy of this effective intergovernmental mechanism with high political commitment and technical expertise, to which state parties report progress on the implementation of the Belem do Pará Convention.

The topics under outcome 1 (Model Law on Femicide legislation, the lack of protection for women victims/survivors of violence as secondary prevention and disappearances), have already been put forth and agreed in the working agenda of the Committee of Experts of the Convention (CEVI)⁵². In 2016, the CEVI was tasked with developing a Model Law on Femicide by the ministers of the National Women's Machineries. UN Women and MESECVI supported the [analysis of all legislation on femicide in the region](#)⁵³, highlighting the strengths and weaknesses of laws to discuss the elements needed for the Model Law. The Model Law on Femicide was developed, debated and revised in multiple meetings and was approved in December 6, 2018. MESECVI and UN Women have agreed to use the Model Law to advocate for the alignment of national legislations with the National Women's Machineries, policymakers and other key stakeholders.

Based on an existing partnership with PARLATINO, UN Women/MESECVI will promote the adoption by states of the Model Law on Femicide, strengthening capacities to create or update legislation in the region. SICA/COMMCA and the RMAAM offer a space to disseminate and plan the adaptation of the Model Law on Femicide. The contents of the law will be disseminated, analysed and worked on with stakeholders of the sub-regional integration systems.

Additionally, the activities will build upon the Latin American Protocol for the Investigation of Gender Related Killings of Women (femicide) jointly developed by OHCHR and UN Women. To date, Brazil and Argentina have adopted the protocol, while Guatemala is in the process of doing so. The Association of Ibero-American Public Prosecutors has agreed to promote its adaptation at country level among its members, an effort which will be supported under Pillar 1.

The Regional Programme of the Spotlight Initiative will support the creation of thematic groups under the CEVI to look into topics that revictimize women and girls and add to their vulnerability, including custody and alimony regulations and the protection of family assets. Results will be gathered under legal opinions and recommendations and technical studies will be released and published jointly.

The **existing partnership with regional civil society organizations** will be strengthened at regional and sub-regional levels, for instance, supporting strategic litigation processes that have proven to be effective in setting precedents and in the provision of legal counselling and support for increased legal protection of human rights defenders and victims and survivors of VAWG. Organizational partners includes *Iniciativa Mesoamericana de Mujeres*, *Movimiento Migrante Mesoamericano*, CEJIL, Association of Jurists, CLADEM, *Red de Mujeres Campesinas e Indígenas de Centroamérica*, ECMIA, *Unión Iberoamericana de Mujeres Municipalistas*, the *Red de Mujeres Afrodescendientes* and FILAC. These activities foster the long-standing partnerships

⁵² The CEVI are experts appointed by their governments to provide cutting-edge expertise and knowledge of the region and the support of their governments.

⁵³ ONU Mujeres, MESECVI. (2018) Análisis de legislación sobre [femicidio/feminicidio](#) en América Latina y el Caribe e insumos para una Ley Modelo
<http://lac.unwomen.org/es/digiteca/publicaciones/2018/12/analisis-legislacion-feminicidio-femicidio-modelo-de-ley>

between civil society networks and UN agencies at regional level.

Activities will also be targeted at **promoting reforms in legal frameworks** and the design of policies addressing disappearances of people and their likely relationship with cases of femicide; changes in the legal approach to **organized crime** and its link with gender-based violence, sexual violence and femicide; and migration and violence against women and femicide.

These initiatives will build upon the work on violence against women and citizen security advanced by UNDP through, for example, the InfoSegura project that engages with Central American sub-regional organizations and actors and generates analysis and data on the effects of citizen insecurity on VAWG and femicide and the state's response to these issues. These activities will be regional but will also have a strong emphasis in the Central American/Mexico sub-region. Key inter-governmental organizations will be engaged including SICA/COMMCA, the Regional Conference on Migration [*Conferencia Regional de Migración \(CRM\)*](#)⁵⁴, and RMAAM. We will also partner with key UN institutions such as [ILANUD, UNODC and IOM as well as regional and sub-regional organizations that bring together ministries of justice and security](#), civil society organizations and institutions in the region with specialization in the work of citizen security, justice and gender and/or organized crime

The work with **migration** and its relationship with violence against women and femicide will be done under the framework of the CRM that covers Central America and Mexico, where UNDP, in partnership with IOM, has already started work to include issues such as the protection of migrant women with the recent adoption of guidelines for the attention and protection of women in the context of migration. This work will also focus on the results and products of the project 'Prevention of VAW in Central America' developed by SG-SICA, COMMCA-SICA, IOM and UNFPA and will liaise us closely with other projects and initiatives ongoing in the region, specially foreseen migration initiatives by the EU. The guidelines have been adopted by the Conference and there is political will to move forward in their adaptation to different issues such as violence against migrant women, VAWG and femicide, based on evidence that must be built and/or deepened. The work on disappearances and its link with femicide will also build on the advances done in the context of InfoSegura, as well as the evidence gathered under this programme in Pillar 5.

It will also build in the experience of UNFPA working in the comprehensive and multisectorial response to VAWG and sexual violence, including the roll-out of the Essential Services for Women and Girls subject to violence.

The sub-regional intergovernmental organization for Central America (**SICA** and **COMMCA**) will also be engaged. The Pillar will seek to contribute to the Central American System of Integration's five-year Plan of Action for the Prevention of Violence Against Women. This plan was agreed by the National Women's Machineries of Central America and foresees three main results, i.) strengthening and increasing the availability of tools for prevention of violence against women; ii.) strengthening capacities and competencies to capture, produce and analyse data on violence against women and iii.) improving capacities for protection and reparation for women victims of violence. The programme will partner with COMMCA in activities towards the use of the Model Law on Femicide, and in the activities on the disappearances of people and its link with femicide, as this is a pressing issue for the Central America. Member states of COMMCA are also members of the MESECVI. Panama currently holds the Presidency of the MESECVI, this constitutes an important link between the two mechanisms.

The activities under Pillar 1 are also closely linked to Pillar 5 (data), and the results of Pillar 5 will be used to inform advocacy for normative and policy change and provide the needed evidence to

⁵⁴ Belize, Canada, Costa Rica, El Salvador, United States, Guatemala, Honduras, México, Nicaragua, Panamá, Dominican Republic.

spearhead the policy agenda. The long-standing partnership between the UN and ECLAC will continue to be strengthened ensuring the use of data is directly linked to policy dialogues in the region through the Conference on Gender Statistics and the Regional Women's Conference, creating a critical mass of intergovernmental mechanisms to advocate for and agree upon policy changes in the area of VAWG and femicide. In addition, the results of Pillar 3 in the analysis, evidence gathering and recommendations on prevention, will feed into this programme as they are closely following up and strengthening the work of civil society and women's organizations that will be played up in policy and decision-making spaces to improve normative and policy design.

The Pillar will align with the demands and initiatives of the national Spotlight Initiatives. All five countries are carrying out studies and advocacy to revise legal frameworks. The Model Law on Femicide will be used as an input to advocate for changes to femicide legislation in all five countries. The Regional Programme studies promote reforms to civil and family legislation to ensure the protection of women survivors and will link with and build upon national studies to influence revisions such as to the Family Code, Special Act for Comprehensive Protection of Children and Adolescents in El Salvador. Guatemala, Honduras and Argentina will be adapting and/or implementing the regional femicide protocol at the national level and linking to the activities supported by the Association of Ibero-American Public Prosecutors through the regional programme. Additionally, the regional activities on strategic litigation of femicide cases by civil society and specialised gender prosecution offices, such as in the case of Argentina, will be linked with activities planned in Guatemala and Honduras on strategic litigation. Guatemala is foreseen to become one of the pilot countries and also pilot the Esperanza Protocol that will be developed with support from the regional programme. Regional activities to develop a regional learning community to improve the response to violence against women and prevent femicide will directly link to activities in all five countries to strengthen national capacities.

ToC Pillar 1

(1) If countries of the region adopt the Model Law on Femicide; use the protocol for the investigation of femicide to adopt standards of criminal procedural law for the investigation of femicide and the legal frameworks effectively address secondary prevention measures for victims/survivors; (2) If the legal and regulatory frameworks are informed and integrate dimensions of how organized crime, the disappearance of people and violence against migrant women link to femicide; and (3) If networks that work on femicide present emblematic cases for litigation to regional and international bodies, offer free legal counselling and support for the women that have been victims/survivors and women human rights defenders, journalists, and other groups have a safe environment to work; (4) If governments, academia, civil society and agencies have the knowledge to improve the response to violence against women and prevent femicide, including violence against groups facing multiple forms of exclusion and discrimination; (5) Then countries in the region will have an appropriate legal and regulatory environment to respond to VAWG, including femicide and other forms of discrimination, and implement and design policies to address VAWG and femicide, (6) Because there are legal and policy frameworks aligned to international human rights standards on all forms of violence against women and girls and femicide that take into account the context in which violence is manifested and the needs of the entire population without leaving anyone behind, and women's organizations will be supported in their agency and advocacy.

Output 1.1 Regional and national partners have strengthened their knowledge and capacities to assess the gaps and draft new and/or strengthen existing legislation and policies on femicide, with an intergenerational, inter-ethnic and intersectoral approach, starting from the adaptation of the Inter-American Model Law on Femicide to prevent, punish and eradicate the violent deaths of women (Femicide – Feminicide) and the adoption of criminal procedural law in the regulations of the Latin American Model Protocol for the investigation of femicide.

Activity 1.1.1.

Analysis and advocacy to promote the adoption and reform of the legal frameworks by the use of the Model Law on Femicide, criminal procedural law standards based on the Latin American Model Protocol for the investigation of gender-related killings of women (femicide) and regulatory adjustments to promote reforms to civil and family legislation to ensure the protection of women survivors.

Summary:

This activity will require supporting sub-regional and regional mechanisms for dialogue and advocacy such as the Regional Conference on Women in LAC, ECLAC Forum on Sustainable Development, etc, to disseminate and promote the alignment to the Model Law on Femicide by LA governments.

The Programme will also conduct a review of criminal procedural law standards based on the Latin American Model Protocol for the investigation of gender-related killings of women (femicide), develop standards to investigate femicides and set up a regional monitoring tool to track progress of its implementation at national level; and document two case studies (Argentina, Brazil or Guatemala). This will be complemented by virtual training to police, prosecutors and investigators in the sub-region on the Latin American protocol on femicide using the existing on-line course developed by OHCHR. Finally, a regional review of legislation and drafting of recommendations on gaps within the family or civil codes that increase the vulnerability on women victims/survivors of violence, keep them in violent relationships and put them at risk of femicide, will be necessary.

Lines of action:

- In partnership with MESECVI the programme will **disseminate, analyse and discuss the Model Law** on Femicide approved by the Committee of Experts (CEVI), with the National Women's Machineries and other experts in the region, to promote the adoption of the model and the adaptation of legal frameworks. This will be achieved by participating and organizing discussions, presenting and disseminating key products, and supporting the participation of experts and civil society in existing spaces, such as PARLATINO, the Regional Conference on Women and the ECLAC Forum on Sustainable Development.
- In addition, the programme will collaborate with COMMCA in the **dissemination, awareness raising and training on the Model Law on Femicide** targeted to personnel in legislative bodies, women's caucuses in political parties and in parliaments. **Workshops** will also be held with personnel from women's machineries to identify opportunities to use the Model Law standards to fill in for existing gaps in protection and reparation mechanisms.
- Noting the interest in working around protection and reparation, UN Women will be supporting the discussion of these two topics in Central America. On protection, the emphasis will be put in the **development of protective mechanisms, both legal and institutional, for human rights defenders and reparation** using, as a basis, progress made by other countries, namely Panama, Guatemala, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay. Relevant contents of these laws are already reflected under the Model Law on Femicide, which will be used as a basis for discussion.
- The programme will also work towards the adoption of the Latin American **Model Protocol for the investigation** of gender-related killings of women by a **review of existing criminal procedural laws in the region**, draft recommendations and promote the adoption of standards for the investigation of femicide in countries of the region. This will be done through MESECVI's member states and the Ibero-American Association of Public Prosecutors (AIAMP).
- The programme will also **promote the implementation of monitoring tools** to track progress at the national level developed by the public prosecutor in Argentina with support

from EUROsociAL, to get buy-in from countries. It will be shared to track results on the implementation of the protocol.

- The programme will also document **two case studies** of countries that have implemented the protocol (Argentina, Brazil or Guatemala) and share the results to promote its adoption.
- Finally, the capacities of states to implement the protocol will be supported by the **dissemination and application of the existing on-line course developed by the OHCHR for police, prosecutors and investigators** in the region.
- To ensure legal protection of women victims of violence, the programme will conduct a **regional review of legislation and draft and promote recommendations to address gaps in the family or civil codes** that increase the vulnerability on women victims/survivors of violence. Also, in partnership with MESECVI, which also includes all COMMCA members and CEVI, and based on the gaps and recommendations, the programme will promote the adoption of the recommendations and push for the necessary regulatory adjustments to address gaps in secondary prevention, such as the lack of protection for women that keep them in violent relationships and put them at risk of femicide. These might include issues such as regulation of paternity, custody and family separation, protection of estate and economic assets, access networks to social protection (jobs, housing, etc.). The recommendations will consider the needs of women that face multiple forms of discrimination (poor, indigenous populations, Afro-descendants, people with disabilities, etc.).

Activity 1.1.2

Strengthen regional and sub-regional systems and networks to protect women rights defenders, journalists and other groups at risk, and improve their capacities around the legal and strategic litigation to present cases with emblematic potential to the pertinent regional and international bodies (Inter-American Court of Human Rights); and develop alliances with organizations to promote best practices and guidance for the provision of free legal counselling and support for the victims/survivors.

Summary:

The programme will work in partnerships with regional and sub-regional CSOs to build their capacities and work with key national CSOs on strategic litigation on emblematic femicide cases through a call for proposals, it will also support the development of Latin America regional protocol to investigate threats of violence against human right defenders, journalists, media and other groups at risk in partnership with Centre for Justice and International Law (CEJIL). In addition, it will support civil society's capacity building and participation in key regional events forming panels on femicide, holding prior meetings with civil society to jointly agree on positions prior to regional intergovernmental events, and drafting documents of common positions for advocacy.

Lines of action:

- The leadership of civil society and groups of women to advocate and promote solutions will be mainstreamed in all pillars of the programme. The use of **strategic litigation** to transform discourses on VAWG and femicide in the region has proven effective. The programme will therefore support the litigation of strategic cases of VAWG in partnership with JASS, CEJIL, Association of Jurists, CLADEM, etc that have engaged the IACHR in emblematic cases such as the 'Cotton Field' v. Mexico (2009), Maria Da Penha Maia Fernandes v. Brazil (2001) and other key cases litigated at the national level. Leading NGOs will be convened to build the capacities of smaller organizations and strengthen networks to work together at national and regional levels.

- The Centre for Justice and International Law (CEJIL) and UN Women are working to develop an international protocol to investigate threats of violence against human rights defenders called the **Esperanza Protocol** in honour of Berta Caceres and advocate for its adaptation at the national level. The protocol aims at making the problem of threats against HR defenders visible, mark its differentiated effects, contribute to the adoption of measures to guarantee and strengthen investigations and to have an intersectional approach as well as adopting reparation and rehabilitation measures. The Latin American Model Protocol for the Investigation of Gender Related Killings of Women (femicide) is being used as a reference for the development of the new instrument but is meant to guide the establishment of mechanisms for effective protection of human rights defenders.
- Under this outcome, work will also be undertaken with other key groups such as Mesoamerican Initiative of Women Human Rights Defenders, ICCO, Latitudes, JASS, Diakonia, community based and indigenous and Afro-descendent organizations to build the capacity of **networks of (women) human rights defenders** to protect themselves, advocate for their rights and link up networks of HR defenders across the region (such as linking Central America with movements in Brazil, Colombia, etc.) to expand their knowledge, self-support and impact.
- This also builds on the work of UN Women and the private sector, such as the legal firm Fundamorgan to strengthen regional partnerships with networks of lawyer's associations, CSOs and universities to build strategies to **provide free legal services** to women who are at risk of femicide and victims of attempted suicide and/or their families.
- The activity will also foster and strengthen the long-standing support and partnerships between a wide range of civil society networks (feminist, youth, indigenous and Afro-descendants, LGBTBI, disabled, PLWHIV, etc.) and UN agencies at regional level working together to advance gender equality and prevent, address, sanction and provide reparations on VAWG, including femicide. Moreover, through a call for proposals⁵⁵, it will foster the partnership of the UN and organizations working on VAWG and femicide to build their continued capacity to develop common **advocacy positions, strategies, documents and presentations to prepare for and participate in intergovernmental meetings** (Conference on Women, Conference on Statistics, MESECVI CSO consultations, Conference on Population and Development). The programme will also improve capacities of women's organizations, engage the public and policymakers with more effective communication strategies and technology to sustain in the long term their work on VAWG and femicide.

Activity 1.1.3

Develop regional recommendations and guidelines to reform relevant legal frameworks addressing (a) disappearances of people and their likely relationship with cases of femicide, (b) the needed changes in the legal approach to organized crime and its link with gender-based violence, sexual violence and femicide (trafficking in persons, forced migration, trafficking in drugs and weapons) and (c) migration and violence against women.

Summary:

The Programme will promote a comprehensive review of national systems to register disappearances in the region and develop regional recommendations to modify legal frameworks to link these disappearances with cases of femicide. A review of legal approaches to address organized crime and its links to GBV, sexual violence, femicide will also be conducted to produce recommendations for adjusting legislation and expert consultation meetings to validate recommendations. The Programme will also document the effect and consequences of violence

⁵⁵ Call for proposals are a UN corporate mechanism use to assess the partners based on a set of criteria and focus on capacity to deliver results, supporting the shift from several agreements with partners for small activities to agreements with partners for at least output level results.

against women and femicide and femicide amongst migrant women to tailor and adapt the Regional Conference on Migrations guidelines on women and migration.

Lines of action:

- a. The programme will embark on the work to change and adapt normative frameworks to address issues that are linked to VAWG and femicide and are relevant to the regional context. To improve the understanding and legal frameworks to link disappearances with femicide, the programme will support a **review of the existing legal systems to register the disappearances of people** in administrative records in the region and develop recommendations to modify them, improving the registration of disappearances as femicide. This work is based on the work done by InfoSegura in Central America and the product of the regional Spotlight Initiative will be used for advocacy initiatives with policymakers at regional level, for example in CEVI, COMMCA and the RMAAN. The activity will be based on the evidence and work conducted under Pillar 5 and will be presented at events such as the Conference on Statistics Gender Working Group and side events at the Regional Conference on Women, in order to create synergies between the need to adequately collect data on disappearances and the regulatory frameworks that are needed to ensure that governments have the mandate to do so. This will be conducted in collaboration and consultation with civil society and organizations of experts⁵⁶ in this field to support the promotion of concrete changes in legislative frameworks.
- b. There is a gap when addressing femicide in situations of chronic violence and organized crime, where as seen in the context analysis, femicide is at its highest. The programme will therefore carry out a **review of legal approaches to address organized crime**, and make links to GBV, sexual violence, and femicide. Based on this analysis it will commission the drafting of recommendations to adjust legislation and address its implications on VAWG and femicide, followed by a meeting of expert and governments to validate the recommendations and webinars to present the results. Due to the sensitive nature of this work, the activities will be carried out with a regional focus and will involve partners such as UNODC and ILANUD. In order to create a regional discussion on this issue based on a human rights framework, the programme will involve experts from the Inter-American Court of Human Rights - and similar bodies - that have already been developing recommendations [on security and human rights](#), ensuring that the issue of women's safety and femicide is included in the discussion. Due to the innovative nature of this work, organizations such as the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice that meets yearly in Vienna will also be approached, and the results will be published in time to be presented at the UN Crime Congress in 2020.
- c. An issue that must be addressed at sub-regional level is the link between migration, VAWG and femicide. The programme will build on the work of UNDP in InfoSegura and the CRM in developing **guidelines on women and migration** and focus the intervention on adapting and focusing the guidelines to address the protection of migrant women against violence. In order to do this, the programme **will first document and increase knowledge** on the effect and consequences of violence against women and femicide and femicide amongst migrant women by a study in the CRM member countries, in partnership with IOM. This work on legal and regulatory frameworks will be used in political and technical dialogues and advocacy in regional spaces and working in partnership with MESECVI, COMMCA, RMAAM and other relevant inter-governmental institutions.

Output 1.2 National and/or sub-national partners⁵⁷ are better able to develop evidence-based national and/or sub-national action plans on VAWG including femicide in line with

⁵⁶ Such as *Red de Defensoras de derechos de las Mujeres de Centro América y México*, *El Movimiento Migrante Centroamericano* and *Jazz*

⁵⁷ Key government/national decision makers (heads of state, finance ministers, ministries of justice and police, security ministers and relevant planning institutions) including women's rights advocates

international human rights standards with M&E frameworks, increase financing and allocate appropriate budgets for their implementation, including for those groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.

Activity 1.2.1.

Develop a regional learning community among governments, academia, civil society and agencies to improve the response to violence against women and femicide (secondary and tertiary prevention), based on evidence and the sharing of technical experience and knowledge and practices between countries.

Summary:

The Programme will organize and facilitate a community of practice to share experiences and increase the knowledge and systematize evidence of promising practices and replicable models in challenging areas in the region in order to improve current policies and programmes in secondary and tertiary prevention to VAW and femicide. Topics previously identified are: working with male perpetrators to avoid the repetition of violence; the effective coordination for the holistic multisectoral response needed; the response to the sexual violence that affect specially girls, adolescents and young women and, finally, models that can guarantee that the most excluded women can exercise their right to a life free of violence. In order to contribute to strengthen capacities of this learning community, the programme will develop a virtual regional training course on holistic multisectoral response delivered in agreement with regional, sub-regional and national institutions and a specialized regional training of trainers (ToT) for the health sector to strengthen the capacity of health systems to respond to survivors.

Lines of action:

- UNFPA, in coordination with other UN Agencies, has created a **community of practice** with currently 12 countries, including almost all the countries of Central America, to promote exchanges, cooperation and learning under the framework of the '[Essential services package for women and girls subject to violence](#)'⁵⁸. The community has defined the priorities for 2019-2020, including a virtual training on the package, technical guidelines to service specific groups from an intersectional perspective, the exchange of good practices and south-south cooperation with the objective to improve policies and programmes oriented to the response to femicide (secondary and tertiary prevention). The regional Spotlight programme will support these priorities and focus efforts in Central America, in partnership with the SICA/COMMCA, and in coordination with EUROsocial. As such, UNFPA will facilitate the community of practice and organize in-person and virtual spaces to share experiences and manage south-south cooperation.
- To achieve this, the programme will **systematize evidence of promising practices** and models implemented by governments and civil society at the sub-regional and regional levels on VAWG and femicide, generate policy and technical dialogue about effective models with governments and CSO and develop specific recommendations of how to improve the current policies, programmes and protocols in the region. As an input of this process, the programme will develop one regional study about promising practices in the response to femicide, including several case studies in areas already identified by partners as priorities for the action. The first one is about models of intervention for working with male perpetrators of violence⁵⁹ with networks and organizations working on masculinities

⁵⁸ The package promotes multisectoral coordination within the (health sector, social services, police and justice, women's ministries, etc.), inter-agency coordination of the United Nations system (UNFPA, UNDP, UN Women, UNODC, PAHO, UNICEF) and social monitoring of civil society (CLADEM, Central American Feminist Network Against Gender Violence and IPPF) to promote comprehensive and coordinated responses

⁵⁹ There are doubts about the effectiveness of these programmes in the region, however most states have included them in their national plans and they request technical guidance on how to carry them out

and with men and young people⁶⁰. Governments in the region are including this line of action in public policies and there is a lack of evidence of what works to avoid that male perpetrators exercise violence again. The second one will focus in one of the main challenges identified in the region: the holistic multisectoral policies and models⁶¹ and how to improve in the different context and settings (urban, rural, in context with organized crime, etc.), including the articulation with the child protection system that respond to violence against children. The third one will focus in how to get routes that are more effective for the attention of sexual violence, especially of girls and adolescents, with a focus on the current context in Central America⁶². Finally, another critical area is review models and experiences that orient the region on how to improve the attention to specific groups of population that are the most more excluded (in special girls and adolescents, indigenous and afro women and girls), in collaboration with CSO⁶³ and other UN agencies. The critical analysis of achievements and limitations, strengths and weaknesses will help decision makers to improve policies and models considering the context and existing capacities. The focus of some of these case studies will mainly be Central America, but experiences beyond the sub-region will be included as relevant⁶⁴.

- The initiative will also include the strengthening of capacities amongst civil servants and service providers by the implementation of a **Virtual Regional Training Course** of Essential Services delivered as per agreements with regional, sub-regional and national institutions in the framework of the Community of Practice. Countries that are members of the community of practice mentioned above are also members of SICA/COMMCA and have already shown interest. It could be offered as a joint training opportunity with COMMCA/SICA. A specialized regional training of trainers (ToT) for the Health Sector, designed by OMS/PAHO, will be implemented in collaboration with UNFPA at sub-regional level, considering sub-regional mechanisms, for example COMISCA⁶⁵ and COMMCA in Central America.
- In alliance with academia and civil society organizations⁶⁶, the programme will raise awareness amongst civil servants and public officials of the relationship between the violation of women's sexual and reproductive rights and femicide. In addition, unintended adolescent pregnancy and child, early and forced marriage and unions are a huge problem⁶⁷ and linked to the high prevalence of VAWG⁶⁸. Some criminal gangs - *maras and pandillas* – use unions and sexual violence to control women and girls and communities. Several studies have explored about the relevance of this relationship and the need to

⁶⁰ Selected through a call for proposals.

⁶¹ Such as Ciudad Mujer and the different adaptations in process in the region, MAI, MAIES, Women's Emergency Centre, etc

⁶² The high prevalence of sexual violence in girls and adolescents in the region requires establishing specific care routes for this age group, that cannot be the same as those for adult women. These routes have to take into account legal barriers to access sexual and reproductive health services and methods of contraception such as emergency contraception that persist in these countries.

⁶³ As: Continental Network of Indigenous Women (ECMIA) and the Network of Afro-Latin American, Afro-Caribbean and Diaspora Women (RMMAD)

⁶⁵ Council of Central American Ministres of Health is part of the Central America Integration System.

⁶⁶ such as CLADEM, IPPF, Plan, AFM, etc.

⁶⁷ Adolescent pregnancy in LAC is the second highest in the world and reaches 74 live births per 1,000 women between 15 and 19 years. The prevalence of child marriage¹⁷ in LAC is 23 percent, lower than Central and Eastern Africa (36 percent) but higher than Middle East and North Africa (18 percent) (Data UNFPA and UNICEF).

⁶⁸ Being married or in union before the age of 18 increases the likelihood that a girl will experience intimate partner violence throughout the course of her life (OMS). Reversely, violence against girls can force them into early union or marriage. For example, victims of rape can be influenced by their families and/or a judicial decision to accept a marriage with the rapist in order to protect the girl's honour and family name, but also if they suffer violence at home marriage or union can be for them an escape.

increase the knowledge and understanding of the problem⁶⁹ to find the way to response effectively. To fill this knowledge gap, the programme will conduct research based on quantitative and qualitative information, and the review of secondary information. The findings will help to highlight the need to address femicide in a context of abuse of women and girl's rights and show the urgent need to protect girls from early and forced unions, unintended pregnancies and sexual abuse and violence in their families and communities to prevent femicide. This work will be developed in collaboration with CSO (as CLADEM, *Red Feminista Centroamericana contra la Violencia de Género, among others*), universities, research centres and other UN agencies⁷⁰.

Pillar 3: Changes in gender equality social norms, attitudes and behaviours.

Lead Agency: UNFPA

Pillar 3	Direct	Indirect (millions of people)
Women	342,428	114.5
Girls	0	0
Men	209,352	76.1
Boys	0	0
Total	551,780	190.6

Outcome 3: Gender equitable social norms, attitudes and behaviours change at community and individual levels to prevent violence against women and girls, including femicide.

Strategy

A comprehensive response to eradicate VAWG and femicide should include primary prevention by changing social norms, attitudes and practices on gender relations especially in adolescents and youth. Prevention strategies involve working with individuals, activists, organizations and institutions, in increasing awareness and promoting holistic approaches that take into account the existing social and institutional environment, thriving to understand what lies behind the social norms and attitudes that allow violence to happen, and looking for strategies to change these norms and attitudes, transforming practices and building more equal and harmonious relations amongst genders. To achieve this complex strategy, the programme will engage with stakeholders from a variety of sectors and approaches at the regional level, building evidence of what works by reviewing and mapping best practices⁷¹. This evidence will be used in political and technical dialogues and advocacy a sub-regional and regional levels⁷² and working in partnership with ECLAC, MESECVI, COMMCA, RMAAM and other relevant intergovernmental institutions, to increase the commitment and resources in prevention of VAW and girls and the transformation of social norms.

The strategy will engage different stakeholders, where each one has a role, but where there is a need for a greater engagement to avoid duplications and strengthen alliances. The Spotlight Regional Programme will work with networks of CSO, the private sector, the media and journalists and women's organizations in all their diversity. Other actors (faith-based organizations, men and boys' organizations, etc.) will be involved in different activities too. The networks identified have a

⁶⁹ For example, CLADEM (2016): *Niñas Madres. Embarazo y maternidad infantil forzada en América Latina*, or UNFPA (2017): *Mapa de embarazo adolescentes en El Salvador*

⁷⁰ Probably a call for proposal will be launched.

⁷¹ Implemented by a variety of actors: international, national and local organizations, government institutions, universities, faith-based organizations, cooperation agencies, etc.

⁷² Spaces for dialogue exist in several countries and sub-regions and are not limited to Central America

regional scope; therefore, the scope of the Pillar will be region wide.

The Pillar will build on the experience of the feminist movement in the region by highlighting and increasing awareness of the need to change societies to eradicate VAWG and femicide. These initiatives will be supported at regional level and we will continue with the long-standing support and partnerships between a wide range of civil society networks (feminist, youth, indigenous and Afro-descendant, LGTBI, disabled, people living with HIV, etc.).

Transforming social norms and building of cultural patterns respectful of the rights of women and girls calls for awareness of the magnitude and pervasiveness it has over the lives of women, families and communities. The Regional Programme will also support women's and social movements call for actions to recover the historical memory of victims as a means to mobilize public and political will to bring change in communities highly affected by VAW and femicide.

The Regional Programme will also use existing UNFPA, UN Women and UNDP partnerships with media and private sector networks to increase awareness and encourage their work on VAWG and femicide; to engage new stakeholders and increase its reach⁷³. It will capitalize on the growing interest and support coming from the private sector bringing new opportunities and means in the fight against VAW and femicide: from investments in media campaigns to networks of businesses that publicly express adherence to principles of no tolerance to sexual harassment and that commit to co-financing of VAW projects as part of their work. Under the UNDP programme, Gender Equality Seal for Public and Private Enterprises, organizations come together with models that include the creation of pro-bono networks of legal community services to joint sectorial strategies; for example, tourism organizations rejecting sexual exploitation and commodification of women and girls or the media and communication industry against sexism in advertising.

Finally, working to transform gender norms and eradicate gender based violence, in particular when addressing comprehensive sexual education (CSE), is questioned and disputed by fundamentalist and conservative groups in the region. UNFPA, in collaboration with other United Nations agencies⁷⁴, universities⁷⁵, and civil society organizations⁷⁶, will develop a multi-level strategy to develop technical arguments and tools, advocacy and social monitoring, and build a common discourse against the opposition of fundamentalist and conservative groups that are mobilizing against gender equality. This strategy must be implemented at regional level to be effective. This regional strategy, based on international guidelines, will also help to frame and guide the actions in the five Spotlight countries. For example, activities at the national level to strengthen the women's movement and CSOs will be reinforced at regional level through strengthening of civil society networks' advocacy to promote policy change in the region. Activities to build youth networks to prevent violence at the national level such as creating a social communicators network for gender equality in Guatemala and developing mobile applications and other technological solutions for communication on prevention messages. VAW social mapping in Honduras will be linked with regional level activities to strengthen youth networks and the development and use of TICs for prevention of VAWG and femicide. National awareness raising campaigns planned in all five countries will be supported with regional outreach through regional youth and other civil society networks.

Under the leadership of COMMCA, the programme will support the development and implementation of a regional training programme on women's human rights, gender equality and violence against women and girls with the education sector in Central America.

⁷³ Details of the networks in the description of activities.

⁷⁴ Especially UNESCO

⁷⁵ Such as FLACSO

⁷⁶ Such as IPPF, "Mira que te Miro", AFM, and others

ToC Pillar 3

(1) If women's organizations and civil society's role in the fight against violence against women and femicide is supported; (2) If there are models based on evidence for primary prevention with an intercultural and intergenerational approach; (3) If there is a regional strategy to promote comprehensive sexual education based on international standards; (4) If regional activism, advocacy and partnership is strengthened, by civil society (women, youth, indigenous and Afro-descendent networks), private sector and the media to advocate, promote and develop long-term prevention strategies against VAWG; (4) Then formal and informal decision makers of the region will have the knowledge and tools to strengthen prevention policies, programmes and strategies to change social norms, attitudes and behaviours, to prevent VAWG and femicide; (6) Because prevention based on evidence, research and international standards carried out with a critical mass of diverse stakeholders, including non-traditional ones, have an increased probability of changing social norms, attitudes and practices.

Output 3.2 Community advocacy platforms are established/strengthened to develop strategies and programmes, including community dialogues and public information and advocacy campaigns, to promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours, including in relation to women and girls' sexuality and reproduction, self-confidence and self-esteem and transforming harmful masculinities.

Activity 3.2.1

Strengthen women's organizations and civil society's visibility and highlight their role in fighting violence against women and femicide.

Summary:

The activity will consist of recovering a historical memory of emblematic cases of femicide to raise the awareness of the general public as well as to support women's organizations and civil society's advocacy with governments and the general public for a greater impact on public awareness, policymaking, effective communication strategies, innovative formats and the use of technologies and innovation.

Lines of action:

The Pillar will build on the work between the UN and organizations working on VAWG and femicide to build their continued capacity to develop common advocacy positions and strategies. Building on experiences of UN Women and CSOs in Mexico, innovative formats can be used to **promote the historical memory of emblematic cases of femicide** in the region. This demonstrates the importance and impact of sensitizing the public and policymakers through public exhibits to gain greater awareness and attention to public policies and programmes on femicide. The Regional Programme will also **support women's organizations, coalitions and initiatives**, through thematic trainings such as those stemming from areas linked to Pillar; such as those coming together under the [EQUALS](#) Global Partnership, in their advocacy to generate public awareness with innovative solutions and new technologies to increase their impact and reach broader and relevant audiences.

Output 3.3 Decision makers in relevant institutions⁷⁷ and key informal decision makers⁷⁸ are better able to advocate for implementation of legislation and policies on ending VAWG including femicide and for gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours and women and girls' rights

⁷⁷ Including the media, sports, workplaces, etc.

⁷⁸ Will differ from region to region and includes decision makers from informal institutions, e.g. traditional, religious and community leaders

Activity 3.3.1

Develop and implement a regional advocacy strategy for the implementation of international standards on the prevention of gender-based violence and comprehensive sexual education (CSE) and strengthen capacities on the education sector on women's human rights and gender equality.

Summary:

The activity will work to enable spaces to standardize contents and approaches, exchange experiences, and facilitate the application of international technical orientations, with emphasis on the prevention of violence against women and girls within the comprehensive sexual education (CSE) approaches. It will also promote CSE as a key strategy to prevent VAWG in Latin America in regional and sub-regional spaces in partnership with the public and private sector, media, faith-based organizations, CSO - youth, feminist, indigenous, Afro, men and boys' organizations, etc.- and other alliances. Also will promote to increase the knowledge on women's human rights and gender equality of the Education sector in Central America under the leadership of COMMCA/SICA.

Lines of action:

- a. The work will include **initiatives to encourage the use of comprehensive sexual education (CSE)** to prevent VAWG, and the **design of a toolkit** to prevent gender violence in and out of schools within the framework of the CSE. This product will be based on the **systematization of experiences** and evidence from the region and abroad and based on international standards.
- b. A starting point is to **organize a regional meeting for experts in education**, CSE and the prevention of gender-based violence, to discuss the application of international standards in the region, with an emphasis on preventing VAWG. A meeting will be convened for stakeholders involved in CSE in governments, for example, from the five Spotlight countries and other countries making progress in this issue, civil society in organizations such as members of the *Mira que te Miro* network⁷⁹, or ISO Montevideo⁸⁰; and universities FLACSO Uruguay and Argentina that have worked in a training on CSE. This meeting will result in a standardization of contents and approaches and will serve to **develop common strategies** for the coming years. Before this meeting, the programme will organize a consultation with adolescents and youth activists that are leading work on CSE and prevention of gender based violence in the region to guarantee that the vision, arguments and strategies of youth people are included in the discussion too. Some of them will be participants in the experts meeting.
- c. This product will be followed up with a **regional advocacy strategy to promote CSE** as a key strategy to prevent VAWG in Latin America in partnership with the public and private sector, media, faith-based organizations, CSO -youth organizations and youth influencers, feminist groups, organizations of indigenous and Afro-descendant groups, etc.
- d. Under the leadership of COMMCA, the programme will support the development and implementation of a regional training programme on women's human rights, gender equality and violence against women and girls with the education sector in Central America. COMMCA, in collaboration with CECC and Ministries of Education, will conduct a regional needs assessment of the advances in the integration of women's human rights, gender equality and violence against women and girls in the educational systems of the SICA Member States. The findings will orient the formulation of a regional intervention strategy and the development of a training programme for teachers to implement in the state members of SICA in coordination with the Ministries of Education.

⁷⁹ Regional social monitoring initiative integrated by IPPF, CLADEM, RSMLAC, ICW, Católicas, Plan internacional, Vecinas Feministas, etc.

⁸⁰ Regional initiative developed by Articulación Feminista Marcosur (AFM).

Activity 3.3.2

Build and sensitize networks of traditional and non-traditional media actors (including journalists and publicists) to improve the approach and strategies on VAWG and femicide.

Summary:

The Programme will promote non-sexist reporting, publicity and communication that helps transforming social norms to build egalitarian relationships and prevent gender-based violence.

Lines of action:

- The programme will strive to involve diverse sectors of society in the fight against VAW and femicide. Working with traditional and alternative media is vital to transform social imaginaries and end the symbolic violence and objectification of women and girls in the region, among other forms of violence. Thus, the programme will **promote a network of traditional and alternative media** to generate contents addressing VAWG on two fronts: internally to tackle biases and to disrupt stereotypes in their reporting and externally by ensuring the production of high-quality stories, features and news coverage with a focus on gender equality and women's rights. **Training, support and monitoring** will be provided to guide the will and efforts of media and communication partners.

The Regional Programme will start by using existing alliances, particularly those led by the UN agencies. UNFPA has an alliance with the Group of Newspapers of the Americas (*Grupo de Diarios de las Americas*) that includes media throughout the region; UN Women is currently implementing the "Step it Up for Gender Equality Media Compact", that includes media outlets⁸¹ working on gender equality and women's rights by championing women's rights and gender equality issues in op-eds, features and news coverage. UN Women is also working with the WeThinkTank, which is an advisory committee to the Advertising Guild in Latin America and the Caribbean, to jointly implement, adopt and develop external strategies to analyse stereotypes prevailing in advertising to promote better advertising practices and design communication strategies to raise awareness⁸².

Activity 3.3.3

Build and sensitize networks of the private sector to improve the approach and strategies on VAWG and femicide.

Summary:

The Programme will support a review and mapping of key private sector counterparts and map good practices building on the extensive partnerships developed through UNDP's regional programme, the Gender Equality Seal, for the private sector to address violence against women, including to co-finance programmes on VAWG and femicide.

Lines of action:

The programme will work with selected private sector companies and their suppliers and develop a regional private sector network to create a pact outlining actions to work on eliminating and preventing VAWG and femicide. UNDP has already made strides by working with its [Gender Equality Seal](#), engaging companies directly in actions to ensure gender equality within their own work, that are included in the management models and agreed upon at senior level. The Seal has been implemented in 17 countries globally and in more than 1200 companies. It organizes [a biannual global forum and regional events](#) with the participation of companies, governments and trade unions (with an average participation of 500 companies) to analyse progress and share good

⁸¹ El CLARIN (ARG), TV Azteca (MEX), Interpress Service, Thompson Reuters Foundation, La Voz del Interior (ARG), Medios Public del Ecuador, Maria Claire, and Glamour

⁸² Such as J Walter Thompson (MEX), McCann World Group (CHI, PAN), El Autobus (USA), Sancho BBDO (COL), Abbas Group (ARG), HEADS (BRA).

practices including on addressing VAW. UNDP will build on this partnership, develop a network of companies interested in addressing VAW and promote a compact and a campaign to enhance the private sector commitment to eliminating VAWG and help identify partnerships to fight against VAW and femicide and fund actions.

- Based on this work the programme will i) **map key private sector counterparts**; ii) **systematize good practices** in the sector to address violence against women, including to co-finance programmes on VAWG and femicide;
- iii) **develop a virtual network of companies**, regional and sub-regional chambers of commerce, organizations that agglutinate the private sector to;
- iv) **collaborate on identifying impact investment** and a **regional campaign** around the international day against VAW. In Central America, there will be a special effort to link to sub-regional organizations such as SUMARSE with whom UNDP already works. This activity will also build upon private sector initiatives such as the UN Women/EU supported project “Win-Win: Gender Equality Means Good Business”, implemented in six countries of the region; Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Jamaica and Uruguay. The initiative seeks to enhance recognition of women as beneficiaries and partners of growth and development, by increasing commitment of private sector (enterprises and employers’ organizations) to gender equality and women’s empowerment and by strengthening companies’ capacities to implement these commitments. The action will ultimately contribute to the achievement of gender equality through enabling women’s business leadership, labour force participation, entrepreneurship, economic empowerment and thus their full and equal participation in society. The Programme is guided by the Women’s Empowerment Principles⁸³, under which a growing number of businesses in all the region include a focus on VAWG in the workplace. Examples include [SUMARSE in Panama and AVON in Argentina, that will establish an alliance with GTZ which, in turn, has a sub-regional programme \(Bolivia, Peru and Ecuador\) on VAW with the private sector.](#)

Activity 3.3.4

Conduct evidence-based dialogue to advocate for holistic and sustained strategies to transform social norms and practices for the prevention of gender based violence.

Summary:

The activity involves the assessment, analysis, mapping and systematization of best practices and evidence on primary prevention and gender transformative initiatives in different sectors (education, health, etc.), groups (men and boys, girls, indigenous communities, etc.) and actors (faith-based organizations, mass media, etc.) whether developed by governments, civil society, universities or agencies. In addition, it will spearhead the use of the collected evidence in regional and sub-regional forums to increase government commitment to invest in evidence-based primary prevention initiatives that address an intercultural and intergenerational approach and are adapted to different contexts and population groups.

Lines of action:

- The programme will increase knowledge and build evidence on what works in the primary prevention of VAWG and femicide through the documentation of good practices and promoting the use this evidence in the design of approaches to prevention in the region. Several topics to study and map have been pre identified but a final selection will be done with an advisory group of experts: safe spaces for girls and women led by women's and

⁸³The Women's Empowerment Principles are a set of principles for business, offering guidance on how to empower women in the workplace, marketplace and community. They are the result of a collaboration between the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and the United Nations Global Compact and are adapted from the Calvert Women's Principles®. For more information see: <https://www.empowerwomen.org/en/weeps/about>

youth organizations⁸⁴; transforming toxic masculinities⁸⁵; the analysis of strategies to promote CSE inside and outside the education system, including working with institutions, parent/teacher associations, communities, faith-based organizations and children, adolescents and young people⁸⁶; communication for development (C4D) approaches to prevent VAWG with UNICEF; cultural interventions through art, music or TICS; initiatives in partnership with faith-based organizations to prevent violence and promote gender equality⁸⁷; and safe and friendly spaces for women and girls to access sexual and reproductive rights, among others. To ensure the quality of the research a **call for proposals** will be launched.

- Based on the topics described above, several analyses will be conducted to **map promising and replicable practices** in Latin America of policies, programmes, initiatives, C4D strategies, etc., implemented by governments, civil society, private sector and entrepreneurs, universities and/or agencies. Based on the evidence, we will commission the **design of a holistic primary prevention model** to promote change in social norms and promote gender equality and the prevention of gender-based violence. As result of the work with stakeholders and experts from the region to conduct the analyses, the programme will also produce a directory of experts and promote a regional network to replicate global initiatives⁸⁸. This group will also support the review, publication and dissemination of the outcomes. **Periodic webinars** will be organized to discuss relevant issues of interest.
- The evidence and recommendations will be used to advocate in **regional forums** to ensure the commitment of countries to increase efforts in evidence-based primary prevention, with an intercultural and intergenerational approach, and taking into consideration different contexts and the needs of different groups of the population. Tailored **communication and advocacy materials will be drafted** with key partners, to this effect, and the evidence will be disseminated in regional spaces, promoting political dialogue. A **plan to disseminate the evidence will be developed** as part of the process. These spaces include the Regional Conference of the Women and the Regional Conference of Population and Development (in alliance with ECLAC/CELADE), the Forum of Countries (in alliance with ECLAC); regional ministerial meetings (education, youth and health) and COMMCA/SICA meetings. Among spaces organized by civil society, the advocacy strategy will target annual meetings by the Women’s Health Network (RSMLAC), ECMIA, AFM, Afro Network, Youth LAC Alliance, REDLAC, Central American Feminist Network against gender violence, CLACAI, etc. With academia, it will target relevant working groups organized by CLACSO and universities in the region.

Pillar 5: Quality and comparable data

Lead agency: UNDP

Pillar 5	Direct	Indirect (millions of people)
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⁸⁴ Population council initiatives supported by UNFPA and UNICEF in different countries and national Spotlight initiatives such as Mexico

⁸⁵ In collaboration with the Latin American chapter of MenEngage, PROMUNDO and Puntos de Encuentro, or Plan Internacional.

⁸⁶ With UNESCO, UNFPA, IPPF, etc

⁸⁷ With DIAKONIA, Latin American Consortium of Churches -CLAI-, Lay Liberties, UNFPA, etc

⁸⁸ For example, Prevention Collaborative (<http://prevention-collaborative.org/>). This is a network of collaboration between experts, researchers and organizations to promote prevention of gender violence with very little participation from the region.

Women	40,956	13.0
Girls	0	0.0
Men	27,304	8.7
Boys	0	0.0
Total	68,260	21.7

Outcome 5: Quality, disaggregated and globally comparable data on different forms of violence against women and girls and harmful practices, collected, analysed and used in line with international standards to inform laws, policies and programmes

This Pillar is based on the conviction that significant change can only be achieved if we have a better understanding on the data on violence against women and girls and femicide, including its prevalence; if we have a more sophisticated representation of how femicide is manifested in the region, in different geographical and contextual settings, and amongst different groups of women and girls; and if we keep increasing our knowledge of the causes and effects of VAW and femicide that are relevant to the regional context.

Moreover, the global development system has reached an agreement that any development policy, programme or initiative must be based on data and evidence. This trend towards evidence-based policy making has a significant effect on how we think about the interventions, and the support to processes at all levels. In consequence, this Pillar strives to ensure that all policies and intervention models have the evidence and data needed, including systematization of previous experiences, analysis of good practices, and an understanding of what works. This implies increasing the regional knowledge and data on femicide and its multiple expressions in different contexts and groups of women, with emphasis on emerging issues, issues that cut across countries and issues that are common at regional and sub-regional levels.

This Pillar will build on the work spearheaded in the region by the UN system and others in promoting, consolidating and ensuring the robust and sustainable collection of data on femicide and VAWG. In particular, the work done on gender and violence research and statistics by ECLAC, and other UN agencies under the Gender Statistics Working Group of the Conference of the Americas, the work done in the Central American region by InfoSegura, and the more recent partnership between the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico (INEGI) and UN Women for the creation of the Global Centre of Excellence on Gender Statistics. Furthermore, the Regional Programme will follow recent agreements reached in the context of the Regional Conference on Statistics, aiming at broader use of geo-localization of data for better decision-making to make progress on the SDGs.

Other stakeholders such as academics, statisticians and civil society have brought indisputable knowledge and understanding around the occurrence of VAW and femicide. The Programme will build on ongoing efforts between public and private actors and will strengthen and expand user-producer platforms and dialogues in the region.

The initiative will seek to ensure access and use of information and products, including evidence developed by the programme to produce data collection and monitoring tools; advocate for the improvement of data collection and analysis; work in existing regional spaces and where states meet and already engage to share experiences and knowledge; forge regional agreements; and plan future actions. This will increase the outreach of the programme and avoid organizing standalone meetings. The attendance of relevant stakeholders is guaranteed, for example, at the Gender Statistics Group of the Conference of the Americas Annual Meeting in Aguascalientes, Mexico, the 2030 Agenda Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, the Regional Conference on Women, ECLAC, and others convened by the Observatory of Gender Equality the Centre of Excellence on Gender Statistics, InfoSegura, sponsored sub-regional meetings of statistics offices

and meetings of the [network CONOSE](#)⁸⁹. A dissemination and advocacy strategy conducted in these regional and sub-regional spaces, in partnership with states, regional networks, academia and partnering with UN agencies will ensure that the products contribute to the increase in knowledge as a result of reaching the required audience.

The programme will also contribute in filling the identified gaps in knowledge and support the understanding of VAWG and femicide as a complex multivariable problem that is affecting different groups of women and communities in particular ways. One of the challenges in understanding the complexity of femicide and its causes and consequences is that there can be intervening factors that are hidden and therefore not part of the initial planning of research and studies. Areas of study covered under this pillar have been identified preliminarily based on the situation analysis and drawing on the priorities set by the national Spotlight programmes. Such programmes include the proposed work in Honduras to understand the situation of excluded groups of women; the work that will be undertaken in Mexico around response and data collection in the justice system; and the support to a unique registry on femicide in Guatemala.

Additionally, the Regional Programme will broaden the agenda, build knowledge and produce information on issues that are of common regional concern but remain greatly understudied and can be sensitive. The Regional Programme will therefore address cross-country issues, such as the need to understand the contrasting realities coexisting in the region in terms of rates and manifestations of femicide and disappearances, femicide in a context of insecurity or chronic violence and in diverse groups of women.

This outcome will be targeted to the whole region, with sub-regional level components, depending on the issue and the knowledge gaps. As such, for example, the Gender Statistics Group of the Conference of the Americas gather governments from the whole region, and other sub-regional meetings – for example of the [network CONOSE](#)⁹⁰ - will be targeted to address issues of data on femicide and organized crime, while other regional spaces will also be engaged in this highly delicate issue to avoid national sensitivities. In this framework, our partners include COMMCA, CENTROSTAT, national governments, civil society, United Nations Agencies such as ECLAC and others, EUROsociAL, and academia.

By supporting research, dissemination of key products and advocacy strategies or providing entry points to regional meetings, the activities will directly benefit government officials and other stakeholders involved in data collection and analysis. Products, knowledge and evidence will be disseminated, in an e-learning course, the UN agencies virtual platforms and web pages and in the meetings identified in the section above.

The results will be achieved in coordination with the national Spotlight Initiatives by, for example, using and contributing to the planned studies on reparation to victims of violence and the analysis of the legislation of the custody of the children of victims of violence in Argentina; the national study on perpetrators planned for El Salvador; and on organized crime in Guatemala and excluded groups in Honduras.

⁸⁹ The Knowledge Network on Citizen Security (CONOSE) is a group of universities, think tanks and non-governmental organizations from Central America and the Dominican Republic that seeks to promote and improve institutional capacities, professional competencies and the generation of evidence-based knowledge in citizen security. It promotes training and analysis to advance a comprehensive understanding of violence in the region, the underlying factors of crime, the new dynamics of insecurity and the impact on people's lives.

⁹⁰ <https://www.infosegura.org/2018/11/08/conose-acompanando-estrategias-regionales-de-formacion-de-cara-a-la-implementacion-de-politicas/>

ToC Pillar 5

(1) If there are regional assessments on the quality and coverage data on femicide and a comparable indicator in the region; (2) If there are methodologies and tools to improve and strengthen the generation, development and use of data on femicide⁹¹ (disaggregated, accessible and disseminated for use by decision makers and civil society); (3) If a regional comprehensive training of statistical producers, in the development, management, classification and use of data on femicide is set in place; (4) If there is increased knowledge of the relationship between femicide and other factors or variables, such as disappearances, in marginalized or vulnerable groups and in emerging and complex contexts and other understudied links, including sexual violence, in addition to knowledge products such as a georeferenced regional map⁹² on femicide to visualize the situation in the region; (6) If civil society participates in guiding the generation, development and use of data; (7) Then laws, policies and programmes will be based on evidence and will be better suited to respond to the specific context and realities of women and girls, including the most marginalized; (8) Because they will be based on quality disaggregated data and the evidence will be globally comparable.

Output 5.1: Key partners, including relevant statistical offices, service providers in the different branches of government⁹³ and women’s rights advocates have strengthened capacities to regularly collect data related to VAWG including femicide in line with international and regional standards to inform laws, policies and programmes.

Activity 5.1.1

Promote the use of a unique regional methodology to capture data on femicide from different sectors including by the harmonization and analysis of administrative records.

Summary:

The activity involves the review of the quality of femicide data from the countries that report data on femicide to the regional ECLAC Observatory on Gender and design a strategy to advocate for the incorporation and validation of the indicator on femicide in regional events, validate and promote the use of the unique indicator, and participation in other regional meetings to present findings and share knowledge. The programme will also conduct an extensive regional analysis of the situation of the quality and coverage of the generation of data from administrative records from different sources on femicide to generate recommendations to improve the collection of data and a model roadmap for the implementation of these recommendations, and validate them with experts and other stakeholders, including governments in the region. Finally, it will develop and implement a comprehensive self-administered e-learning course for statistical personnel and other relevant sectors for data collection on the design, management, classification, analysis and use of data on femicide, to be used by relevant staff of states and other stakeholders in the region. This training will be validated and tested, and later applied to at least two cohorts of 50 people each.

Lines of action:

To increase the knowledge and understanding of femicide, the programme will promote the use of a unique regional indicator and a methodology to capture data on femicide from different state institutions and support the harmonization and analysis of administrative records to improve data collection on femicide. This work will be conducted in partnership with [ECLAC, and will build on their work](#) in the development, dissemination and the promotion of a unique indicator on femicide, and the extensive analysis on the quality of data on femicide in the region. The indicator [is already being used by some countries](#)⁹⁴ in the region and its results have [been disseminated in the regional](#)

⁹¹ Including the requirements of monitoring and reporting for SDG 5.2 target indicators.

⁹² In this case, a georeferenced map refers to a study, research and analysis that exposes geographic locations where disaggregated data on violence against women and femicide has been cross-referenced to show evidence on where and how femicide if manifested the region.

⁹³ Statistics offices, justice, security and health sector.

⁹⁴ <https://oig.cepal.org/es/indicadores/feminicidio>

[ECLAC Observatory on Gender](#). It has also been included in the agreed set of regional indicators on the SDGs and on regional [reports on the SDGs](#)⁹⁵.

However, it has not achieved universal usage in Latin America. To promote it, the Programme will [deepen ECLAC's work](#)⁹⁶ in the **diagnosis of the situation of the collection of administrative records** on femicide in the region and make recommendations for its improvement. This information will be disseminated amongst governments, while the **planned consultations with experts** and validation will serve as an entry point to influence them. In addition, the information and recommendations developed will be disseminated in the regional and sub-regional spaces covered in this activity. Key partners are therefore ECLAC and the experts in academia and civil society including the University of Rio de Janeiro, the network CONOSE, those working on the collection of data on femicide and government stakeholders in the different sectors involved.

Furthermore, based on the above, the Programme will **develop and implement an advocacy strategy** and work with existing national and regional actors in relevant regional and sub-regional fora to strengthen the generation of statistics on femicide. These include the Gender Statistics Group of the Conference of the Americas meeting in Aguascalientes, Mexico; the Regional Statistics Working Group on the SDGs, The Regional Conference on Women, the ECLAC Observatory of Gender Equality, the INEGI (Mexico)-UN Women Centre of Excellence on Gender Statistics, the INEGI (Mexico)-UNODC Centre of Excellence on Statistics Governance, Public Safety, Victimization and Justice as well as other ad-hoc meetings of experts and sub-regional meetings organized around the monitoring of the SDGs.

This will improve the generation, standardization, development and use of data on femicide, VAWG and other crimes to understand the problem in the framework of the implementation of the SDGs⁹⁷, and get buy-in and commitment from governments. These spaces will also serve as a platform to present knowledge products resulting from this Pillar by **drafting and disseminating information** briefs tailored to different publics and by participating in and organizing discussion tables in the identified fora. We will also share the technical aspects needed to use and report on the indicator, including the use and analysis of data, identified gaps and recommendations.

To directly contribute to the strengthening of the capacities of statistical offices and other sectors of governments at regional level to collect, analyse and classify data on femicide, the programme will **develop an innovative approach to e-learning, targeted at technical teams in governments** and other interested stakeholders. The e-learning course will be developed based on the knowledge built on the other activities under this Pillar and on the work done by UNDP in Central America through InfoSegura, UNDP's experience of [e-learning](#) and others such as CEPAL. The e-learning tool will be hosted by both the virtual platform of the Regional Programme and with the UNDP Latin America *Genera* platform that already reaches an average of 1,000,000 viewers a year. The demand for the course will be created by the **dissemination of information in regional level fora**, the UNDP development bulletin that reaches nearly 10,000 recipients, the UNDP *America Latina Genera* platform and partners through the Regional Working Group on Gender Statistics. This training will be validated and tested and applied to at least two cohorts of 50 people each that will be mentored and receive a certificate. As the e-learning course will be nearly completely self-administered, it will be available to be taken by more users at later stages without the need of extensive monitoring by the host institution, expanding its reach to more actors especially within governments and specialized institutions. In accordance with UN rules and regulations, the developer and potential co-host partner of this e-learning tool will be selected

⁹⁵<https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/events/files/sca-executive-committee-17.3-report-prioritization-indicators-regional-statistical-follow-up-to-sdg-lac.pdf>

⁹⁶<https://www.cepal.org/es/eventos/seminario-regional-potenciando-uso-registros-administrativos-fines-estadisticos-seguimiento>

https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/27860/S2012012_es.pdf

⁹⁷ Main advocacy issues: openness and transparency of data, classification of femicide as a crime, disaggregation of information and inclusion of relevant variables, allowing for an intersectional, intercultural and intergenerational approach to the response.

through an **open call for proposals** to relevant institutions to ensure that the best and most sustainable technical partner is chosen.

Activity 5.1.2

Strengthen capacities to improve the collection, processing and generation of information and statistics on violence against women and support user-producer dialogues to strengthen and increase accessibility and quality on data and evidence about femicide and VAWG in regional platforms.

Summary:

The activity will support COMMCA to increase the capacity of statistical offices to collect, analyze and generate information and statistical data on VAWG in Central America. This capacity building will be based on a needs assessment on the situation of data collection systems, processing and sources for data and information on violence against women and a regional strategy that will be developed under activity 5.2.1. At the same time this activity will also encourage and foster the participation of civil society and Governments and the presentation and sharing of quantitative and qualitative research findings on femicide and VAWG in regional platforms and meetings to disseminate and ensure accountability and the scaling up of these findings.

Lines of action:

Women's organizations, feminist think-tanks, feminist academics, and human rights organizations have been at the forefront of data analysis and collection on femicide and VAWG, using the information and evidence to spearhead an agenda to highlight the seriousness of the issue in dialogues and advocacy with governments, UN agencies and intergovernmental institutions.

- a. In Central America, the programme will support COMMCA in partnership with CENTROESTAD and UN Women to develop and implement a training programme on improving the collection, processing and generation of information and statistical data on VAWG as well bring together regional and national governmental and nongovernmental entities with relevant work on production and analysis of EVAW data.
- b. The programme will support this long-standing work by **encouraging and fostering** the participation of civil society in relevant spaces and the presentation and sharing of research and findings on femicide and VAWG. Lessons learned so far in the development of VAWG and femicide and sectorial statistics in Colombia, Mexico, Bolivia, Costa Rica and Uruguay demonstrate that it is necessary to have a coordinated and harmonious approach to support the monitoring of the SDGs, including those related to VAWG and femicide, it is essential that all actors work together with technical cooperation.

OUTPUT 5.2 Quality prevalence and/or incidence data on VAWG is analysed and made publicly available for the monitoring and reporting of the SDG target 5.2 indicators to inform evidence-based decision making.

Activity 5.2.1

Increased knowledge on the relationship between femicide and other factors or variables such as disappearances, vulnerable groups living in extreme remote locations or with extreme violence and organized crime; and against women and situations of poverty and social exclusion, data on VAWG and other understudied links.

Summary:

The Programme will conduct research and analyse a selection of judicial cases and sentences to

increase knowledge on how femicide is affecting people in different social and geographical settings, in different groups of women, in particular groups that face multiple forms of discrimination/marginalization, as well as links with the aggressor(s), and other relevant and understudied factors. This will be complemented by a regional assessment on the availability and quality of data on disappearances of people and develop recommendations to improve the generation of disaggregated, consistent, updated and public data to improve the registration and data analysis of disappearances and linkages with the likelihood of femicide in these cases. This activity will generate evidence of VAW and feminicide/femicide and its link with (1) remote locations or with extreme violence and organized crime; (2) femicide, violence against women and situations of poverty and social exclusion⁹⁸. In addition, it will support COMMCA to develop regional strategy for the collection and analysis of information and statistical data on VAWG in Central America.

Lines of action:

As identified in the context analysis, there is a gap in information, not only to assess the prevalence of femicide, but also to understand femicide as a complex and multivariable problem. There are gaps of information on how femicide is affecting different groups of women and their vulnerabilities, such as the ones living in geographical locations of chronic violence and/or citizen insecurity; and those who belong to socioeconomically marginalized groups. There is also a gap in our understanding of the effect variables such as relationship with the perpetrator, socioeconomic status and contextual and institutional issues are having on the perpetration of femicides, while there is a need to start the identification of factors involved that might be hidden or understudied. The programme will develop concrete products that will contribute to this knowledge, to be used in policy making, prevention initiatives and advocacy. Activities will be done in partnership with UN agencies, regional and sub-regional bodies and think tanks and/or academia. As per UN rules and regulations, an open call for proposals will be undertaken to ensure the best technical partner and innovative approach to the activities is found.

The Regional Programme will support the **analysis of a selection of judicial cases** and sentences in the region to provide evidence on the multiple variables that should be considered when understanding femicide, and how this is affecting victims in different social and geographical settings, women that face multiple forms of discrimination/marginalization, and individual level variables such as the links with aggressor(s), education, race and ethnicity, education, and other relevant and understudied factors. These analyses will include one on how violence against women and girls and femicide is affecting women living in communities experiencing extreme violence and/or organized crime in the Mexico/Central America region, and one in situations of poverty and social exclusion more broadly. The work on organized crime is building on InfoSegura's progress in understanding the relationship between chronic wide-spread violence and citizen insecurity and violence against women.

The results of this research will be used to **support and highlight the need to tailor prevention and data collection** to different settings and contexts while also starting the discussion on tailored policy making on femicide. This includes a debate on a more relevant and adapted response for the states to provide services to victims of VAWG and women who live in an environment where there is an increased probability that they could be victims of violence, while avoiding overarching stigmatization and stereotyping of communities and social groups. Due to the sensitive nature of these findings, **they will be presented in regional fora** described above, such as the Gender Statistics Group of the Conference of the Americas meeting in Aguascalientes, Mexico, the Regional Statistics Working Group on the SDGs, and ad-hoc meetings of experts and sub-regional meetings of academics and statisticians.

Based on the work advanced in the Central American region by the InfoSegura programme⁹⁹ and

⁹⁸ These will inform the design of tools to improve the attention and planning for the justice and security sector on (1) femicide in a context of citizen insecurity, and (2) in situations of socioeconomic exclusion to respond to femicide and violence against women and girls.

⁹⁹ For example: <https://www.infosegura.org/perfiles/guatemala/>

work undertaken by NGOs and academics in Mexico, the regional Spotlight Initiative will analyse data collecting methods in the region on the disappearances of women and assess the methods' quality in linking these disappearances with femicide. This will be done by conducting a **regional assessment** on the availability and quality of data on disappearances of people and develop recommendations to improve the generation and management of disaggregated, consistent, updated and public data, to improve the registration and data analysis of disappearances and linkages with the likelihood of femicide. We will hold a consultation meeting to validate the diagnosis and refine recommendations for data collection on disappearances and links to femicide. This is a sensitive issue that would need to be consulted and agreed upon by different stakeholders. Findings will be disseminated through relevant fora already mentioned including the ECLAC Observatory on Gender Equality, the Regional Conference on Gender Statistics, COMMCA meetings, etc.

These products will inform the **initiatives** to improve the attention and planning for the justice and security sector to respond to femicide and violence against women and girls. The evidence will be collected through mapping, systematization and analysis of existing information from governments, academia, civil society, agencies, etc, with an emphasis on complex, emerging and diverse contexts of femicide. Attention will be paid to groups of women that face intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization or are at a greater risk.

To increase the understanding of how VAWG is affecting women in Central America, the programme will support COMMCA to develop regional strategy, to increase the capacity of statistical offices to collect and analysis information and statistical data on VAWG. COMMCA will conduct a regional needs assessment on the situation of data collection systems, processing and sources for data and information on violence against women and a develop a regional strategy to improve the collection, processing and generation of information and statistical data on violence against women.

Activity 5.2.2

Publish a regional map of femicide in Latin America, including a set of relevant indicators to understand the phenomenon and highlight the differences in rates and types of femicide within territories to inform policymaking and the delivery of services.

Summary:

The programme will research, design, identify variables and data sources, and conduct data analysis to develop a mapping of femicide, with identified localities and disaggregated by relevant variables.

Lines of action:

To have a more comprehensive and holistic view of femicide in the region, the programme will commission the preparation of a publication of a **regional map of femicide** in Latin America, including a set of relevant variables to understand the phenomenon and highlight the differences in rates of femicide within territories and different types of femicide - and to highlight these differences. This research will use the evidence gathered in the other products of this Pillar but also expand on data sources, variables that will be cross-analysed, and conduct an analysis that will show not only the prevalence of femicide in different geographical settings, but also a conceptual mapping of femicide, disaggregated by relevant individual, relationship, community and social and structural factors affecting the problem. The study will serve as an advocacy tool to encourage tailored service delivery and policymaking at all levels, as it will provide the possibility of understanding the overlapping realities and channels of communication between the regional, sub-regional, national and local levels. The development, publication and dissemination of the regional map of femicide will allow for better understanding by key stakeholders and decision-makers in the region on the interface between territory and VAW and femicide and the layers of complexity and differentiation across the region.

The regional map will build on two relevant experiences developed by UN Women in coordination with partners: the elaboration of the Gender Statistics Atlas in a growing number of countries in the region under the Gender Statistics Working Group of the Americas and the publication of a [Map of Gender Violence](#)¹⁰⁰ in Brazil and complementary materials in association with FLACSO and the University of Rio de Janeiro.

Governance Arrangements

Regional Steering Committee of the Spotlight Initiative

The main objective of the Regional Steering Committee of the Regional Programme is to guide the implementation of the Spotlight Regional Programme. Its membership will reflect the principles of inclusion and transparency and will support accountability, consensual decision making, participation in regional initiatives, advocacy and ownership. It will meet twice a year. It will be co-chaired by UN Women and a representative of the European Union, according to the guidelines of the Spotlight Secretariat. The Regional Steering Committee of the Regional Programme will be formed by the following members:

- Representatives of UNDP, UN Women (co-chair) and UNFPA as the organizations that receive and implement funds.
- One European Union representative (co-chair) from the EU Delegation in Nicaragua
- One representative from the partner agencies (rotating annually)
- Two civil society representatives (or more representing 20% of the total membership of the Regional Steering Committee) selected from and nominated by the Spotlight Civil Society Regional Reference Group with a solid track record on EVAWG

Other interested parties will be invited to participate in the Committee's planning, deliberation and oversight functions. This includes representatives of academic/research institutions, local communities and/or the private sector and a representative of the Inter-American Commission of Women or the Follow-up Mechanism of the Convention of Belem do Para of the Organization of American States.

The Committee will have the following functions according to the guidelines of the Spotlight secretariat:

- Ensure adequate communication and coordination of the Spotlight Initiative at the regional level.
- Approve the annual work plans and budgets of the programme and monitor the implementation and progress towards the achievement of the results, and agree adjustments to the implementation, if necessary.
- Review risk management strategies annually and provide recommendations to mitigate risks proactively.
- Support the management of relationships with stakeholders at the regional level.
- Liaise with the Spotlight Steering Committees at the national level to ensure complementarity of programmes and actions.

Regional Civil Society Reference Group of (RSCRG), Spotlight Initiative

According to the guidelines established by the Initiative at the global level, a Regional Civil Society Reference Group (RSCRG) has been formed after a broad call in the region. The group is multidisciplinary with representation from Latin American countries and sub-regions. It is composed of 10 members representing the movements of women and groups living with multiple forms of

¹⁰⁰ Julio Jacobo Waiselfisz, (2015) MAPA DA VIOLÊNCIA 2015 HOMICÍDIO DE MULHERES NO BRASIL. ONU Mujeres/FLACSO.

discrimination. Its members include indigenous women and Afro-descendant women, women living with HIV and a member representing a regional / global network of men working for gender equality.

The main objective of the RSCRG is to advise on the design and implementation of the Spotlight Regional Programme and to support, as advocates and partners, the fulfilment of the objectives of the Regional Programme. The RSCRG will meet twice a year (it can be virtual) prior to the Regional Steering Committee meetings. Two RSCRG representatives are nominated by the Group to participate in the Regional Steering Committee. Its participation is annual and it can be renewed up to a maximum period of two years. To avoid conflicts of interest, if the organization of a member of the Committee is selected as an implementing partner of the regional project, this person will not participate in discussions and voting in the RSCRG or the Regional Steering Committee specifically about their organization.

The Committee will have these main functions:

- Provide inputs and recommendations on key issues related to VAWG in Latin America, as well as on the strategic direction of the Spotlight Initiative and issues related to public policy at the regional level.
- Act as partners in advocacy and communication activities, including the dissemination of the Spotlight Initiative messages to the public, especially social movements, including those of women, marginalised groups, youth and the media.
- Provide advice on ongoing interventions, possibilities to scale them up and address the challenges that may arise.
- Provide advice on funding priorities at regional levels for Phase II and on-going interventions and recommendations for up-scaling achievements and addressing challenges
- Serve as an interactive space and an open forum for dialogue / learning between the Spotlight Initiative and women's rights organizations working in VAWG, including the elimination of femicide.
- Provide other relevant information, analysis and lessons learned that can feed the future programming and advocacy efforts of the Spotlight Initiative.
- Support the monitoring efforts of the Spotlight Regional Steering Committee and advise on the implementation of the programme, as well as provide feedback to the Multilateral Committee, when relevant.

IV. Accountability

Technical group for the coordination and implementation of the programme

The Technical Coordination Group will be integrated by the project coordinator and the technical personnel responsible for the implementation of the activities of the three implementing agencies (UN Women, UNDP and UNFPA). The EU Delegation in Nicaragua will be periodically invited to these meetings. The Technical Coordination Group will play a central role in implementing the programme's activities and coherence and integration (between activities and outcomes), the substantive monitoring of the programme and the contents to be included in the preparation of products and activities, reports for donors, the Regional Steering Committee and the Regional Reference Group of Civil Society. The project coordinator, who will be hired by UN Women as the lead agency, will be in charge of coordinating this group. This group is the executing arm and implementer of the programme and will guide the conduct of the project, making the day-to-day management decisions to ensure that the comparative advantages and technical expertise of each agency, partner agencies and other counterparts are reflected.

The Inter-Agency Coordination Group will unite the RUNO agencies and the associated partner agencies in a space of coordination and communication on the implementation of the programme. This group will be formed by UNDP, UN Women, UNFPA, ECLAC, OHCHR, PAHO and UNICEF. This technical group will be vital for the work in each of the pillars. Joint work plans, coordination

activities and dissemination of joint initiatives will be discussed including strategic review of the initiative; thematic advice; joint analysis of the situation, challenges and opportunities explored to enhance synergies between ongoing initiatives, etc. The coordinator of the project will be in charge of the coordination of this group.

The organizational chart is presented in Annex 3.

Lead agency, UN Women: UN Women will be in charge of the technical coordination of the Regional Programme, including the coordination of the annual joint work plan, consolidation of annual reports and execution of the monitoring and intermediate and final evaluations. For this purpose, a team is proposed to support the coordination work consisting of: 1) a Programme Coordinator; 2) a Communications and Monitoring Officer (NUNV); and 3) a Programme Assistant. This team will work under the direction of the lead agency (UN Women) with inputs from the project technical team. The project team will establish the conditions and elaborate the work plans, ensuring that they are coherent and comprehensive. Together with the Technical Coordination Group, it will ensure the implementation of the programme and its contribution to the 2030 Agenda.

Recipient United Nations Organizations (RUNOs): will be mainly responsible for the technical, programmatic and financial implementation of the programme in each of its components and its results frameworks, to guide the Spotlight team and jointly make day-to-day management decisions of the project. RUNOs will be responsible for facilitating the coordination with the other agencies of the outcomes and will form the Technical Coordination Group described above. Each RUNO will provide technical personnel for the implementation and support of the programme. (For more details see the contributions of each agency in the budget.) They will also contribute with technical knowledge and in the implementation of the results framework of each outcome and will work closely with the Programme Coordinator, the Communications and Monitoring Officer (NUNV) and other RUNO Agencies and Partner Agencies. The RUNOs will work closely with partner agencies and will sign a memorandum of understanding and establish joint work plans to delineate the responsibilities and contributions of each agency. There will be no transfer of resources between agencies.

Partner agencies: Partner agencies will play a key role in Spotlight's implementation. They will work on implementing activities and supporting broader actions in the pillars to achieve the expected results. The partner agencies will offer specialized technical knowledge, support the promotion of objectives and results and provide contributions in accordance with their mandate, therefore providing a comparative and substantive advantage to advance in the achievement of results.

The partner agencies will be part of the technical decision making and consultation processes in the areas of involvement. The partner agencies will contribute to the development of the annual work plan and the reporting of the results under their responsibility. The RUNO will be financially responsible for the implementation of the joint activities, but the RUNO and the partner agencies (PA) will jointly commit to the implementation of activities and will be given a technical co-leadership to guarantee the equality of association and its visibility. The RUNO and PA will sign an MOU to agree on cooperation, and short plans will be developed between RUNO and PA to define the functions and responsibilities of each agency.

RUNO(s) and implementing partners:

RUNO (s) Recipient United Nations Organizations:

UN Women, Office of the Americas and the Caribbean

Overall programme delivery (in USD): \$4,399,000

Number of staff deployed: 21

UN Women has a long history of work to prevent and address all forms of violence against women and its most extreme form, femicide, in the region. Currently, the strategic plan and the UN Women Global Strategic Note for Latin America and the Caribbean have an outcome focused exclusively on VAWG; "all women and girls live a life free of all forms of violence." At the global level, UN Women has two flagship programmes on violence against women: Prevention and Access to Essential Services to End Violence against Women, and Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces.

In the Latin American region, the work of UN Women is directly aligned with the pillars of Spotlight and focuses on policies and legislation, the provision of essential services with a focus on access to justice, prevention of violence, data and statistics. In addition, it works with civil society as key partners, specifically with women human rights defenders in the region.

UN Women has contributed its technical expertise in the development of second-generation laws on VAWG and femicide that are being developed in the region. Currently UN Women is partnering with the MESECVI / OAS in the development of the Model Law on Femicide. UN Women and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights developed the *Latin American Model Protocol for the Investigation of Gender Related Killing of Women (Femicide/Feminicide)*, which has been adapted in Brazil and Argentina and training was provided in the region. Work has also been done to develop protocols and trainings with the police and the justice sector to develop the capacity to investigate and prosecute cases of violence against women and femicide. UN Women also co-chairs with ECLAC, the Gender and Statistics group, to monitor the SDGs. In the area of prevention, UN Women has been developing work with young people, men and women in the region.

Since its creation in 2010, UN Women has led the *UNiTE* Campaign in Latin America and the Caribbean, working closely with 10 other UN agencies for its implementation. The campaign builds on existing international legal and policy frameworks and works to synergize the efforts of all UN offices and agencies working to end violence against women. It sets out five key outcomes:

- Adoption and enforcement of national laws to address and punish all forms of violence against women and girls, in line with international human rights standards.
- Adoption and implementation of multi-sectoral national plans of action that emphasize prevention and are adequately resourced.
- Establishment of data collection and analysis systems, on the prevalence of various forms of violence against women and girls.
- Establishment of national and/or local campaigns and the engagement of a diverse range of civil society actors in preventing violence and in supporting women and girls who have been abused.
- Systematic efforts to address sexual violence in conflict situations and to protect women and girls from rape as a tactic of war, and the full implementation of related laws and policies.

UN Women will contribute its experience combating femicide and VAWG to the general implementation of the project as the lead agency and also to the specific activities under its responsibility aligned with the three pillars.

UNFPA, Regional Office of the Americas and the Caribbean.

Overall annual programme delivery (in USD): \$3,569,014. In 2018, and additional \$1,099,202 will be executed through other funds (project resources).

Number of staff deployed: 32

Eradicating gender-based violence and all harmful practices, including child marriage and early marriage, is one of the three major transformative outcomes of the United Nations Population Fund Strategic Plan for 2018 to 2030, as part of its contribution to the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda and the Cairo Platform for Action.

The main lines of work of UNFPA for achieving this result are:

- a. Advocacy in partnership with civil society and technical assistance for the development of laws and public policies.
- b. Development of institutional capacities of the state and civil society for the prevention of and attention to the multiple forms of violence in the context of development and humanitarian programmes.
- c. Support to the provision of quality services for victims and survivors of gender violence, especially through comprehensive and multisectoral models of prevention and care and in response to the most excluded groups of the population. Currently, UNFPA leads, in coordination with UN Women, UNDP, PAHO and UNODC, the implementation of the Essential Services Programme in Latin America.
- d. Generation of data, information and evidence for public policies.
- e. Development of violence prevention strategies with adolescents, young people and adult men, but also with public sectors (education, youth, social, health), community and the private sector.
- f. Promotion of programmes and initiatives to empower girls to stay in schools and prevent violence, pregnancies and early unions. In addition, UNPFA leads or co-leads, along with other agencies and partners, strategies and initiatives that seek to promote the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus in the region (comprehensive education of sexuality, prevention of adolescent pregnancy, sexual and reproductive rights, gender equality and gender violence, among others).

To complement the expertise on gender based violence issues of the team working more directly on the implementation of the Spotlight project, UNFPA will draw on the experience of LACRO technical advisors in areas such as gender equality, adolescence and youth, human rights, health and sexual and reproductive health, comprehensive education on sexuality, population data, results-based management, communications and mobilization of resources. In addition, it has a community of internal practice composed of technical specialists from 20 country offices in the region that are available to support the different actions and strategies (empowerment, masculinities, youth, private sector, civil society, etc.)

UNFPA has always shown its capacity and commitment to inter-agency work and, therefore, leads or is part of various inter-agency initiatives at national and regional levels, among which is the thematic agreement of strategies and partnerships, the Essential Services Programme (mentioned above) and the programme for a Region Free of Child Marriage and Early Unions, and has supported the coordination of the *UNiTE* Group in various periods since it was created. UNPFA has experience in the implementation of joint programmes on the subject at the national and regional level, such as the project Prevention of Violence Against Women in Central America¹⁰¹, with IOM, from 2013 to 2016.

UNDP Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean

Overall annual programme delivery (in USD): \$35,000,000

Number of staff deployed: 159

UNDP has integrated the empowerment of women as a strategic objective of sustainable development. The Strategic Plan (2018-2022) established gender mainstreaming as a key axis and a specific result for "the reduction of gender inequality and the empowerment of women". UNDP works in the region with 26 countries on regional initiatives for women's equality on issues of gender

¹⁰¹ <https://www.unfpa.org/admin-resource/prevention-violence-against-women-central-america-uzj16>

and multi-dimensional¹⁰² poverty, private sector partnerships¹⁰³, local development¹⁰⁴, political participation¹⁰⁵, environment and climate change¹⁰⁶, and the SDGs¹⁰⁷.

UNDP has experience in strengthening national capacities to promote policies and programmes that respond to situations of gender inequality and violence against women. In particular, UNDP works on the generation and analysis of data systems on issues of security and chronic violence, works with justice and security actors, with regional institutions that deal with organized crime and security and justice policies. In this context, InfoSegura¹⁰⁸ and CariSecure¹⁰⁹, develop tools for the analysis and collection of information on citizen security with a gender focus and data on violence against women and femicide. UNDP also works on the creation of state capacities, including gender mainstreaming in public policy¹¹⁰, analysis and development of government capacities (SIGOB)¹¹¹, anti-corruption issues¹¹² and open government to generate institutions with greater capacity for response, inclusion and transparency.

UNDP also has a strategy for the generation of knowledge and exchange on gender issues from the Latin America *Genera* platform, a resource used by governments and civil society in the region. UNDP also work on the development of fiscal tools for the financing of social policies, analysis of social cohesion¹¹³ and generation of human development indicators. In VAWG, UNDP works on the analysis of public policies on VAWG, the development of programmes with municipalities to reduce VAWG and femicide and in the development of models for the generation of comprehensive plans and policies for prevention and response to VAWG (Peru, Ecuador and Argentina)¹¹⁴.

Partnerships

Drafting and consultations with partners

The Spotlight Regional Programme document was developed and validated through a participatory process involving a wide range of stakeholders from the UN, civil society, women's organizations, intergovernmental institutions, regional women's funds and academia.

In December 2017, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women, OHCHR and civil society participated in

¹⁰²<http://ameralatinagenera.org/newsite/index.php/es/nuestro-trabajo/economia-y-trabajo/838-desarrollo-humano-y-pobreza-multidimensional>

¹⁰³ <http://ameralatinagenera.org/newsite/index.php/es/iniciativas-destacadas/empresas-por-la-igualdad>

¹⁰⁴ <http://ameralatinagenera.org/newsite/index.php/es/nuestro-trabajo/economia-y-trabajo/3129-desarrollo-economico-local>

¹⁰⁵<http://ameralatinagenera.org/newsite/index.php/es/nuestro-trabajo/gobernabilidad-democratica/33-paridad-en-la-politica#atenea>

¹⁰⁶ <http://ameralatinagenera.org/newsite/index.php/es/nuestro-trabajo/desarrollo-sostenible>

¹⁰⁷ <http://ameralatinagenera.org/newsite/index.php/es/agenda-2030>

¹⁰⁸ <https://www.infosegura.org/>

¹⁰⁹ CariSecure - Strengthening Evidence Based Decision Making for Citizen Security in the Caribbean- http://www.bb.undp.org/content/barbados/en/home/operations/projects/democratic_governance/CariSECURE.html

¹¹⁰<http://ameralatinagenera.org/newsite/index.php/es/informate/informate-noticias/noticia/3395-los-objetivos-de-desarrollo-sostenible-ods-en-el-horizonte-para-la-accion>

¹¹¹ Strengthening of capacities and governability management - - <https://www.sigob.org/portal>

¹¹² UNDP works with 31 projects related to the fight against corruption (US\$ 67.6 million) 90 percent are national projects and 10 percent are regional projects. file:///C:/Users/eugenia.piza-lopez/Downloads/Anticorruption_Programmes.pdf

¹¹³<http://www.latinamerica.undp.org/content/dam/rblac/img/IDH/IDH-AL%20Informe%20completo.pdf>,

<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/es/home/librarypage/crisis-prevention-and-recovery/IssueBriefCitizenSecurity.html>

¹¹⁴<http://ameralatinagenera.org/newsite/index.php/es/iniciativas-destacadas/violencia-contra-las-mujeres-y-seguridad-ciudadan4>

a regional workshop to provide information for the development of the Spotlight Regional Investment Plan . These agencies provided technical inputs to the plan that was then used as a basis to draft the Regional Project Document.

In February 2018, the draft regional programme was presented for consultation with a wider group of UN agencies at the regional level participating in the regional SG *UNiTE* campaign to end VAWG. In April, a second round of discussions was held to share the final document and seek additional inputs. As a next step, preliminary concept notes were prepared for each pillar and shared with the working group of the campaign in a meeting in May; written comments were also provided. Based on this feedback, the UN developed a questionnaire that was used to request feedback on the main lines of action for each pillar from regional women’s organizations and civil society¹¹⁵.

Simultaneously, the Regional Civil Society Working Group (CSO WG) was formed. An extensive call for applications was disseminated throughout the region through United Nations websites, social media accounts and emails for three weeks in May and June 2018. During that period, a webinar was held to provide information about Spotlight and the roles and responsibilities of the regional working group. The group's membership was formalized in June 2018, with 10 members representing both the women's movement and groups facing multiple forms of discrimination. The results of the CSO survey were incorporated into the key lines of action of each pillar and presented to the Regional Civil Society Working Group for later feedback in a virtual meeting in July. The EU actively participated in the CSO WG as an observer and provided technical inputs.

In addition, bilateral discussions were held with the intergovernmental mechanisms, academia and women's funds in the region to provide additional comments. The UN also presented Spotlight at a EUROsociAL meeting in France and held discussions to ensure complementarity and create synergies between Spotlight and EUROsociAL.

The draft proposal was then distributed to the *UNiTE* Campaign working group, the CSO Regional Reference Group, the EU and MESECVI / OAS, and written contributions, as well as calls to discuss comments, were shared.

Partners

European Union: The EU is a key partner that has participated in the design of the Initiative. The EU will participate in the governance arrangements of the programme and will be consulted regularly in planning, key decision making and communication processes to ensure the visibility of the initiative.

EUROsociAL + is a programme of cooperation between Latin America and the European Union that seeks to contribute to the improvement of social cohesion in Latin American countries as well as to institutional strengthening by supporting its processes of design, reform and implementation of public policies, focusing its action in the areas of gender, governance and social policies. The regional Spotlight Initiative and EUROsociAL will work in collaboration and look for opportunities to complement each other's work. This special partnership will be further developed during the implementation and planning of the programme with a joint working session during inception in the first weeks of implementation, where common actions and partnering will be agreed on. However, at this point of the process, the following initiatives have been identified. This list will be expanded and adapted as needed.

1. Pillar 1: Building on EUROsociAL’s work in the provision of free legal advice for women victims in Panama, support to victims of violence in police stations and women’s centres in Peru and Paraguay and support for litigation and investigation of femicide in Uruguay and using the

¹¹⁵ More information in “ANNEX 1: Notes of Multi-stakeholder consultations and summary of the key recommendations.”

reports supported by EUROsociAL on good practices in criminal prosecution and on laws, policies and judicial sentences at the Ibero-American level. It will also collaborate in the organization of the first meeting on gender of the AIAMP in Guatemala supported by EUROsociAL and the follow-up of EUROsociAL's support to the SICA's plan on VAWG, conditional to this activity being followed up by EUROsociAL in the future.

2. Pillar 3: In this pillar, the coordination could include the work in Guatemala with perpetrators, on masculinities and sexual and reproductive rights in El Salvador and Colombia.
3. Pillar 5: There will be coordination in the initiatives supported by EUROsociAL in VAWG surveys and analysis in El Salvador, and others as adequate.

EUROsociAL will also be part of advocacy initiatives at the regional and sub-regional level. Knowledge products and other products of the programme will be shared in this partnership, including the participation of EUROsociAL's national partners in regional capacity building initiatives when adequate.

Other donors: The programme will make an effort to mobilize additional funds from other donors.

It will also pursue a collaboration with the private sector and use it as a point of entry to mobilize additional resources.

Regional and sub-regional organizations

Central American Regional Integration System - SICA – (Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Belize and Dominican Republic) and the **COMMCA** *El Consejo de Ministras de la Mujer de Centroamérica y República Dominicana*, a space consisting of the national women's machineries. The programme will work towards the implementation of the five-year Plan of Action for the Prevention of Violence Against Women, agreed by the ministers and authorities of women in Latin America. This support will fall under several activities of the regional Spotlight Initiative detailed in the strategy section of this document. Other relevant SICA/COMMCA frameworks and strategies include the Regional Policy of Equality and Gender Equity (PRIEG) and the Strategic Framework to Prevent Violence of the Democratic Security Section. Partnership with SICA will include activities under pillar 1, 3 and 5.

MESECVI: Gathers the national women's machineries in the region¹¹⁶ to monitor compliance and implementation of the Convention of Belem Do Pará. It includes the Committee of Experts of the Convention (CEVI), a group of independent experts appointed by the states to review and draft legal recommendations on a set of topics defined periodically by consensus. The programme will work with CEVI and with MESECVI to strengthen coordination with the Inter-American system and support follow-up of existing instruments and commitments of the States around EVAW, including Belem Do Pará, CEDAW, Beijing +25, etc.

PARLATINO: The Latin American Parliament has a consultative assembly¹¹⁷ of 23 members, that sends 12 nominated plenipotentiaries representing each country. Parlatino and UN Women launched the Regulatory Framework to Consolidate Parity Democracy to promote the adoption of parity by states across the region. Taking this into consideration, a similar alliance is planned to promote the adoption by states of the recent approved Model Law on femicide under Pillar 1 and strengthening capacities to create or update legislation in the region, and take actions in prevention, protection, care, investigation, prosecution, punishment and reparation of VAWG.

Regional Conference on Migration: (*Conferencia Regional de Migración -CRM*), covers mostly

¹¹⁶ The Chair of the MESECVI rotates over time. Currently, Panama acts as Chair of the Mechanism and will do so throughout 2019.

¹¹⁷ The purpose of Parlatino is to defend democracy, promote human rights, and economic and social development; maintain and foster relations with other geographic parliaments and international organizations; and promote self-determination and defence against imperialism and colonialism.

Central America¹¹⁸ and is a space where states discuss and agree on approaches and frameworks to address the issue of migration, both formal and informal. In this space UNDP, in partnership with IOM, has already started work to include issues such as the protection of migrant women with the recent adoption of guidelines for the attention and protection of women in the context of migration. The guidelines have been adopted by the conference and will be adapted to address issues of VAWG under Pillar 1.

The Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Women's Affairs (RMAAM), of the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) and associated states will be chaired by the government of Argentina in 2019. The RMAAM has agreed to strengthen the emphasis on prevention and fight against trafficking of women, focusing on indigenous women, women of African descent and migrant women. The RMAAM offers a space to disseminate and plan the adaptation of the Model Law on Femicide in Pillar 1 and a space for advocacy and sharing of knowledge in Pillar 5.

Regional and sub-regional civil society organizations

The active participation of CSOs and academia is considered in all outcomes. There will be a focus on advocacy for VAWG policies and programmes and femicide in the region in partnership with CSOs and, in particular, women's organizations. Specific activities led by women's organizations will be part of the programme implementation, such as strategic litigation and protection of women human rights defenders in Pillar 1; partnership with organizations in the work on disappearances in Pillars 1 and 5; participation in the community of practice to improve the response to VAWG and in the development of recommendations to improve the response to vulnerable and marginalized groups, and activities under Pillar 3 with youth and young feminists organizations. The programme will therefore also include a focus on working with organizations representing women who experience multiple forms of discrimination, such as indigenous women, Afro-descendants, women with disabilities, living in situations of poverty, and young people and adolescents. These partnerships have been detailed in the description of activities in the strategy section of this document.

The work with regional and sub-regional civil society organizations include, amongst others identified in the description of activities: *Red Feminista Centroamericana Contra la Violencia de Género*; *Iniciativa Mesoamericana de Mujeres*; in Central America and Mexico, the *Asociación Feminista Marcosur* in the Southern Cone; CEJIL- The Center for Justice and International Law; CLADEM the Latin American and Caribbean Committee for the Defense of Women's Rights; the Continental Network of Indigenous Women; FEIM; JASS; Afro Women Network; RSMLAC the Women's Health Network, GGM; REDNOVI, CEM-H; CDM; *Colectiva Feminista para el Desarrollo Local*; *Movimiento de Mujeres de Chinandega*; CEFEMINA; *Red Feminista Contra la Violencia Hacia las Mujeres- Costa Rica*; CEFA, *Centro de Estudios y Capacitación Familiar*; the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF); OXFAM; ECMIA, Afro Women's Network; REDLAC, International Plan, MenEngage, META young people with disabilities; DIAKONIA, Latin American Consortium of Churches (CLAI), MenEngage, PROMUNDO and Puntos de Encuentro.

Civil society organizations are also part of the Regional Reference Group (see governance section).

Private Sector: We will work with private sector networks in the region under Pillar 3 to develop partnerships and agreements to protect women and girls from violence and femicide. Partners include private sector companies included in UNDPs [Gender Equality Seal](#) (more than 600 companies in Latin America) that has been implemented in 17 countries in the region, and partners in UN Women's Win-Win: Gender Equality means Good Business initiative implemented in six countries¹¹⁹. This will include strengthening current partnerships with media groups and the UN Agencies (UNFPA, UNWomen and UNDP).

¹¹⁸ Belize, Canada, Costa Rica, El Salvador, United States, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Dominican Republic.

¹¹⁹ For more detail see: <http://www.weprinciples.org/>

Academia: The Spotlight regional programme will work with academia and think tanks at various levels to build knowledge and evidence in the 3 pillars, use them as technical experts and in dissemination and advocacy initiatives. They will be part of alliances to generate research, analysis and studies, in the design and implementation of e-learning processes, and in providing strategic leadership in cutting edge studies, evidence collection and data analysis. Identified partners at this stage include FLACSO and CLACSO, and the list will be increased during the implementation of the programme.

Associated Agencies

OHCHR, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has experience in violence against women and in the issue of femicide in the Latin America and the Caribbean region. They partnered with UN Women in the design and drafting of the Model Protocol¹²⁰ for the investigation of homicides of women and held regional consultations with public officials and other stakeholders. OHCHR has developed a virtual self-learning course on the protocol, that has been successfully applied in different countries, including Argentina and in Central America. The partnership with OHCHR will focus on the promotion of this regional Protocol and the implementation of the virtual course.

OHCHR will also work closely with women's groups to support their advocacy efforts to reduce violence against women and femicide, as well as to strengthen their capacities as they document and present the cases in international and regional mechanisms.

UNICEF, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund

UNICEF's work on femicide brings together different areas of work; gender, child protection and communication for development (C4D). The Gender Action Plan (GAP) describes the results of programming to advance gender equality in accordance with UNICEF's 2018-2021 Strategic Plan. Of the 13 gender outcomes included in the GAP, which prevent and respond to gender-based violence in emergencies, child marriage and early unions and gender-based violence against girls and boys are clearly reflected and monitored. UNICEF works on the prevention of femicide by: 1) detection, prevention and response to cumulative and gender-based forms of violence against children, with special emphasis on increasing risks for 10 to 18-year-old girls, guaranteeing access to justice, psychosocial support, institutional capacity building and legislative reform for direct and indirect victims/survivors; 2) developing an evidence-based advocacy platform for the empowerment of girls and age-specific gender policies, programmes and services to prevent and eliminate sexual and gender-based violence as a key obstacle to gender equality; and 3) transforming harmful social and gender norms through community participation and positive socialization of gender, paying special attention to the participation of adolescents as agents of change, to break the cycle of gender inequality that sustains all GBV practices, including femicide.

The regional programme will partner with UNICEF in Pillar 3, working with youth and in the analysis and collection of good practices in C4D initiatives.

PAHO, Pan American Health Organization

PAHO's work in the area of violence against women is guided by the mandate established in two recent documents approved by PAHO and its governing bodies (composed of PAHO health ministers and WHO member states), which include: the [Regional Strategy and Plan of Action on Strengthening the Health System to Address Violence Against Women](#) approved by the Directing Council of PAHO in 2015 and the [Global Plan of Action on strengthening the role of the health system, within a national multisectoral response, to address interpersonal violence, in particular against women and girls, and against children](#) which was approved by the World Health Assembly in 2016.

¹²⁰ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/newsevents/pages/endingimpunitylac.aspx>

PAHO's lines of action include: 1) improving the quality and use of evidence, including the production of comparative estimates of national prevalence of different forms of violence and the review of evidence on how different forms of violence intersect; 2) strengthening leadership and governance by supporting networks such as the Sexual Violence Research Initiative and the Global Alliance to End Violence against Children; 3) Strengthen the capacity of health systems to respond to survivors by producing evidence-based normative guidance (e.g., guidelines, protocols), supporting countries in their implementation and training health care providers and other interested parties; and 4) strengthening programming to prevent violence by reviewing evidence and producing guidance on effective strategies to prevent different forms of violence.

The programme will build on this work and work with PAHO in **increasing the capacities of health personnel** to address VAWG by implementing a training design by PAHO for the health sector.

ECLAC, Gender Equality Observatory of ECLAC for Latin America and the Caribbean.

The measurement of femicide in the region began in 2009, after the discussions on intimate femicide at the Meeting of Technical Experts on Gender Statistics for the Analysis of indicators of the Gender Equality Observatory of Latin America and the Caribbean (Aguascalientes, Mexico, October 2008), and at the forty-second meeting of the presiding officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (Santiago, December 2008). During the latter, the ministers and other authorities requested the prioritization and collection of information on the deaths of women at the hands of their current or former intimate partners (intimate femicide) given the lack of classification of femicide in most countries. In 2014, specialists in statistics and gender studies of national statistics institutes and national mechanisms for the advancement of women presented progress reports at the fifteenth Meeting on Gender Statistics in Aguascalientes, and

participants requested the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean of ECLAC to advance in the construction of an indicator for femicide.

The data collected on femicide by the Gender Equality Observatory are contained in the CEPALSTAT database of ECLAC and are available for public consultation and analysis. It is divided into three indicators: (i) number of femicides; (ii) rate of femicide per 100,000 women; and (iii) deaths of women at the hands of their intimate partners or ex-partner (absolute numbers and rates). The Gender Equality Observatory also provides technical assistance to build registers on femicide (in accordance with national legislation) in compliance with the Brasilia Consensus adopted at the eleventh session of the Regional Conference of Women of Latin America and the Caribbean (2010).

In Pillar 5, we will work closely with ECLAC to advocate and promote the use of the indicator, to ensure that countries in Latin America adopt and report on it, to standardize the statistics in the region and obtain more robust and comparable longitudinal and comparable data. The work will include the design of an advocacy and knowledge generation strategy for the dissemination of the femicide indicator among governments of the region and the revision of administrative records. The knowledge resulting from this collaboration will also feed into the design of the e-learning tool that will be completed under Pillar 5.

More information in “Annex 1: Notes on multi-stakeholder consultations and summary key recommendations.”

Results Matrix for the Programme (Table 1)

Outcome 1:

Legislative frameworks in the region follow and deepen the understanding of international human rights standards leading to effective sanctioning, prevention and response to all forms of violence against women and girls, including femicide.

Indicators	Data	Verification means	Responsible org.	Budget
Indicator 1.1: Proportion of target countries with laws and policies on VAWG including femicide that adequately respond to the rights of all women and girls, including exercise/access to SRHR, are evidence-based and in line with international HR standards and treaty bodies' recommendations	Government Institutions / regional dialogue spaces / civil society organizations/ internal documentation of the programme	Official documents, laws and policy	Technical team for the project under the coordination of UN Women	
Output 1.1 Regional and national partners have strengthened their knowledge and capacities to assess the gaps and draft new and/or strengthen existing legislation and policies on femicide, with an intergenerational, inter-ethnic and intersectoral approach, starting from the adaptation of the Inter-American Model Law on Femicide to prevent, punish and eradicate the violent deaths of women (Femicide – Feminicide) and the adoption of criminal procedural law in the regulations of the Latin American Model Protocol for the investigation of femicide.				
Indicator 1.1.1: Number of drafts of new and/or strengthened laws and/or policies on VAWG including femicide and/or gender equality and non-discrimination developed that respond to the rights of women and girls facing multiple and intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination and are in line with international HR standards	Government Institutions / regional dialogue spaces / civil society organizations/ internal documentation of the programme	Documents, laws and policy	Technical team for the project under the coordination of UN Women	
Indicator 1.1.5: Number of Parliamentarians and staff of human rights institutions with strengthened capacities to advocate for, draft new and/or strengthen existing legislation and/or policies on VAWG including femicide and/or gender equality and non-discrimination and implement the same	Government Institutions / regional dialogue spaces / civil society organizations/ internal documentation of the Programme	Documents, Laws and Policy	Technical team for the project under the coordination of UN Women	
Indicator 1.1.6 Number of assessments completed on pending topics ¹²¹ and strategic litigation implemented by women's rights advocates	Court cases (national and regional)	Documents, reports, etc.	Technical team for the project under the coordination of UN Women	
Indicator 1.3.4: Number of women human rights defenders with strengthened capacities to contribute to the development of laws and	Government institutions / regional dialogue spaces /	Documents, laws and policy	Technical team for the project under the coordination of UN Women	

¹²¹ Each country will identify these topics at the beginning, for e.g. disappearances, economic violence and violation of economic rights, political violence, etc.

policies that guarantee the ability of women's rights groups, CSOs and women human rights defenders to advance the human rights agenda	civil society organizations/ internal documentation of the programme			
Output 1.2 National and/or sub-national partners are better able to develop evidence-based national and/or sub-national action plans on VAWG including femicide in line with international HR standards with M&E frameworks, increase financing and allocate appropriate budgets for their implementation, including for those groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.				
Indicator 1.2.1: Number of key government decision makers and CSOs with strengthened capacities to draft evidence-based national and/or sub-national action plans, programmes or strategies on ending VAWG, including femicide, developed that respond to the rights of groups facing multiple and intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination with M&E frameworks and proposed budgets	Government institutions/ Regional dialogue spaces/ Civil Society Organizations/ Internal Documentation of the Programme	Documents (plans, programmes, strategies), reports, etc. interviews to key government decision makers and CSOs	Technical team for the project under the coordination of UNFPA	

Outcome 3: <i>Gender equitable social norms, attitudes and behaviour change at community and individual levels to prevent violence against women and girls, including femicide.</i>				
Indicators	Data	Verification means	Responsible org.	
Indicator 3.3: Proportion of countries with at least three evidence-based, transformative/comprehensive prevention strategies/programmes that address the rights of those marginalized and are developed in a participatory manner.	Government institutions/ regional dialogue spaces /civil society organizations/ internal documentation of the programme	Strategy and programme documents	Technical team for the project under the coordination of UNFPA	
Output 3.2 Community advocacy platforms are established/strengthened to develop strategies and programmes, including community dialogues, public information and advocacy campaigns, to promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours, including in relation to women and girls' sexuality and reproduction, self-confidence and self-esteem and transforming harmful masculinities.				
Indicator 3.2.5: Number of regional campaigns challenging harmful social norms and gender stereotyping, including of women and girls facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination, developed and disseminated	Government institutions/regional dialogue spaces /civil society organizations/internal documentation of the programme	Initiatives document	Technical team for the project under the coordination of UN Women	
Output 3.3 Decision makers in relevant institutions and key informal decision makers are better able to advocate for implementation of legislation and policies on ending VAWG including femicide and for gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours and women and girls' rights.				
Indicator 3.3.3: Number of new and	News outlets,	Newspapers,	Technical team	

other media stories/reports that sensitively report on VAWG including femicide and gender equality and women's empowerment more broadly	media communications	reports, interviews	for the project under the coordination of UN Women	
Indicator 3.3.5: Number of key informal decision makers and decision makers in relevant institutions with strengthened awareness of and capacities to advocate for implementation of legislation and policies on VAWG including femicide and for gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours and women and girls' rights	Government institutions/ regional dialogue spaces /civil society organizations/internal documentation of the programme	Project activity documents Interviews with key informants	Technical team for the project under the coordination of UNFPA	

Outcome 5:

Quality, disaggregated and globally comparable data on different forms of violence against women and girls and harmful practices, collected, analysed and used in line with international standards to inform laws, policies and programmes.

Indicators	Data	Verification means	Responsible org.	
Indicator 5.1: Proportion of countries that have globally comparable data on the prevalence (and incidence, where appropriate) of VAWG including femicide, collected over time	Government institutions/ regional dialogue spaces /civil society organizations/ internal documentation of the programme	Reports/publications /databases	Technical team for the project under the coordination of UNDP	
Indicator 5.2: Proportion of countries with publicly available data, reported on a regular basis, on various forms of VAWG including femicide at country level	Government institutions/ regional dialogue spaces /civil society organizations/internal documentation of the programme	Reports/publications web pages databases	Technical team for the project under the coordination of UNDP	
Indicator 5.3: Proportion of countries where national statistics related to VAWG, including femicide incidence and prevalence, are disaggregated by income, sex, age, ethnicity, disability, and geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts	Government institutions/ regional dialogue spaces /civil society organizations/internal documentation of the programme	Reports/publications web pages databases	Technical team for the project under the coordination of UNDP	
Output 5.1 . Key partners, including relevant statistical offices, service providers in the different branches of government¹²² and women's rights advocates have strengthened capacities to regularly collect data related to VAWG including femicide in line with international and regional standards to inform laws, policies and programmes.				
Indicator 5.1.3: Number of national statistical officers who	Government institutions/ regional	Report and statistics of usage of	Technical team for the	

¹²² Statistics offices, justice, security and health sector.

have enhanced capacities to produce data on the prevalence of VAWG, including femicide, and incidence where appropriate	dialogue spaces /internal documentation of the programme	knowledge products	project under the coordination of UNDP	
Indicator 5.1.4: Number of government personnel, including service providers, from different sectors who have enhanced capacities to collect prevalence and/or incidence data, including qualitative data, on VAWG including femicide in line with international and regional standards	Government institutions/ regional dialogue spaces /internal documentation of the programme	Report and statistics of usage of knowledge products	Technical team of the project under the coordination of UNDP	
Output 5.2 Quality prevalence and/or incidence data on VAWG is analysed and made publicly available for the monitoring and reporting of the SDG target 5.2 indicators to inform evidence-based decision making.				
Indicator 5.2.1: Number of knowledge products developed and disseminated to the relevant stakeholders to inform evidence-based decision making	Government institutions/ regional dialogue spaces /civil society organizations/internal documentation of the programme	Publications / web pages	Technical team of the project under the coordination of UNDP	

Intersectional Focus:

Applying an intersectional approach to VAWG and femicide provides insight into how the processes, institutions and structures that surround the experiences of violence against women and girls are shaped by a wide array of factors, including, but not limited to income, ethnicity, age, geography, migratory status, HIV status, profession and physical and health conditions.

The persistence of inequality and discrimination in the region affects daily life of all Latin Americans and is reflected in the prevalence of gender-based violence. Moreover, social and economic inequality and social exclusion is widespread^{123,124,125,126} and is affecting women's access to resources, services, and their enjoyment of a life in safety and dignity. The region has produced quantitative and qualitative evidence showing that all women and girls are not equally affected by violence, but these trends and nuances are not yet sufficiently clear and there are still gaps; there is work to be done to produce the data that is needed.

The Regional Programme will use the intersectional approach and following the principle of 'Leave No One Behind' of the 2030 Agenda, to address these gaps, by understanding and providing evidence on the differential impact of femicide and VAWG in women belonging to marginalized and excluded groups, and how violence is manifested in an overall context of inequality, where access

¹²³ Korzeniewicz, R. P. & Smith, W. C. (2000), 'Poverty, inequality, and growth in Latin America: Searching for the high road to globalization', *Latin American research review* 35(3), 754.

¹²⁴ Hoffman, K. & Centeno, M. A. (2003), 'The Lopsided Continent: Inequality in Latin America', *Annual Review of Sociology* 29(1), 363,390.

¹²⁵ Karl, T. L. (2003), *The Vicious Cycle of Inequality in Latin America*, in P. Eckstein & T. Wickham-Crowley, eds, 'What Justice? Whose Justice?: Fighting for Fairness in Latin America', University of California Press, California USA, pp. 133,157.

¹²⁶ Portes, A. & Hoffman, K. (2003), 'Latin American class structures: Their composition and change during the neoliberal era', *Latin American Research Review* 38(1), 41-82.

to safety, services and resources are highly dependent on socioeconomic status, class, place of residence, ethnicity, race, and disabilities, etc¹²⁷. This requires working to provide the evidence and data needed to increase the knowledge needed, as detailed in Pillar 5, and considering issues of the differential impact of violence in the work in Pillar 1 on the adoption and implementation of normative frameworks and policies to tailor these frameworks to these differential needs, while ensuring the active voice and participation of groups of women of traditionally marginalized and excluded groups in these processes. This approach is also vital in any sustainable and effective prevention strategy and has been included in the cross-cutting strategy of Pillar 3.

There is evidence that black women are disproportionately affected by femicide and violence in Latin America, a situation that calls for a better understanding of the inter-linkages between racism and sexism. Some of the most violent cities for women are in Latin America are in the Caribbean and Atlantic coast, for example in Central America, Colombia and Brazil; but the racial dimension of femicide receives little attention and is rarely acknowledged in public policy.

Brazil has by far the highest number of femicides in the region; 5,662 were victims of lethal violence in 2017, with a rate of women killings of 5,4 (ECLAC). According to 2018 data from the Brazilian NGO *Fórum Brasileiro de Segurança Pública* (FBSP), the rate for black women is 71 percent higher than for non-black women and they report that in 10 years, from 2006 to 2016, the homicide rate for black women increased by 15.4 percent, while that for non-black women decreased by 8 percent. Cities in the north and north-east regions have the highest vulnerability rates: 46.8 percent and 42.3 percent, respectively¹²⁸. Similarly, when it comes to indigenous women, violence against women and girls intersects with deeply-rooted postcolonial cultural patterns that bring elevated risk of violence for indigenous women and girls.

However, the analysis about how the different factors are related is incomplete. While racism and colonialism can be clearly linked to some forms of violence, such as sexual violence or the killings of human rights defenders, the way that these factors play out in the context of intimate partner violence might differ, for example, because of lack of coverage of services or response from institutions with responsibilities to protect women and girls; factors closely related to the incidence of femicide.

Showing the absence, insufficiency or biases within the state, and how this results in higher numbers of indigenous, black or migrant women murdered by intimate partners, is critical to avoid reproducing stereotypes that surround women in these populations or simplifying the complex nature of violence against women.

The Regional Programme will ensure meaningful participation of groups facing intersecting forms of discrimination as those described above. It will be working with networks of Afro-descendant women such as the Network of Afro-Latin American, Afro-Caribbean and Diaspora Women and the movement of women convening under the Decade of Afro-descendent Populations, indigenous women such as ECMIA, networks of migrant women under the *Movimiento Migrante Centroamericano*, or the Caravan of Central American Mothers of Disappeared Migrants.

Marginalization and exclusion arising from poverty has also been considered in the design of the Regional Programme. For poor women and girls, contending with violence is an everyday reality that they encounter in their communities, public transportation and in the context of violent relations of which they cannot escape because they cannot afford to move to safer neighbourhoods, get legal counselling or do not have the possibility of ensuring the material conditions to leave an abusive relationship. In Latin America, inequality is manifested in the fabric of cities and communities; higher income communities have the means to pay for security in instances of

¹²⁷ CEPAL (2007), ¡Ni una más! El derecho a vivir una vida libre de violencia en América Latina y el Caribe, CEPAL, División de Desarrollo Social, Santiago Chile.

¹²⁸ Index outlines youth violence vulnerability in Brazil 2017

heightened violence or and those who can afford to move to safer communities do so¹²⁹. Often, poverty takes shape in a territory and lack of opportunities overlap with increased risk in poor communities. Women leaders from local levels will be brought under the programme through the *Unión Iberoamericana de Mujeres Municipalistas* as a way of identifying solutions for poor women and girls from communities highly affected by violence, including organized crime, trafficking and the presence of gangs.

Regional platforms of local governments can play a very relevant role in shaping legal frameworks and policies for countries with federal systems such as Brazil, Argentina and Mexico where provinces and departments have their own legal frameworks. Also, through the participation of women's organizations and networks, the voice of women and girls from vulnerable sectors will be brought into the programme. For example, the *Red Centroamericana de Violencia*, currently under the Secretariat of Cefemina (Costa Rica), women from vulnerable sectors in Central America will be participating in the programme.

VAWG occurs throughout the lives of women and girls. Starting from birth, they face a multitude of risks: differential treatment in childhood, coerced or forced sexual initiation in adolescence and sexual violence. Girls experience, survive, and die from gender-based violence and this violence happens everywhere, not just in their homes, and not only at the hands of family members or intimate partners. Girls and boys (both adolescent and non-adolescent) whose mothers are killed through acts of femicide require specific attention with respect to custody. They must avoid falling under the care of their mother's murderer and avoid familial separation. Caregivers need access to justice, information and economic support.

Moreover, there is evidence¹³⁰ that women with disabilities are at greater risk of violence and need a tailored response from the state, as the response is often inadequate and limited. The project will build on previous work by UNFPA¹³¹ to strengthen capacities in regional, sub-regional and national public institutions and CSO networks to address violence against women with disabilities. With the active participation of organizations of women and young people with disabilities themselves.

As presented in Section i. of the Regional Programme strategy, the possibility of putting an end to VAWG and femicides demands that states and institutions fulfil their responsibilities. But empowerment of women and girls, as agents that steward their own lives, is equally important. Women and girls' empowerment, which is defined as the ability to exercise agency, make autonomous decisions, and exercise rights, will be an overarching strategy.

Every day, women and girls survive extreme violence through their own means, using survival strategies, exchanging information about how to survive and escape an abusive partnership, move, work and protect their children in a community taken by gangs or organized crime. Developing dialogues between peers, distilling knowledge and expertise to inform policy debate and public policies from women organizations, ensuring that the data gathering and measurement efforts that organizations from civil society have pioneered in the region are parameters considered for better statistics on VAWG and violence are also built into the Regional Programme strategy.

¹²⁹ Caldeira, T.P., 2012. Fortified enclaves: the new urban segregation. In the *Urban Sociology Reader* (pp. 419-427). Routledge.

¹³⁰ Third Hemispheric Report urges states that have not yet done so to approve legislation, design and implement public policies aimed at preventing and eradicating conduct, cultural or discriminatory practices based on the subordination or inferiority of women and girls, taking into account intersectionality of other dimensions of discrimination (girls, elderly, indigenous, Afro-descendants, immigrants, displaced persons, inmates, women from rural areas, with disabilities or in situations of poverty). Only 37.5 percent of the countries reported having laws or policies against violence that recognize the multiple faces of discrimination or have laws against discrimination that recognize gender-based violence. (MESECVI, 2017).

¹³¹ For example, UNFPA supports intercultural policies and practices in different countries of the region (México, Bolivia, Perú, Guatemala, etc.), inclusive policies and practices in others (Uruguay, Ecuador, Costa Rica etc.) and policies and practices oriented to prevent violence, especially sexual violence, against girls and adolescents (in almost all the countries of Latin America).

The Initiative will emphasize legal reforms to improve women’s access to economic rights, considering for instance, reparations via social protection systems to help women escape intimate partner or gang violence which makes them more vulnerable to femicide. It will deal with matters that are critical to poor women such as alimony, economic regimes for marriage, unions, separation and divorce and protection of family assets.

The Model Law on Femicide is deeply rooted in an intersectional approach. The assessment leading to its elaboration as well as the text of the Model Law is clear that imposing a punishment is not enough when violations of human rights are involved and that the integration of a gender perspective and intersectionality elements into the normative framework are as critical as addressing impunity.

Equally, the elaboration of the Protocol for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders entails understanding that international human rights standards call for an intersectional approach to all measures taken by the state to protect the rights of HRDs and prevent a violation of their rights. This standard is informed by the recognition that HRDs come from diverse backgrounds, cultures, and belief systems and have different identities and experiences, resulting in a compounding and intersecting vulnerability to human rights violations.

Intersectionality has been discussed and recognized in the inter-American system and the work of the Regional Programme around human rights defenders will draw on this recognition. For HRDs, the inter-American system has stated that the dual discrimination suffered “by virtue of being a woman and either indigenous or Afro-descendant is compounded in the case of women who promote and defend women’s rights.” Overall, States should apply an intersectionality lens to the assessment of risks of women HRDs and to the design of protection initiatives so as to “recognize the significance of gender in the protection of defenders.”

Relevant “at risk” groups	Result areas that require specific approaches	Key challenges for inclusion	Indicative approaches and methodologies for inclusion	Total amounts detailed by women, girls, men and boys
Girls, teens and youth under 18 years of age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal or regulatory frameworks. • Prevention, attention and service strategies. • Generation of data. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlight the needs in the normative and legal frameworks. • Response to particular needs of prevention and attention. • Supply of specialized services that tend to the specific needs. • Generation of disaggregated data by age. • Participation and agents of change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of legal studies. • Adaptation proposals for legal frameworks. • Mapping, systemizing and analyses of strategies and practices for the adequate prevention, attention and response to violence and femicide. • Development of tools and orientations to improve prevention and attention practices. Incidence to disaggregate data on violence, violent murders and femicide by age. • Promote its involvement in prevention activities. 	

Indigenous women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention, attention and service strategies. • Generation of data. • Strengthening of civil organizations. • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response to particular needs of prevention and attention. • Supply of specialized services that tend to specific needs. • Generation of disaggregated data by ethnicity and race. • Strengthening of the organization and incidence. • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping systemization and analysis of strategies and practices for adequate prevention, attention and response to violence and femicide. • Incidence to disaggregate data on violence, violent murders and femicide by ethnicity and race. • Strengthening of capacities in indigenous women's organizations for advocacy and action. • Promote their presence in regional networks. 	
Women of African descent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention, attention and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response to particular needs of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping, systemization, and analysis of strategies and 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • service strategies. • Generation of data. • Strengthening of civil organizations. - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prevention and response. • Supply of specialized services that tend to specific needs. • Generation of disaggregated data. • Strengthening of organizations and advocacy. • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • practices for the adequate prevention, care and response to violence and femicide. • Preparations of tools and orientations to improve prevention and response practices. • Incidence for the disaggregation of data on violence, violent murders and femicide. • Strengthening the capacities of women of African descent for incidence and actions. • Promote their presence in regional networks. 	
Women with disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention, attention and service strategies. • Generation of data. • Strengthening of civil organizations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supply of specialized services that tend to specific needs. • Strengthening of organizations and advocacy. • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping, systemization, and analysis of strategies and practices for the adequate prevention, care and response to violence and femicide. Development of tools and orientations to improve preventions and response practices. • Incidence for the disaggregation of data on violence, violent 	

			<p>murders and femicide by disability condition.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening the capacities of organizations of women with disabilities for advocacy and action. • Promote their presence in regional networks. 	
Poor or rural women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention, attention and service strategies. • Generation of data. • Strengthening of civil organizations. • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response to particular needs of prevention and response. • Generation of disaggregated data. • Strengthening of the organization and advocacy. • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping, systemization, and analysis of strategies and practices for the adequate prevention, care and response to violence and femicide. • Development of tools and orientations to improve preventions and response practices. • Incidence for the disaggregation of data on violence, violent murders and femicide by socio-economic condition. • Strengthening the capacities of organizations of rural women. • Promote their presence in regional networks. 	
Women living in areas of high social conflict or with strong presence of organized crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal or regulatory frameworks. • Prevention, attention and protection strategies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adaptation of regulatory or legal frameworks to link the problem of femicide to the organized crime problem. • Efficient response to VAWG and femicide in high social conflict and organized crime contexts. • Protection of women victims/survivors of violence that live in high social conflict and organized crime contexts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of legal studies. • Proposals for the adaptation of legal frameworks. • Mapping, systemization, and analysis of strategies and practices for the adequate prevention, attention and response to violence and femicide in high social conflict and organized crime contexts. • Development of tools and orientations to improve prevention, response and service practices in high social conflict 	

		•	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> and organized crime contexts. Completion of studies and research that generates or deepens knowledge on femicide in high social conflict and organized crime contexts. 	
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Risk Management (Table 2):

Risk	Level of risk	Probabilities: Almost sure - 5 Probable - 4 Possible - 3 Improbable - 2 Rare - 1	Impact: Extreme – 5 Major - 4 Moderate – 3 Minor - 2 Insignificant - 1	Mitigation measures
Contextual risks				
Resistance to adaptation of inadequate political/legal framework.	Medium	Improbable	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening regional mechanisms for the improvement of the implementation of the Belem do Pará Convention. Strengthening justice systems to prevent and efficiently respond to violence against women and girls. Constant commitment with civil society, support actors in the development/revision of national legislation of femicide. Advocate to insure dispositions and relevant conditions for girls that are in risk of, or are victims/survivors of femicide, such as children (both boys and girls), indigenous and of African descent.
Changes in politicians in Latin American countries put the focus of VAWG policies at risk.	Medium	Improbable	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Close and frequent contact with Latin American governments. Increase political dialogues on issues of gender, and the rights of children and youth. Strengthen activism and the defence of women's movements. Promote the awareness of decision makers through key regional advocacy forums. Advocate to position the issue in regional spaces that mobilize the

				political will of countries and commit them.
Militarism and authoritarian tendencies.	Medium	Improbable	Mayor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Networks of support for human rights defenders and journalists.
Civil society debilitated in environment and increasing polarization.	Medium	Improbable	Major	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guarantee regional safe spaces to improve capacities and support actions by civil society organizations. • Strengthen support for women and organizations that work at community level. • Support to intergenerational processes to guarantee more involvement of youth leaders in the prevention and response strategies.
High violence and organized crime context with the presence of gangs and other irregular	High	Probable	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with community-based organizations related to security in early warning systems and greater efforts to protect human rights defenders.
armed groups.				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake studies to better understand the links between femicide and organized crime, migration, disappearances and public insecurity in general. • Work on prevention of VAWG in young women and men at greater risk of entering gangs, “maras” or any type of organized crime group. • Implement actions of evaluations and security control for personnel, organizations and consultants that will work in the Spotlight Programme framework in high insecurity and criminality locations.
Increase in anti-rights movements, increased conservatism and influence of fundamentalist and conservative groups in issues of women’s rights and gender equality.	High	Possible	Major	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued support through campaigns, community movement, educations, capacity development of heads of human rights and civil society so that the duty bearers are accountable for their obligations. • Strengthen networks of women and civil society and groups that favour gender equality and are not influenced by these conservative groups.
Programmatic risks				
Regional partners with limited capacities to apply knowledge.	Low	Improbable	Minor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement partnership strategies for the development of capacities through the direct participation of civil society and all regional partners.

Regional Programme that is not completely financed to achieve all deliverables due to the lack of necessary resources (resources additional to those of EU).	High	Possible	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement resource mobilization strategies to attract funds to national Spotlight programmes at country level. • Resident coordinators of the UN work with development partners in the country to mobilize additional resources, including shared government costs.
Delays in execution due to the multiple decision-making processes that take a long time.	Low	Improbable	Minor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore ways to simplify the decision-making processes and to plan ahead to be able to avoid the main roadblocks and delays.
Institutional risks				
Austerity and fiscal restriction policies.	Medium	Improbable	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • Develop public/private strategies. • Develop methodologies for the financing of gender equality and a budget with gender perspective that takes into account age and cultural relevance. • Support solid, cost-effective methodologies for the work on VAWG, that includes arguments in favour of investment in gender equality and addressing this type of violence.
Limited availability of data and restricted capacities of state institutions for development and analyses.	Medium	Improbable	Minor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote governments' adoption of common cross-referencing classifications and indicators. • Promote to governments an adequate disaggregation of data to identify age and specific ethnicities, as well as other profiles such as disability and groups in situations of risk. • Develop packages of methodological tools (groups of indicators; protocols to coordinate the generation of information; mapping of actors, etc.). • Boost capacity development for institutions involved in the generation and analysis of data.
High rotation rate of staff members as in Latin America governments	Low	Improbable	Minor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close dialogue policy at national and regional level, with the direct support of delegations to guarantee that the

can delay implementation of the initiative.				fight against VAWG is a State policy, independent of the political alternative.
Weak, fragmented coordination between State actors, among subregional and regional actors, and low capacity of institutions.	Low	Improbable	Minor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of strategies for the improvement of capacities, ad hoc and more agile coordination mechanisms and development of “combos” to prioritize actions that accelerate implementation. • Prepare and promote the adoption of inter-institutional protocols that address VAWG, protection of rights and the prosecution of femicide, among others. • Convene committees / mechanisms of VAW-VAC to ensure that persistent divisions do not continue and that work is integrated, collective and inter-institutional • Establish links for joint work on VAW-VAC in key programme activities.
				<p>institutional answers are developed, implemented and monitored.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design improved models of comprehensive responses at national and subnational levels as well cost and financing approaches. • Promote the implementation of the Latin American Protocol for the investigation of femicide
<p>There are no changes in the political situation of the region that can affect the implementation of the Spotlight Initiative.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Spotlight Initiative counts on important political and administrative support that facilitates the participation and commitment of Latin American governments in spite of staff rotations. There is a significant national commitment that includes the allotment of national resources to guarantee sustainability, appropriation, channelling of efforts and the long-term impact of the programme. There is a significant regional and national commitment to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. • 				

Coherence with Existing Programmes

The Spotlight Regional Programme will be implemented and aligned with several ongoing initiatives led by the RUNOS.

The work in Pillar 1 will include and build on the work done by UN agencies in supporting drafting and adaptation of normative frameworks and policy development as well as design and implementation in the areas of VAWG and femicide. This ground work includes:

- UN Women has been partnering with the monitoring mechanism of the Belén do Pará Convention (MESECVI) of the Organization of American States (OAS). Under this partnership, spearheaded by the National Institute of Women of Panama (INAMU), a Model Law on Femicide has been approved and a strategy to advocate for its adaptation in country has

started. The programme will expand this advocacy and technical support at regional level, in collaboration with CEVI, in activities under Pillar 1.

- In 2016, the Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL) launched a project to lead the drafting, approval and validation of an international protocol for the investigation of threats against different groups of people whose work is essential for democracy and the full enjoyment of human rights. The initiative is called La Esperanza Protocol (PLE for its name in Spanish), in honour of Berta Cáceres, a recognized human rights defender of the Lenca people, feminist and environmentalist. CEJIL, in collaboration with IBHARI and the technical support of UN Women, will carry out a qualitative and quantitative analysis of the prevalence of threats and how its normalization contributes to a context in which fear predominates, avoiding any kind of solidarity or support for the victims. The programme will support and strengthen this work in the initiatives with civil society and human rights defenders in Pillar 1.
- UN Women works very closely with civil society as it is one of its most important constituencies. The agency supports civil society's advocacy and capacity building in a number of different ways guided by the principle of leaving no one behind enshrined in 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and premised on the fact that women and girls suffer intersectional discrimination based on their gender, race, ethnicity, class, age, etc. Examples of this is our support to civil society's participation and influence in a number of intergovernmental processes at the global and regional level such as the periodic sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and the regional consultations organized by UN Women prior to each session, the last one being the regional consultation held in Buenos Aires, Argentina on 11-12 December 2016 prior to CSW 63; as well as the feminist forums prior to the Regional Conferences and Women convened by ECLAC every three years, the last one being the "Magaly Pineda feminist forum" held prior to the XIII Regional Conference on Women in Montevideo, Uruguay on 25-28 October 2016.
- UN Women also supports civil society advocacy, dialogue and mobilization aimed at strengthening political solidarity and feminist movement building such as inter alia the emblematic Feminist Meetings of Latin America and the Caribbean (EFLACs), the last one being the XIV EFLAC held in Montevideo, Uruguay, on 23-25 November 2017; afro-descendent networks and movements such as the forums and summits of the Network of Afro-descendent Women from Latin America, the Caribbean and Diaspora (RMAAD), the last one being the Forum of Afro-descendent Women held in Cali, Colombia, on 11-13 October 2018; indigenous women's networks and movements such as the Continental Meeting of Indigenous Women (ECMIA) and the First Indigenous Summit of the Americas for the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) organized by Chirapaq in Lima, Peru, on 21-23 November 2018. UN Women's work is guided by the vision of diverse civil society constituencies as part of its diverse and inter-sectional regional Civil Society Advisory Groups (CSAGs) made up of representatives from across the region with expertise in the different thematic areas prioritized by UN Women including violence against women and girls.
- The United Nations Global Programme on Essential Services for Women and Girls Subject to Violence¹³², is an initiative led in the region by UNFPA, in collaboration with UN Women, PAHO, UNDP and UNODC, which aims to provide greater access to a coordinated set of essential and multisector quality services for all women and girls who have experienced gender-based violence. The Programme promotes a multisectoral response with a focus on provision, coordination and governance of essential services in the sectors of health care, social services and the police and judicial sectors. The programme is being implemented in two pilot countries (Peru and Guatemala) and has begun in four volunteer countries, a list that it hopes will be joined by more interested countries during 2018 and 2019 in applying these standards in the attention to VAWG. This work will frame the community of practice to strengthen policy implementation in Pillar 1.

¹³² <https://www.unfpa.org/essential-services-package-women-and-girls-subject-violence>

- UNDP has developed a fiscal analysis tool to work with governments to finance social policies as part of its package of essential tools for the implementation of the SDGs. The tool is being adapted with the incorporation of a gender-focussed approach in a more visible way and will be adapted for the identification of financing sources of VAWG and femicide programmes in the context of the Spotlight project, within the expected result of one the Regional Programme's core pillars, strengthening policy monitoring and implementation.
- The Development Bank of Latin America (CAF) and UNDP project focuses on development of state capacities to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls in Argentina, Ecuador and Peru. The project seeks to improve the capacities of governments in the promotion of measures or policies that provide a comprehensive response to violence against women and define the intervention strategies for the eradication of violence against women and girls, meeting the needs and demands of the governments of the region. The project includes a substantive review of good practices and will develop a framework model for intervention with comprehensive measures (prevention, attention and reparation) for a life free of violence against women and girls. It will also identify measures to strengthen the capacities of governments in the design and implementation of comprehensive policies or programmes to combat violence. Utilising the Spotlight framework, UNDP will use the tools for evaluating the capacities of state actors, methodologies and models for analysing good practices that are the product of the CAF project, adapting them to the tools to monitor implementation of policies in Pillar 1, and the knowledge products of the CAF initiative will also feed into the analysis of best practices for the overall programme.

Pillar 3, to implement initiatives to prevent VAWG and femicide, will draw from the agencies experience and partnership with several stakeholders, i.e.:

- The inter-agency Regional Programme to Eradicate Child Marriage and Early Unions (2018-2021) is a joint effort between UNFPA, UNICEF and UN Women with strategic partners from government, civil society and donors. The programme seeks to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals 3, 4 and 5. It has four major objectives: 1) that the countries of the region comply with the international framework of human rights on child marriage; 2) to develop a package of policies and key services to reduce child marriage and early unions; 3) to empower girls and adolescents to fulfil their rights and delay unions and marriages; and 4) to break the silence in Latin America and the Caribbean on the subject, strengthen evidence and create alliances to combat this practice in the region. The three agencies are looking to mobilize about US\$ 18.5 million for this work. The project has initiated its actions in 5 pilot countries: Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico and the Dominican Republic.
- The UN Secretary General's campaign "*UNiTE* to End Violence Against Women" aims to mobilize public opinion and governments to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls throughout the whole world. The campaign, coordinated by UN Women and bringing together all United Nations agencies, calls on all governments, civil society, women's organizations, the private sector, the media, men, young people and all women and girls to join together to fight against this global pandemic. The *UNiTE* campaign is implemented in the Latin American and Caribbean region based on three pillars: 1) stop impunity which is aimed primarily at working with states in the prevention, care and confrontation systems, data collection and capacity building; 2) "not one more", focused on the promotion of changes in attitudes and behaviours at work with diverse groups of women and men and from education; and 3) "the responsibility belongs to everyone", for work through the media and non-traditional leaders, such as artists and athletes. The activities of the *UNiTE* Campaign Group's action plan are aligned and complemented with Spotlight. Some Spotlight activities deepen more in studies or activities already developed within the group. For example, a meeting on promising prevention practices in the region was organized and a recommendation that emerged was the

need to carry out an in-depth study on which are the successful programmes in the region for possible replication.

- The UNFPA initiative to strengthen the promotion, protection and exercise of sexual and reproductive rights by promoting the reduction of teen pregnancy and gender-based violence in Central America. The project is focused mainly on interventions in El Salvador and Nicaragua, supported by funds from the Government of Canada. It aims to strengthen the promotion, protection and exercise of sexual and reproductive rights by improving access to information and comprehensive SRHR / GBV services for women and adolescents and the exchange of experiences in the region. The initiative is being carried out in partnership with public institutions at the national, departmental and municipal levels as well as with community-based organizations and civil society organizations. UNFPA supports these institutions with emphasis on the development of comprehensive evidence-based strategies and capacity building. At the regional level, the project seeks to promote a more favourable environment in the region to advance in the area of sexual and reproductive rights and gender equality.
- The Gender Equality Seal Project for Public and Private Enterprises¹³³, has undertaken work on the integration of women's equality in the management models of public and private companies in 17 countries in LAC and other regions. From this programme, UNDP works with more than 1200 companies (600 in Latin America) and governments from 13 countries in Latin America for south-south cooperation and regional practice communities, and leads an annual meeting with companies, governments and union sectors (with an average participation of 500 companies) to analyse progress and share good practices. UNDP will be nourished by this network of companies and their tools to work with the private sector to generate commitment in this sector to eliminate VAW and girls, identify strategies for the entry of victims/survivors into the labour market and to help identify forms of partnership in the fight against VAW and Femicide.
- UN Women, in partnership with ILO and the European Union implements the three-year programme, Win-Win: Gender Equality means Good Business. The overall objective will be achieved by recognizing women as beneficiaries and partners of growth and development, by increasing the commitment of private sector (enterprises and employers' organizations) to gender equality and women's empowerment and by strengthening companies' capacities to implement these commitments. The action will ultimately contribute to the achievement of gender equality through enabling women's business leadership, labour force participation, entrepreneurship, economic empowerment and thus their full and equal participation in society. The programme's guiding platform is the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs). Driven by UN Women, in partnership with the United Nations Global Compact, the principles emphasize the business case for corporate action to promote gender equality and women's empowerment. The Programme is implemented in six countries in Latin America and the Caribbean (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Jamaica and Uruguay) and has a regional component coordinated by UN Women Brazil. Based on this work, the programme will map key private sector counterparts and systematize good practices in the sector to address violence against women, including co-financing programmes on VAWG and femicide/femicide.

a.

Under Pillar 5, working on data and evidence, the programme will build on UN agencies work with partners in strengthening and improving data collection on statistical information disaggregated by sex and sensitive to gender, VAWG and femicide:

¹³³ <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/gender-equality/transforming-workplaces-to-advance-gender-equality/gender-equality-seal-for-public-and-private-enterprises.html>

- The UNDP InfoSegura programme works with on evidence-based information management for citizen security in Central America and the Dominican Republic. It works to develop tools and strategies for strengthening the capacities of state actors and civil society for the design of evidence-based and gender-sensitive public policies and to establish mechanisms for regional collaboration and networking around citizen security. The programme has emphasis in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala, and actions in Panama, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic and Belize. The programme has advanced in the training of actors in the production, use of data, data analysis on citizen security with a focus on gender, sexual violence and femicide, and has supported conducting specialized VAW surveys in El Salvador. The project has also supported research on public safety and gender issues for the management of citizen security policy and responding to the particularities and needs of the dynamic contexts of the region. The Spotlight regional programme will draw on existing access to public safety actors; spaces and networks created with civil society and will work closely with InfoSegura; strengthening and making use of the tools and analyses in which InfoSegura has advanced; and focusing on the data on femicide, sexual violence, disappearances, administrative records, and organized crime for the outcomes expected in Pillar 1, and especially Pillar 5.
- Since 2017, UN Women serves as one of the advisory organizations for the Gender Statistics Working Group (GSWG) of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, a subsidiary body of ECLAC. This group promotes information sharing and the development of methodologies to advance gender statistics. Through this mechanism (GSWG), technical assistance has been given to the region's national statistical offices and National Women's Machineries and their capacities strengthened, while promoting horizontal technical cooperation. The GSWG's work programme, which is reviewed every two years, covers countries' needs for cooperation and collaboratively establishes priority areas for joint work. Within the framework of this coordinated work, spaces for reflection have also been consolidated in which shared knowledge and good practices are aimed at the strengthening of institutional capacities to produce and analyse gender statistics for public policies. Examples of this are the International Meetings on Gender Statistics and the International Meetings for Experts in Surveys on Time Use and Unpaid Work. Both forums have been held annually in Mexico for the last 16 and 13 years respectively.
- In Brazil, UN Women and FLACSO worked together to develop a Map of the Violence in 2015. The data was disseminated by media vehicles and became a national reference about gender-based violence data (including femicide), being reinforced by the Ministry for Women, Racial Equality and Human Rights and the UN Agencies in the country. UN Women is currently in talks to update and replicate this Map of the Violence. This experience will be used to develop the georeferenced map in Pillar 5

The Latin American and the Caribbean Regional Office of UN Women along with the entities that are part of the System of Statistical Measurement of Gender Violence (SUMEVIG) in Costa Rica developed a publication with an analysis of all statistical data from administrative records of various institutions at a national level with an annual periodicity. This allowed the government to have a better understanding of situations of violence against women from the moment they are reported until they reach the justice system and its evolution in order to analyse the changes registered; provide information to formulate proposals to promote improvements in the fight against gender violence; and create capacities and instruments that help civil servants and public officials make decisions in the administration of justice in the formulation of public policies on gender violence against women.

- UN Women has provided technical assistance in Jamaica and Grenada in planning GBV prevalence surveys and is preparing knowledge products on the GBV prevalence surveys in CARICOM. These include: (1) a paper on the experiences of conducting the survey in CARICOM; and (2) infographics and materials and information on the surveys to be uploaded onto the Global Database on Violence against Women.

- The Central American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE) and UN Women have established a strategic alliance for the design, creation and implementation of a Gender Observatory for the SICA region, generating statistics that reflect the contributions of women to development, as well as the production and management of knowledge regarding the empowerment of women. It is expected that the Gender Observatory will support the SICA through coordinated and articulated work with CENTROESTAD.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The programme will use the monitoring system and processes from the evaluation policies of UN Women, UNDP and UNFPA.^{134,135,136} The Spotlight project team will carry out a baseline study at the start of the programme to inform of the development of the monitoring and evaluation plan (M&E) and thus guarantee baseline information necessary to measure the progress of the programme.

The M&E will be a joint work exercise in order to generate synergies for transparency and accountability. The different agencies involved will consolidate their efforts, resources and M&E experience in the Regional Programme, and the various actors and social collaborators (regional institutions, CSOs, among others) will be involved in the M&E. A sufficient investment in M&E will guarantee an adequate documentation of the programme, building a base for its replication and sustainability after the completion of the project. Rigorous and systematic monitoring systems can improve future evaluations.

The programme coordinator will develop narrative reports and financial progress annually on the contributions presented by the agency that leads each pillar. The substantive narrative reports will collect details of progress, achievements, challenges and lessons learned and how these lessons will inform the subsequent phases of implementation.

At the end of the Programme, the programme coordinator will compile a final narrative and financial report. The final report will consolidate all the achievements, limitations, lessons learned and highlight measured results in relation to the objectives established in the conceptualization of the programme.

In relation to the evaluation component, the project should have an intermediate evaluation (carried out midway through the project), as well as a final evaluation. Both the intermediate and final evaluations will be carried out in coordination with the EU to ensure comparability and learning between programmes.

The UN Women Evaluation Manual, 'How to manage gender-sensitive assessment', provides the necessary tools for the management of all phases of the evaluation process: preparation, management and monitoring / utility. The UNEG manual 'Integrating human rights and gender equality into evaluations' is also a key reference for all UN evaluations.

The programme will be evaluated with the following activities:

Virtual inception workshop:

¹³⁴ <http://web.undp.org/evaluation/policy.shtml>

¹³⁵ <http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2012/10/evaluation-policy-of-the-united-nations-entity-for-gender-equality-and-the-empowerment-of-women>

¹³⁶ <https://www.unfpa.org/admin-resource/executive-board-united-nations-development-programme-united-nations-population-fund-1>

A workshop will be held during the first two months of the programme, starting with those with assigned functions in the management of the programme, all the agencies at the regional level and, when appropriate or feasible, representatives of the EU delegations and other interested parties. The inception workshop is essential to build the appropriate results and plan the annual work plan for the first year.

Annual performance reports (APR):

Annual programme reports will be prepared based on the format provided by the Secretariat to monitor progress made since the beginning of the programme and for the previous reporting period. The APR includes, but is not limited to, reporting the following:

- Advances in the results of the objectives and programmes - each with indicators, baselines and end-of-programme objectives (cumulative)
- Outputs of the programme aligned with the programme's outcome (annually)
- Lessons learned / good practices
- Financial reports
- Risks and adaptive management

Periodic monitoring:

The relevant agencies and partners, through the support of the communication and monitoring specialist, will carry out follow-up and monitoring actions on the agreed activities according to the schedule of the initial report to evaluate the progress. In addition, the EU will be able to assess progress towards achieving results through missions.

Midterm evaluation:

The project will undergo an independent midterm evaluation. This evaluation will show the progress towards achieving the results and identify necessary modifications. It will focus on relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and the possibility of programme implementation; highlight the problems that require decisions and actions; and will present the initial lessons learned on the design, implementation and administration of the programme. A virtual workshop will be held to discuss the findings and recommendations that will be incorporated to improve implementation during the final phase of the project. The administration, terms of reference and the calendar of the midterm evaluation will be decided after consulting the different counterparts of the Programme. The terms of reference for this midterm evaluation will be carried out by the programme coordinator with the support of regional evaluation specialists of UN Women, UNDP and UNFPA in close consultation with the EU. A response from the administration to the midterm evaluation will be prepared and the programme management unit will have to take the measures detailed in the recommendations.

Final evaluation:

An independent final evaluation will take place three months before the end of the programme and will be carried out in accordance with the UN Women evaluation policy and aligned with UNEG standards. The final evaluation will focus on the delivery of the planned and corrected results after the intermediate evaluation. The final evaluation will examine the impact and sustainability of the results, including the contribution to develop and achieve the empowerment of women within the framework of the 2030 Agenda. The terms of reference for this evaluation will be prepared by the coordinator of the Programme with the support of regional evaluation specialists from UN Women, UNDP and UNFPA, with close coordination with the EU. The final evaluation should also provide recommendations for follow-up activities and requires a response from the administration that will be uploaded to the 'Global Accountability and Tracking of Evaluation Use' (GATE system) within six weeks after the end of the evaluation report.

Final programme report:

In the last three months of the programme, the team will prepare a final programme report. This exhaustive report will summarize the results achieved (objectives, results, products), the lessons learned, the problems encountered and the areas where the results may not have been achieved. It will also establish recommendations for additional steps that are necessary to ensure the sustainability and replicability of the results of the Programme.

Innovation

The Spotlight Regional Programme proposes a series of strategies and activities that support

innovation in response to the problem of VAWG and femicide in Latin America. Among the strategies to be highlighted is the approach to issues that have been under-represented and under-reported and signify large gaps in the regional response. To this end, the Programme intends to undertake research to deepen knowledge of the problem of femicide in its connection with strategic and emerging issues such as organized crime, the disappearances of people, gender-based violence in adolescents and young people, as well as sexual violence and violence in public and community spaces, focussing on reaching women who are exposed to greater vulnerability. This will be done in order to provide elements for the design of new strategies to solve the complex and changing contexts in which VAWG and femicide is present in the region.

Another aspect that pays off in innovation is the use of georeferenced tools that can reveal the places where state action often does not come from racial and ethnic biases. It is also true when placing prevention as the central axis of the proposal, through the ecological approach that considers multiple strategies have been dispersed until now.

Likewise, a strategy that guides the proposal is the improvement in the coordination between the different sectors to improve secondary prevention and, in this way, contributes to the protection of women in situations of violence and whose lives are in danger.

Similarly, the Programme has as a strategic focus; the generation of evidence and assessments on the effectiveness and impact of existing initiatives and practices in the countries of the region to prevent, address, sanction and eliminate VAWG, with emphasis on its most extreme manifestation, femicide. This is in order to identify innovative, replicable and scalable strategies that can guide action in the region towards achieving better results for the elimination of violence.

In particular, the systematization and evaluation of specific aspects of prevention, care and response will be carried out in areas that have been little explored or are innovative, in order to sustain the generation of solid methodological tools aimed at obtaining significant results with emphasis on the groups facing multiple forms of discrimination and exclusion, in order to promote the rooting of the movement.

Likewise, the generation of quality, comparable and disaggregated data will be promoted, which will provide a basis for a better understanding of the problem and its link with another series of problems and factors. This will provide elements for innovation in attention and response.

The Spotlight Regional Programme in Latin America and the Caribbean is an opportunity to provide an innovative model for the way United Nations agencies work within the framework of reforms espoused by the United Nations Secretary General. From the formulation phase, and later in the implementation, it has been possible to work coherently and effectively from a joint analysis of the problem and the definition of a joint strategy.

The articulated work between the different participating United Nations agencies, as well as

networking with civil society, academia, specialists, government institutions, other agencies and existing networks in the region is also perceived as a mechanism that will pave the way for the construction of innovative solution proposals to deal with the problem. In this regard, the Programme will also support the creation of better conditions for human rights defenders to work.

Regarding innovation in the management of the programme, the implementation of the initiative will be carried out through an integrated work model among the different agencies. This process will be coordinated by the Spotlight team and will have a set of key partners in the interagency group of the *UNiTE* joint campaign to end violence against women.

The leadership or co-leadership of the pillars that each of the main agencies will assume, along with the responsibilities of the associated agencies and other agencies of the UN system in specific actions, will contribute to sustain commitments during the implementation. The proposal is innovative because it seeks to leverage the expertise and comparative advantages of UN organizations and achieve programmatic and financial efficiencies. The programme staff will be centralized in an agency working in favour of all the agencies in coordination, monitoring and evaluation, knowledge management and communications. The agencies will additionally provide technical assistance from their staff, based on their expertise, in the topics of VAW, communications, and M&E to ensure technical quality and successful joint results. Additionally, several actions will be co-implemented within the framework of the Programme assuring varied expertise. The Initiative will be closely monitored by the agencies and a projection will be sought of the risks and problems that could arise in the implementation.

Knowledge Production for Decision Making

Within the framework of the Regional Programme, a series of activities to strengthen strategic knowledge among key stakeholders in the region and decision makers is proposed in order to strengthen the design, implementation and evaluation of actions to prevent, respond, sanction and ultimately, eliminate femicide.

Among the main actions to be developed are:

- Generation of evidence on the effectiveness of work approaches, practices or strategies, as well as promising practices in the region of work with specific groups of women facing multiple discriminations, such as indigenous women, Afro-descendants, those with disabilities, girls and adolescents, among other.
- Carrying out specific research to deepen knowledge of the problem of femicide in its connection with other emerging, strategic and serious problems facing the region, such as organized crime, conflict and social insecurity, sexual violence in public spaces, among others, in order for decision makers to have better information and a knowledge base to design strategies with greater impact potential.
- Promoting the generation of quality data, disaggregated and permanently updated, which will contribute to the knowledge about the characteristics, dynamics, severity and magnitude of the problem. In addition, the homogenization in the generation of data will facilitate the realization of regional and sub-regional analyses.
- Generation of regional spaces for exchange, discussion and formulation of proposals, which will be integrated by various actors including civil society organizations, experts, academia, international organizations and agencies, regional and local strategic mechanisms, among others.
Develop and implement a regional knowledge network, using apps and social networks, to host and disseminate content generated under activities of the Spotlight Regional Programme (virtual courses, methodologies, tools, publications, etc); and develop partnerships with academic and social institutions and other agencies of the United Nations

for virtual trainings on strategic issues. (See other capacity building activities in the Regional Programme).

The main areas or topics on which it proposes to focus in order to strengthen the capacities of actors including decision makers in the region are:

- Legislation, jurisprudence and the procedural framework of femicide.
- Protection of women victims/survivors of violence.
- Linking femicide with other emerging or relevant problems in the region.
- Generation of data on femicide and related crimes in the region.
- Evidence about promising VAWG prevention and care practices and femicide in the region.
- Evidence about promising work practices in segments of women facing multiple discriminations.
- Good practices across the areas of the comprehensive approach to femicide, peer learning, stemming from civil society and women's organizations.

Communications and Visibility

All communications and visibility at the national level will be aligned with the global visibility and communication plan of the Spotlight Initiative and will be implemented by the United Nations recipient organizations to ensure the visibility of the Spotlight Initiative and its work in the fight against femicide in the region.

Communications and visibility will have two main objectives: to influence attitudes and drive change and increase the visibility of the project work and its donor.

The European Union Communication and Visibility Manual for External Actions has been used to establish the communication and visibility plan of the Regional Programme (see Annex 2).

Annexes

ANNEX 1: Regional Programme development process by interested parties.

Name Organization/company	Name and title	Work focus area and geographical approach	Organization Type (CSA, government, academia, etc)	Consultation dates
CSA (25 June – 2 July 2018)				
Consortio para el Diálogo Parlamentario y la Equidad Oaxaca AC	Nallely Guadalupe Tello Méndez	Gender equality (Mexico)	Civil Society Association (CSA)	June 25 - 2 July, 2018
Asociación Mujeres Emprendedoras de Alta Verapaz MEAV	Berinda Janeth Herrera	Women development (Guatemala)	Civil Society Association (CSA)	June 25 - 2 July, 2018
Enlaces Territoriales para la equidad de género	Ester Mancera	Gender equality	Civil Society Association	June 25 - 2 July, 2018

		(Argentina)	(CSA)	
Instituto de la Mujeres de la Ciudad de México	Teresa Inchaustegui Romero	Gender equality and human rights (México)	Public organization	June 25 - 2 July, 2018
Fundación Instituto de la Mujer	Gloria Leal Suazo	Gender equality and democracy (Chile)	Civil Society Association (CSA)	June 25 - 2 July, 2018
N/A	Karina Nora Bravo	Argentina	Independent consultant	June 25 - 2 July, 2018
Ministerio Público / Fiscalía de la Nación	Joselyn Marluve Guitton Manrique	Public sector (Perú)	Peru Government	June 25 - 2 July, 2018
Fundación Arco Iris Siglo 21	Waldistrudis Hurtado Minotta	Gender equality (Colombia)	Civil Society Association (CSA)	June 25 - 2 July, 2018
Coordinadora de la Mujer	Mónica Novillo	Gender equality and politics action (Bolivia)	Civil Society Association (CSA) Network	June 25 - 2 July, 2018
Observatorio de Género y Equidad	Monica Maureiera Martinez	Gender equality (Chile)	Civil Society Association (CSA)	June 25 - 2 July, 2018
Observatorio de los DDHH de las Mujeres Núcleo Andino	Elsi Yolima Arellano Pérez	Women Human rights (Venezuela)	Civil Society Association (CSA) Network	June 25 - 2 July, 2018
Red de Mujeres Afrolatinoamericanas, Afrocaribeñas y de la Diáspora	Dorothea Wilson Tathum	Empowerment afro descents Women (Nicaragua)	Civil Society Association (CSA) Network	June 25 - 2 July, 2018
Chirapaq, Centro de Culturas Indígenas del Perú	Tarcila Rivera Zea	(Perú)	Civil Society Association (CSA)	June 25 - 2 July, 2018
Oxfam	Damaris Ruiz	Poverty mitigation (regional)	Civil Society Association (CSA)	June 25 - 2 July, 2018
Iniciativa Pro Equidad de Género	Drisha Fernandez	Gender equality (Colombia)	Civil Society Association (CSA)	June 25 - 2 July, 2018
Asociación para el Desarrollo Integral Educando Guatemala	Irma Yolanda Mucía Jocholá	Education development (Guatemala)	Civil Society Association (CSA)	June 25 - 2 July, 2018
Kalli Luz Marina A.C.	Maria Lóez de la Rica	Human rights for indigenous communities and women (México)	Civil Society Association (CSA)	June 25 - 2 July, 2018

Corporación Humanas	Lorena Fries	Gender equality and democracy (Chile)	Civil Society Association (CSA)	June 25 - 2 July, 2018
Ministerio de Desarrollo Social de Chile	Teresa Maffei	Public sector (Chile)	Chile government	June 25 - 2 July, 2018
Articulación Ciudadana para la Equidad y el Desarrollo AC	Laura Nayeli Pedraza Álvarez	Gender equality (México)	Civil Society Association (CSA)	June 25 - 2 July, 2018
MOVILH	Daniela Andrade Molina	Human rights LGBTI (Chile)	Civil Society Association (CSA)	June 25 - 2 July, 2018
Fundación Dr. Guillermo Snopek	Judith Friedman	Investigation of culture and social benefits (Argentina)	Civil Society Association (CSA)	June 25 - 2 July, 2018
Masculinidad por Equidad e Independientes Pro Derechos Humanos	Ricardo Mejia Miller	Gender equality through the male perspective (Panamá)	Civil Society Association (CSA)	June 25 - 2 July, 2018
Puntos de Encuentro	Amy Bank	Gender equality and human rights (Nicaragua)	Civil Society Association (CSA)	June 25 - 2 July, 2018
Centro Feminista de Información y Acción, CEFEMINA	Ana Carcedo	Women human rights (Costa Rica)	Civil Society Association (CSA)	June 25 - 2 July, 2018
CLADEM	Maria Guadalupe Ramos	Gender equality and human rights (Mexico)	Civil Society Association (CSA) Network	June 25 - 2 July, 2018
Fundación para Estudio e Investigación de la Mujer (FEIM)	Mabel Bianco	Gender equality and human rights (Argentina)	Civil Society Association (CSA)	June 25 - 2 July, 2018
Consultation with UNiTE to End Violence against women group (February 16, 2018)				
ACNUR	Ana Belén Anguita	Regional	United Nations Agency	February 16, 2018
OACNUDH	Pedro Vera-Pineda	Regional	United Nations Agency	February 16, 2018
ONUSIDA	Michela Polesana	Regional	United Nations Agency	February 16, 2018
OPS	Constanza Hege	Regional	Multilateral organization	February 16, 2018
PMA	Deyra Caballero	Regional	United Nations Agency	February 16, 2018

UNICEF	Patricia Muriel	Regional	United Nations Agency	February 16, 2018
UNICEF	Shelly Abdool	Regional	United Nations Agency	February 16, 2018
ACNUR	Mila Cantar	Regional	United Nations Agency	February 16, 2018
PMA	Aysha	Regional	United Nations Agency	February 16, 2018
Consultation with UNiTE to End Violence against women group (May 4, 2018)				
ONUSIDA	Edgar Carrasco	Regional	United Nations Agency	May 4, 2018
OACNUDH	Pedro Vera-Pineda	Regional	United Nations Agency	May 4, 2018
OPS	Constanza Hege	Regional	Multilateral organization	May 4, 2018
UNICEF	Patricia Muriel	Regional	United Nations Agency	May 4, 2018
UNICEF	Shelly Abdool	Regional	United Nations Agency	May 4, 2018
UNICEF	Patricia Muriel	Regional	United Nations Agency	May 4, 2018
UNICEF	Shelly Abdool	Regional	United Nations Agency	May 4, 2018
OPS	Constanza Hege	Regional	Multilateral organization	May 4, 2018
ACNUR	Mila Cantar	Regional	United Nations Agency	May 4, 2018
Consultation with Civil Society Reference Group (May 25, 2018)				
Puntos de Encuentro	Amy Bank	Gender equality and human rights (Nicaragua)	Civil Society Association (CSA)	May 25, 2018
Fundación Instituto de la Mujer	Gloria Leal Suazo	Gender equality and democracy (Chile)	Civil Society Association (CSA)	May 25, 2018
	Maria Mejía			May 25, 2018
PMA	Elena Ganan	Regional	United Nations Agency	May 25, 2018

Instituto de la Mujeres de la Ciudad de México	Teresa Inchaustegui Romero	Gender equality and human rights (México)	Public organization	May 25, 2018
Together for girls	Begoña Fernandez	Violence against children eradication	private-public association	May 25, 2018
N/A	Karina Nora Bravo	Argentina	Independent consultant	May 25, 2018
Comunidad Mujeres con VIH	Mariana Iacono	Global community for HIV	Civil Society Association (CSA)	May 25, 2018
PROMSEX	Susana Chavez	Sexual and reproductive health	Civil Society Association (CSA)	May 25, 2018
Fundación para Estudio e Investigación de la Mujer (FEIM)	Mabel Bianco	Gender equality and human rights (Argentina)	Civil Society Association (CSA)	May 25, 2018
International Planned Parenthood Federation	Florencia Barindelli	Sexual and reproductive health protection	Civil Society Association (CSA)	May 25, 2018
Union Europea	Andrew Scyner		European Union	May 25, 2018
Union Europea	Beatriz Alvarex		European Union	May 25, 2018
Consultation with Reference Group Civil Society (July 5, 2018)				
Corporación Humanas	Lorena Fries	Gender equality and democracy (Chile)	Civil Society Association (CSA)	July 5, 2018
Instituto de la Mujeres de la Ciudad de México	Teresa Inchaustegui Romero	Gender equality and human rights (México)	Public organization	July 5, 2018
CLADEM	Maria Guadalupe Ramos	Human rights defence (Mexico)	Civil Society Association (CSA) network	July 5, 2018
Fundación para Estudio e Investigación de la Mujer (FEIM)	Mabel Bianco	Gender equality and women rights (Argentina)	Civil Society Association (CSA)	July 5, 2018
Fundación Arco Iris Siglo 21	Waldistrudis Hurtado Minotta	Gender equality (Colombia)	Civil Society Association (CSA)	July 5, 2018
Union Europea	Andrew Scyner		EU donor	July 5, 2018
Union Europea	Beatriz Alvarex		EU donor	July 5, 2018
Bilateral consultations with partners				

COMMCA	Alicia A. Rodriguez	Women Ministerial Council (Central America and Dominican Republic)	Multilateral organization	
ILANUD	Yagña Nicolás	Crimes and penal justice prevention	United Nations Agency	
MESECVI/OEA	Luz Patricia Mejía	Human rights for women methodology (regional)	multilateral organization	
EUROsocial	Mar Merit Blat	Cooperation programme between European Union and Latin America	multilateral organization	
N/A	Francoise Roth		independent consultant	
Unidad Fiscal Especializada en Violencia contra las Mujeres - UFEM; AIAMP	Mariela Labozzetta	Public ministry (Argentina), Member of the ministerial association	Argentina government	
Fondo Semilla	Jenny Barry	Production ministry (Argentina)	Argentina government	
OPS	Alessandra Guedes	Regional	multilateral organization	
CEPAL	Alejandra Valdez	Economic Commission for Latin America	multilateral organization	
Union Europea	Andrew Scyner		EU donor	
Union Europea	Rabya Nizam		EU donor	
Union Europea	Mariana Marchetti		EU donor	
Union Europea	Nanna Matsson		EU donor	



ANNEX 2: Communications and visibility Plan

The regional communication plan of the Spotlight Initiative will be aligned with the global visibility and communication plan of the Spotlight Initiative, which harmonizes the guidelines of the EU and the Secretariat (UN).

1. **Objectives:**

General communication objectives:

1. Make visible violence against women and girls (VAWG) / femicide at the regional level from an intersectional perspective to recognize different experiences with violence based on age, ethnic group, disability status, sexual diversity or identity of gender.
2. Visualize the results of the Spotlight Initiative in understanding the causes, behaviours, harmful stereotypes that result in the VAWG as well as warning signs and ways to counteract it.
3. Position the Spotlight Initiative and its key pillars at the regional level in the public, political and media agenda as a reference programme to prevent and eradicate VAWG.

Key audience:

Decision makers, opinion leaders, mass media at the regional level, influencers / ambassadors, private sector, women's rights activists, girls and their related issues, academia, girls, boys and adolescents, young people, women and men.

Specific objectives for key audiences:

- a. Sensitize key audiences about their specific role in preventing, prolonging, aggravating and mitigating VAWG.
- b. Inform target audiences about the Spotlight Initiative and its work at the regional level in each of the expected results.
- c. Inform decision makers about the Spotlight Initiative and advances in the development of knowledge at the regional level of the initiative.
- d. Sensitize the private sector and increase its commitment to combat VAWG and femicide.
- e. Sensitize and involve the media so that they become sensitive promoters of the eradication of VAWG.

2. **Communication activities:**

Main activities that will take place during the communication plan duration

- a. Virtual launch of the initiative, with visibility of the European Union and the UN. It will include a press release, social media strategy and dissemination documents with key messages (see below). This high impact and strategic event will be the opportunity to present the regional partnership of the Spotlight Initiative. The communication strategy for the event will take into consideration the need to cover the entire region and have a high impact on networks and media, in line with the activities below.
- b. Elaboration of a strategy for the dissemination of key events, for which the following editorial products will be prepared:
 - Formal notes on key report releases / publications
 - News of events
 - Good practices news
 - News of networking initiatives
 - News from key people (champions of the Spotlight Initiative)
- c. Strategy for the creation of the visual image of Spotlight Regional: Based on the communication guide of the global Spotlight Initiative, and with the aim of having coherence in information and communication, an image proposal for Spotlight that uses the logo and communication formats in social networks - and other formats or existing guides - in the design of printed and electronic products, notices in social networks, images for meeting activities, consultation meetings, etc., adapted to the regional programme.



d. Differentiated strategy for key actors: To ensure the arrival of key strategy audiences, a work plan will be developed that includes a differentiated strategy for the most relevant audiences: decision makers in regional and sub-regional inter-governmental institutions; parliament; academia; social and women's organizations (indigenous, Afro-descendants, LGBTBI, etc.), general public including men, women, girls and boys. For each segment, key messages linked to the products and results of the programme will be developed. The most relevant means of communication and social networks will be defined, and a calendar of activities linked to the implementation of Spotlight and the production of specific products.

In order to concentrate all the information of the Spotlight Regional Programme, a web page / platform for Spotlight will be created in the region, where information and news, activities and events will be grouped along with knowledge products generated during the proposal, virtual courses, tools, good practices etc. The platform will be managed in conjunction with an institution that ensures its continuity once the project ends. The initiative will prefer the creation of electronic documents that are easy to access, disseminate at a lower monetary cost and are more sustainable for the environment.

Resources:

1. Graphic design: Templates for key messages, logos
2. Publications: Spotlight report, terms of reference, frequently asked questions, etc.
3. Good practices, initiatives and other products of the programme

The regional programme will have a communication component for changing social norms, within which journalists / media with the private sector will be working to raise awareness about VAWG reporting and femicide and in the generation of evidence and tools on communication campaigns to eradicate VAWG and femicide.

Communication tools chosen: The strategy will be based on the creation of communication alliances between the agencies of the United Nations, civil society, the media and other interested parties, with the aim of highlighting the Initiative (its activities, objectives and impact) generating awareness about the problem and supporting the change of attitudes, norms and behaviours that normalize and perpetuate VAWG:

Strategy with Social Networks: In order to make Spotlight visible at the regional level, social media strategies with key messages for different audiences will be created, covering the various topics presented within the Spotlight initiative:

1. Messages of empowerment in order to challenge the misconceptions of the public informed by harmful stereotypes
2. With data from the region (challenges and statistics)
3. On key dates related to VAWG
4. Messages focused on the relationship of VAWG with the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs
5. Findings and information resulting from the initiative

Electronic platforms will be used to disseminate messages about VAWG in the Spotlight framework. For this purpose, the initiative will use the Twitter Global hashtag: @GlobalSpotlight and tag @EU_Commission, and the SDG campaign @SDGaction and / or participating organizations in news about shared events. Social network messages are accompanied by Spotlight's graphic design and hashtags for the region in English, Spanish and Portuguese. The strategy is included in Trello regional for Spotlight. This strategy in social networks will be accompanied by publication in the regional accounts of UN Women, UNDP and UNFPA.

• Initiatives with channels and communication media to propagate the Spotlight message: generate alliances with regional media such as CNN in Spanish, BBC, El País, among others, with which key events will be disseminated, and information packages will be prepared for the relevant events, for example, the virtual launch of the initiative in conjunction with the European Union.

Completion of the communication objectives:

It is proposed to establish a series of communication scope goals every 6-12 months, or quarterly, in which the impact of communication efforts is measured including the number of messages in social networks, op-



eds, visits to the news in the web pages, among others.

C- Resources

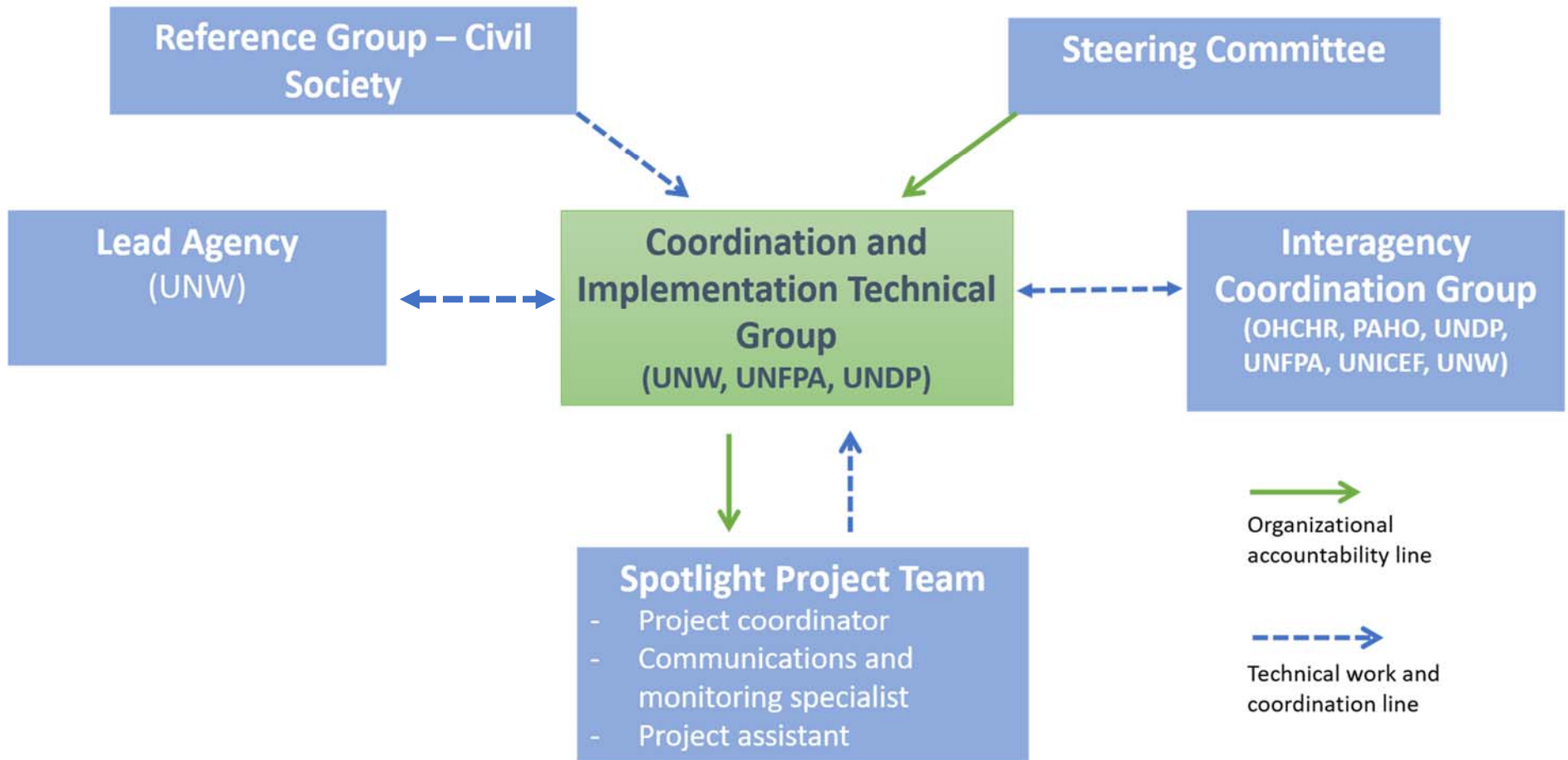
8. Human Resources

1. A part-time communications officer will be part of the coordination team. This person will coordinate and work closely with the communications personnel in the RUNO agencies.

9. Financial resources

2. US\$65,421 in staffing, printing and materials have been included in the implementation budget.

Annex 3: Spotlight Initiative: Governance Structure



Annex 4: Identification of Direct and Indirect Programme Beneficiaries

		Beneficiaries	
		Direct	Indirect (millions of people)
Pillar 1			
Output 1.1	212,976	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governmental institutions in 17 countries: National Women Machineries, Ministry of Justice, Public Prosecution, Security system, judicial system, Ministry of justice, Ministry of foreign affairs, Migration offices, Civil society • Parliamentarians • Civil Society Organizations in 17 countries • 3 sub-regional mechanisms: COMMCA, CAN, RMAAM • 30 people involve in 5 cases of Strategic Litigation • Members of regional and national courts and other mechanisms (CEDAW, ICHR, CEJIL, etc.) • Members of unions and bar associations of lawyers 	<p>A calculation was considered based on a regional impact in the 18 countries of Latin America, recognizing a 75% reach for women, which would represent 45.7 million and a reach of 20% for men with 30.5 million.</p>



		Beneficiaries	
		Direct	Indirect (millions of people)
Output 1.2	4,466	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parliamentarians 2-3 institutions (1 person by institution) in 12 countries participate in the Learning Community in person and about 200 people in virtual activities of exchange. 210 students in the virtual course on essential services (70 students per year for 3 years). 30 professionals of the health sector become trainers of trainees. 130 decision makers are enrolled in the advocacy and communication activities. At least 10 CSO participate in the different activities. 3 sub-regional mechanisms: COMMCA, CAN, RMAAM Direct readers of knowledge products Governmental institutions: Ministries of education, Ministries of Health, National Women Machineries, Indigenous and Afro Mechanisms, Ministries of Youth, Child Protection Institutions, Ministries of Justice, Persons with Disabilities Institutions, etc. CSO of indigenous and afro women, adolescent girls and women with disabilities 	
Output 1.3	22,350	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human Rights defenders in 17 countries CSO organizations Journalists and their organizations 	
TOTAL PILLAR 1: 239,792		76.2	
Pillar 3			
Output 3.2	25,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women's organizations and their members In situ visits to the itinerant exhibition Virtual visits to the itinerant exhibition 	A calculation was considered based on a regional impact in the 18 countries of Latin America, recognizing a reach of 75% for women (114.5 million), a reach of 35% for girls (27.4 million) and a reach of 20% for men (76.1 million) and a reach of 25% for boys (20.3 million).
Output 3.3	526,780	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governmental institutions: Ministry of education, Ministry of Health, Child Protection Institutions. CSO (Feminist, Youth, Child organizations, etc.) Academia UN Agencies and other International Organizations 	



			Beneficiaries	
			Direct	Indirect (millions of people)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct readers of knowledge products • Governmental institutions (Ministry of education, Ministry of Health, National Women Machineries, Ministry of Youth) • 3 sub-regional mechanisms: COMMCA, CAN, RMAAM • CSO (Feminist, Youth, Men and Boys, Faith Based Organizations, etc.) • Universities and Researchers • UN Agencies • Media actors (journalists and publicists' networks) • Private sector, through UN Women's WEPs signatories and UNDPs Gender equality seal associates. • Women's organizations and their members • In situ visits to the itinerant exhibition 		
TOTAL PILLAR 3: 551,780				190.6
Pillar 5				
Output 5.1	4,480	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office of Statistics • Ministries of health • Ministries of justice • Women Machineries • Security sector • Justice system • CSO • Sub regional institutions • Academia 		A calculation was considered based on a regional impact in the 18 countries of Latin America, recognizing a reach of 75% for women, which would represent 13 million and a range of 20% for men with 8.7 million.
Output 5.2	63,780	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government institutions: Ministries of justice • Security sector • Justice system • Office of statistics • National Women Machineries • Sub regional institutions • Academia • Public prosecutor's office 		



Spotlight Initiative
To eliminate violence against women and girls

Beneficiaries		
	Direct	Indirect (millions of people)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CSO• Direct readers of knowledge products• Child protection institutions	
TOTAL Pillar 5: 68,260		21.7
TOTAL SPOTLIGHT PROGRAMME: <u>931,978</u>		296.3