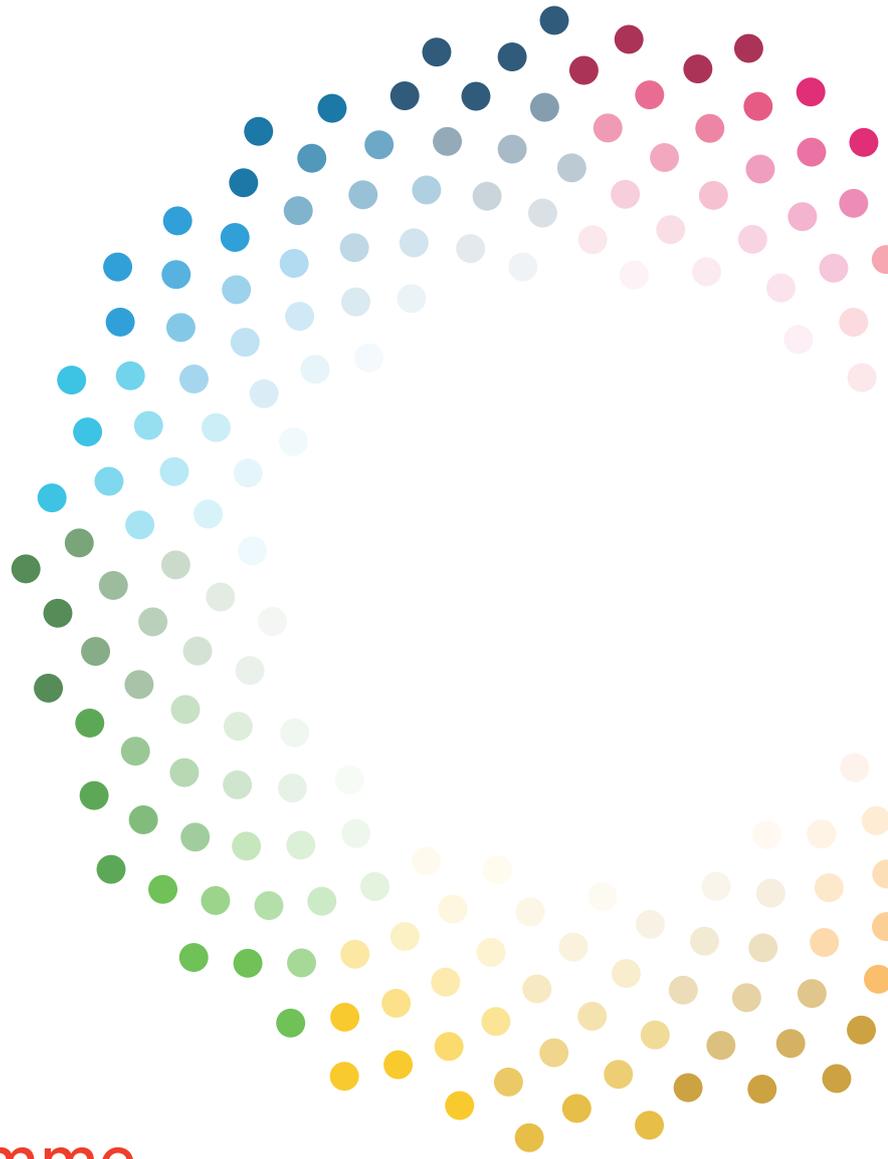




**Spotlight
Initiative**

*To eliminate violence
against women and girls*



**Latin America
Regional Programme**

Annual Narrative Progress Report

01 January 2019 – 31 December 2019

Initiated by the European Union and the United Nations:



<p>Programme Title & Programme Number</p> <p>Spotlight Regional Programme (Latin America)</p> <p>MPTF Office Project Reference Number:² 00116744</p>	<p>Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s)/ Strategic Results¹</p>
<p>Recipient Organization(s)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. UNWOMEN 2. UNDP 3. UNFPA 	<p>Strategic Results (if applicable) Country/Region: Latin American Region with a strong focus in Central America and Mexico</p> <p>Priority area(s)/Strategic results:</p> <p>Using a comprehensive and intersectional approach, the Latin American Regional Programme works to prevent, respond to 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. The Regional Programme focuses 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>

¹ Strategic Results, as formulated in the UN Planning Framework (e.g. UNDAF) and Spotlight Country/Regional Programme Document

² The Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) Office Project Reference Number is the same number as the one on the Notification message. It is also referred to as "Project ID" on the project's factsheet page the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

Programme Cost (US\$)

Total approved budget as per Spotlight Country/ Regional Programme Document: \$4,218,686

Spotlight funding³: 3,500,000

Agency Contribution : 718,686

Spotlight Funding and Agency Contribution

by Agency:

Name of RUNOs	Spotlight Phase I (USD)	UN Agency Contributions (USD)
UNWOMEN	1,365,211	231,475
UNDP	1,067,395	205,904
UNFPA	1,067,395	281,306
TOTAL	3,500,000	718,686

TOTAL : USD 4,218,686

Programme Assessment/Review/ Mid-Term Evaluation

Assessment/Review

if applicable (please attach)

Yes No

Mid-Term Evaluation Report

if applicable (please attach)

Yes No

Partners

National counterparts (government, private, NGOs & others) and other international organizations

a. United Nations Partner Agencies:

- Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

- International Labour Organization (ILO)

- International Organization for Migration (IOM)

- Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights (OHCHR)

- Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)

- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

b. Regional inter-governmental bodies, civil society organizations and networks.

- AIAMP

- CEJIL

- CHIRAPAQ

- CLADEM

- HANDICAP (Humanity and Inclusion International)

- OAS/MESECVI

- PROMUNDO

- SICA/COMMCA

Start Date

14.05.2019

End Date

31.12.2022

Report submitted by: Coordination Officer and Technical Coherence Officer

³ The Spotlight Contribution refers to the amount transferred to the Recipient UN Organizations, which is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

Acronyms

AIAMP	Ibero-american Association of Public Prosecutors
AWP	Annual Work Plan
CECC	Council of Ministers of Education and Cultures
CEDAW	Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CEFEMINA	Centro Femenista de Información y Acción
CEJI	Center for Justice and International Law
CIM	Interamerican Commission on Women
CLADEM	Latin American and Caribbean Committee for the Defense of Women's Rights
COMMCA	Council of Ministers for Women and Central America and the Dominican Republic
COP	Community of Practice
COSI	Community of Spotlight Initiative
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease
CRM	Regional Migration Conference
CSE	Comprehensive Sexual Education
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CSRG	Civil Society Reference Group
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ECMIA	Continental Network of Indigenous Women
EU	European Union
EVAW	Ending violence against women
EVAWG	Ending violence against women and girls
GBV	Gender based violence
GBVW	Gender based violence against women
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean
LGTBI	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex
M&E	Monitoring and evaluation
MESECVI	Follow-up Mechanism of the Convention of Belém do Pará
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NGOs	Non-governmental Organizations
OAS	Organization of American States
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights

OXFAM	Oxford Committee for Famine Relief
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
RedLAC	Red Latinoamericana y Caribeña de Jóvenes por los Derechos Sexuales
RMMAD	Meeting of Ministers and High Level Authorities of Women's Affairs
RSCRG	Regional Civil Society Reference Group
RUNOs	Recipient United Nations Organizations
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SICA	Central American Integration System
ToT	Training of Trainers
UN	United 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
UNW	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)
VAW	Violence against women
VAWG	Violence against women and girls
VAWG+FF	Violence against women and girls and femicide/feminicide
WHO	World Health Organization

Executive Summary

The Latin America Regional Programme of the Spotlight Initiative is working to prevent, respond to and eliminate violence against women and girls and femicide/feminicide (VAWG+FF) at regional and sub-regional levels through a partnership between the European Union (EU) and the United Nations (UN) System, and in collaboration with strategic intergovernmental partners and civil society organizations (CSOs). As a joint partnership between the EU and the UN, the Spotlight Initiative pools the resources and expertise of these two international organizations to achieve better coordinated and more comprehensive results. This partnership allows the programme to be more effective, efficient, and innovative in delivery.

The regional program has a special focus on Central America and Mexico due to the high prevalence of femicide/feminicide with unique aggravating factors, such as migration in unsafe conditions, organized crime, and disappearances. The programme focuses on three out of the six pillars of the Spotlight Initiative's global theory of change: Pillars 1, 3, and 5.

The programme contributes significantly to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 5.2, to eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation; and SDG 16.1, to significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere. The programme also contributes to several other goals of the Agenda 2030 and corresponding targets, considering that addressing violence against women and girls contributes to unlocking important results under other SDGs, such as health, education, economic growth, peace building and sustainable management of natural resources.

In the spirit of UN Reform, during the first six months of implementation, the Recipient United Nations Organizations (RUNOs) of the regional program established joint strategic partnerships and developed coordinated work plans with key implementing partners, responsible parties and associated agencies that were selected to carry out activities. In addition, the RUNOs worked together to map out key fora and engaged with key actors working to achieve the results set out in the Regional Programme Document. The Spotlight Initiative has started to establish itself as a programme of reference in Latin America for ending violence against women and girls (EVAWG) and femicide/feminicide. The programme has also created synergies between key regional actors working towards common goals in this sphere.

In 2019, the programme also met certain structural goals, such as the establishment of governance mechanisms, including a Coordination Unit, the Civil Society Reference Group (CSRG) and the Steering Committee. The Spotlight Regional Programme has established an unprecedented platform for a coalition of actors to collectively discuss issues related to femicide in the region, to coordinate actions on EVAWG as well as to exchange knowledge, innovations and good practices, to develop synergies and to address gaps and overlaps.

The technical and operational team recruitment is complete. The programme assembled a highly skilled group of experts, including an Interagency Coordinator and Programme Associate for the Coordination Unit and three specialists. The technical unit has vast experience in program management and research on gender issues, including work related to masculinities, migration and violence prevention in the Latin America region. The team is also in the process of hiring a specialist responsible for the communications strategy, including appropriate visibility and awareness of the results and achievements of the Programme.

A set of priority activities has been carried out to strategically position the programme and disseminate guidance and relevant evidence to key stakeholders and CSOs. The most important activity that mobilized the team was the side event for the ECLAC Regional Conference on Women. Intergovernmental mechanisms, organizations for the CSRG, EuroSocial+ and a representative from the EU Delegation in Chile participated as speakers of the activity. One member of the CSRG received full support from the Regional Programme to attend the conference and to participate as a speaker, and together with other members of the CSRG contributed not only to the side event but also to advocacy efforts in the conference, resulting in a strong focus on the prevention and response to VAWG+FF in the Santiago Commitment.

This event was an important opportunity for the team to expose some of the key components of the programme to an assembly of some of the most critical decision-makers and practitioners in the sector, and to confront the Programme's strategy to other ongoing initiatives in Latin America. This created opportunities to establish contacts and to adjust some of the planned activities in coordination with key stakeholders. As a result of these actions, Spotlight has been positioned as a key initiative for the achievement of the SDGs, as well as its collaboration with important government commitments that occurred in the context of the International Conference on Population and Development, ICPD+25, as well Beijing +25 and the Global Initiative Equality Generation.

At the programmatic level, efforts focused on identifying strategic alliances and implementing partners for main activities and also on developing work plans with partners to start implementation in 2020, as shown in the following sections. This “operational” work has a programmatic impact as the programme has taken the opportunity to establish meaningful partnerships between actors that do not traditionally collaborate (such as COMMCA and MESECVI with Civil Society, academic institutions and private sector, etc.) as well as to provide direct technical assistance and operational guidance to such partners, which will have a sustainable effect even beyond the end of the Spotlight Initiative.

Regarding Outcome 1, activities have started in partnership with MESECVI, the Follow-up Mechanism to the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, the Belem do Pará Convention, with a planned review of legislation across the region with a view to identifying and eliminating discriminatory clauses, promoting the adoption of the Model Law on Femicide/Feminicide as well as promoting the adoption of appropriate measures to guarantee reparations for victims-survivors of VAWG+FF and their children or other family members. Work is also underway to continue to promote the Latin American Model Protocol for the Investigation of Gender-Related Killings in collaboration with the Ibero-American Association of Public Prosecutors (AIAMP), Eurosocial+ and the Office of the High Commission for Human Rights. Furthermore, a work plan has been agreed with the Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL) to work on the Esperanza Protocol to protect Women Human Rights Defenders. Key CSO partners were selected as implementing partners to carry out the systematization of promising practices, replicable scale-up models and technical guidelines on challenging issues in the response to gender violence.

Regarding Outcome 3, the Programme is initiating the design of a joint work plan between the Central American Integration System (SICA), and the Council of Ministers for Women of Central America and the Dominican Republic (COMMCA) and the three RUNOs. The work plan includes conducting an assessment to identify the degree of incorporation of women’s rights and gender equality in the educational sectors in the Central America countries and coordination with the Council of Ministers of Education and Cultures (CECC), for advocacy and for a proposal to incorporate women’s rights in the education sector based on the results of the diagnosis. Work will be undertaken with decision makers to promote comprehensive sexual education and gender equality in the education sector.

Civil Society Organizations are gearing up to support advocacy efforts on

“what works” for prevention initiatives and changing gender social norms. Planning for a mapping of prevention initiatives is underway for the region, including classification in terms of communication for change, involvement of men and boys, prevention of violence in dating relationships, empowerment of girls, community prevention, and others. These resources are aimed at promoting prevention strategies based on holistic, comprehensive and an ecological model analysis of VAWG, which will be disseminated with women and youth organizations, as well as with decision makers from key sectors such as women’s ministries, the education sector, health and human rights sector, CSO stakeholders, private sector, mass and alternative media networks and journalists.

Outcome 5 is part of an interagency agreement with ECLAC, under negotiations, to promote the development and improvement of statistics that provide a better understanding of the data on VAWG and femicide/femicide. Consultations have taken place with eight governments, university experts, think tanks and other UN agencies that have provided key insights into government’s engagement with the process. Links between femicide in differentiated socio-economic and vulnerable contexts are being reviewed from a range of angles including data, and for actions in pillar 1 legal frameworks and qualitative studies of differentiated contexts. UNODC and IOM are developing a comprehensive conceptual framework to guide policy research and advocacy activities on the interfaces between VAWG and femicide and other structural problems in the region, such as organized crime, trafficking, disappearances, vulnerable contexts and migration.

A good practice to be highlighted in the first 6 months of implementation is a multi-dimensional study being conducted under Spotlight’s Pillar 5, that aims to inform public policy by strengthening evidence about VAWG and femicide in new scenarios of high risk and social vulnerability. Some of those scenarios consist of intense migration flows, sustained presence of organized crime, and structural poverty and exclusion. The initiative will help overcome the lack of evidence on topics like 1) intense migration flows and human trafficking; 2) organized crime; 3) structural poverty and multiple exclusions and 4) livelihoods of migrant women, and allow decision-makers to better understand the complexity of the scenarios and which public policy measures could be taken to reduce the number of femicides and reduce the risk among more vulnerable groups of women. See additional details on Annex D, Promising Practices.

The Spotlight Initiative presents an opportunity to find synergies between different programs and actors, by sharing best practices, research and

recommendations on the most effective ways to end violence against women and girls and femicide/feminicide in the region. Therefore, next steps will focus on strengthening the role of the program's key stakeholders, such as by developing new mechanisms to seek the strategic support of the CSRG, the Steering Committee and the EU on key issues to guide programme implementation and results. Programmatically, conversations will continue throughout implementation with key partners to provide support on delivery and ensure that methodological approaches are sound and in line with programme objectives. Strategies will be discussed for programme activities that have not yet been finalized, and negotiations will begin with newly identified implementing partners.

Summary and Context of the Action

In the Latin America 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. 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 femicide or femicide in 2017. Adding to this figure the data from 4 other countries in the region that only record the femicide committed by victim's intimate partner or former partner, this number amounts to 2,795 women killed by femicide this year.¹

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, which reproduce violent and non-cohesive societies.

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 InfoSegura². 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 live in gang-controlled areas of countries such as El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala experience widespread and extremely brutal forms of gender-based violence. Gang presence³ 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 conflict⁴.

The Latin America Regional Program is working to prevent, respond to and eliminate VAWG and femicide/feminicide (VAWG+FF) at regional and sub-regional levels, building on regional platforms and institutions to lead positive change. Activities are focused primarily on Central America and Mexico due to the high prevalence of femicide/feminicide in the region, along with the unique aggravating factors that are common in the region such as migration in unsafe conditions, drug trade, organized crime, and disappearances.

The program focuses its work on Pillars 1, 3, and 5 and continuously uses opportunities to create synergies with the Spotlight countries in the region.

The main outcomes for the regional program are: (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; (3) Gender equitable social norms, attitudes and behaviours change at community and individual levels to prevent violence against women and girls, including femicide; and (5) Quality disaggregated and globally comparable data on different forms of violence against women and girls and harmful practices, collected, analyzed and used in line with international standards to inform laws, policies and programmes.

³ 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 Centroamérica,” 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 “InSightCrime,” November 7,

⁴ 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”].

The first six months of implementation have been heavily focused on signing partnership agreements, developing work plans, and launching call for proposals to identify new implementing partners/responsible parties. Most activities have been planned with partners and are on track to be executed on schedule. Frequent interagency planning sessions and collaboration have resulted in the development of effective strategies needed to mitigate programme challenges—evidence of the Spotlight Initiative’s new way of working. One effective strategy was the engagement of the Council of Ministers for Women of Central America and the Dominican Republic (COMMCA) through actions in Pillar 3, which led to an agreement with UNDP, UNFPA and UN Women to apply budget resources under a single work plan. The joint work plan has allowed the Interagency Group to advance more swiftly, both programmatically and operationally, in the spirit of UN Reform.

During this period of 6 months, social challenges and opportunities have appeared that can impact the implementation of the programme, to name a few:

- Migration crisis in the region has continued and increased: this context of forced migrations constitutes a very serious problem for women and girls due to the multiple forms of violence they suffer, mainly sexual violence and femicide/feminicide.
- Electoral context and government changes in several countries demand more advocacy to advance and strengthen the response to VAWG due to the polarization of the region in conservative and progressive blocks. The polarization affects policies and strategies around gender equality and VAWG.
- Social mobilizations in several countries of thousands of citizens especially women, adolescents and young people who are demanding that governments respect their human rights, including the right to live free of violence. The performance “Un violadorentucamino” of “Las Tesis”, which started in Chile but mobilized thousands of women in the region and around the world against sexist and patriarchal violence.

The social context in Latin America influences the way Spotlight is implemented. While there are challenges that continue to affect and endanger women in the region, there are also many opportunities with a growing and powerful women’s movement that is participating at all levels to demand justice and equality for all women.

Programme Partnerships

Through a rigorous consultation process, the Latin America Spotlight Regional Program outlined a number of key actors in the project document, who would, in partnership with the European Union and the United Nations, work to eradicate VAWG and femicide/feminicide in Latin America. These actors work across the three pillars to promote advocacy, generate evidence, and facilitate communities of practice and other platforms necessary to improve the regional response to femicide.

Government

Initiating this process of strategic partnership required early consultations with several government authorities, relevant institutions, and CSOs to identify the needs of Central American governments regarding women's rights and gender-based violence prevention in the education sector. The consultations revealed an opportunity for Spotlight to work with COMMCA to generate guidelines and recommendations that assist governments in incorporating women's rights into education programs. Additional consultations were held with authorities for the identification of effective methodologies and other resources that can be used as models for new initiatives. Overall, dialogue with government has been strengthened, fostering engagement and promoting advocacy among state actors and encouraging governments to take ownership of the initiative.

EU

The Technical Team of the Regional Programme has also established continuous communication with the EU Delegation of the Central American Integration System (SICA), which is the liaison officer designated by the EU for the regional program to inform about advances and forthcoming activities. Additionally, EuroSocial+ has also been in communication with RUNO agencies to coordinate collaborations in the different activities, including the Regional Conference on Women held in Chile, where both parties participated as panelists. This partnership with the EU forms the foundation of the programme and ensures that the two key partners of the Initiative coordinate their strategy, share strategic and political information and provide coherent leadership of the Initiative.

Governance

A Regional Steering Committee for the Latin America Regional Programme was established to guide the implementation of the Spotlight Regional Programme and to ensure adequate communication and coordination of the Spotlight Initiative at the regional level. The Steering Committee also liaises with the Spotlight Steering Committees at the national level to ensure complementarity of programmes and actions. In addition, the Steering Committee approved the programme work plan and budget for years 1 and 2.

The members of the Regional Steering Committee include representatives of UNDP, UN Women, and UNFPA; a representative of the EU; a representative from associated agencies, a role which rotates annually; and two civil society representatives selected from and nominated by the CSRG. The Committee is co-chaired by UN Women and the EU Delegation in Nicaragua.

Civil Society

For decades, women's rights groups, autonomous social movements and CSOs have advocated and campaigned to transform social practice, change public opinion and raise awareness all around the world to put the issue of violence against women and girls on national, regional and global political agenda. They have contributed to driving policy change and articulated the social perspectives of all groups of women, including youth, marginalized groups and/or groups facing intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization. The Spotlight Initiative recognizes that CSOs play a crucial role in articulating the social perspectives of all groups of women, including youth, marginalized groups and/or groups facing intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization.

It is with this principle at heart that the Spotlight Initiative places its partnership with CSOs at the centre of this Programme, ensuring that the women's movement and civil society can be meaningfully engaged and involved in decision-making at all levels and that they participate in the design, implementation and monitoring of interventions under the regional programme. In particular, CLADEM, Chirapaq and Promundo have taken up significant roles in the delivery of high-quality recommendations to guide policy making in the region.

In addition, it was important for the programme to engage the academic sector and civil society organizations like Global Women's Institute from the University of George Washington, Oxfam International and CEFEMINA, a feminist organization working on VAWG and femicide in Costa Rica.

CSOs have been at the forefront of the initiative since its inception. Through a call for proposals, the Spotlight Regional Civil Society Reference Group for Latin America was formed with the objective of providing the programme with meaningful engagement of women's rights groups and relevant civil society organizations. The Civil Society Reference Group is a strategic network of highly qualified persons with diverse experience, expertise and perspectives in the priority areas of Spotlight which through consultations provide expert advice on programme implementation. Inputs from the group have been received to orient action plans under each Pillar and for the development of various activities such as the Regional Conference on Women held in Chile, Santiago. The event was jointly organized with members of the Civil Society Reference Group with the objective of making visible the work of the different stakeholders who are committed to the elimination of VAWG and femicide/femicide in the region. Two of its members participated as panelists and others supported through videos and testimonials that focused on promising practices visible under the Spotlight Initiative.

The Reference Group will continue to be consulted as RUNOs reformulate work plans to address changing contexts in the region.

Delivering as One

Positioning the Regional Spotlight Programme with the UN system was key for achieving programmatic results. Early in implementation and through exchange of work plans and advocacy strategies, an interagency agreement was achieved with ECLAC to work on quality and comparable data. An expert meeting called "*Measuring femicide in Latin America and the Caribbean*" was celebrated on March 25-26, 2019 in ECLAC's facilities in Santiago, Chile, with the participation of eight government representatives, experts from universities, think tanks, UN agencies and experts to identify good/promising practices and priorities to take forward Spotlight's activities on data management and governments capacities. Participants provided inputs in terms of government engagement and dialogue as well as the focus of the capacity assessment.

The exercise led to an engagement process at regional and sub-regional levels to work with different intergovernmental organizations including inter alia the Board and Presidency (Chile) of the Regional Conference on Women, COMMCA and the Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Women's Affairs (RMAAM), a first draft of results was presented at the Annual meeting on Gender Statistical Data.

UN organizations are at the forefront of Spotlight implementation efforts.

Existing partnerships with ECLAC, OHCHR, PAHO, and UNICEF have served as the basis for innovative approaches to respond to VAWG, including joint analysis of situations that affect violence, planned responses and dissemination techniques. RUNOs are strengthening their partnership with ECLAC's Observatory on Gender and working diligently to develop a single methodology for collecting data on femicide/feminicide in the region. Frequent conversations and exchanges with UNODC and IOM led to a partnership to develop studies associated with femicide in differentiated socio-economic and vulnerable contexts, including advocacy activities with sub-regional and regional intergovernmental bodies. Due to the complexity and novelty of the research undertaken, the team developed a concept note to provide a common conceptual framework and define roles and responsibilities for each actor.

Further information on programme partnerships is highlighted for each pillar below:

Pillar 1

- A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with MESECVI and a work plan has been developed to work on the promotion of the model law on femicide/feminicide and to analyze normative frameworks in the region that address violence against women and girls and femicide/feminicide as well as civil and family laws, criminal proceedings laws, reparations and mapping of free legal advice.
- Partnership with the Office of the High Commission for Human Rights has been consolidated, and in collaboration with the UNW Training Centre, a virtual training course on the Latin American Model Protocol will soon be launched for police, prosecutors and investigators in the region to strengthen their capacities in investigating femicides/feminicides.
- The Ibero-American Association of Public Prosecutors of Latin America is a nonprofit entity that integrates the Public Prosecutors of the region; the partnership began early in 2019 through collaborations and workshops held to enhance protocols and to establish coordinated actions to ensure that the public prosecutors' offices in Latin America have tools that strengthen gender-based investigation and prosecution. Workshops counted with the technical support of Eurosocial+.

- Partnership has been established with Centre for Justice and International Law (CEJIL) and a work plan has been developed to complete an international protocol to investigate threats of violence against human rights defenders, the Esperanza Protocol, and to advocate for its adoption at national level. A Partnership Agreement will soon be signed, and CEJIL will consult with a diverse group of women's human rights defenders to ensure that the Esperanza Protocol adequately responds to the needs of women's human rights defenders and the specific risks they face ensuring an intersectional approach to strengthen and guarantee investigations.
- In partnership with UN Agencies, the EU and the CSRG, a Community of Practice Virtual Space on Essential Services to address VAWG will be launched. Key CSO partners were selected to carry out the systematization of promising practices, replicable models and technical guidelines on challenging issues in the response to gender violence.
- The Latin American Committee for the Defense of Women's Rights - CLADEM - will deliver two products: a) systematization of models and effective routes of response to sexual violence against girls, teenagers and young women; b) a research about the link between sexual violence against, unintended pregnancies, early unions, femicide and /or suicide of adolescent girls. Both products will serve as evidences to orient policies and strategies in the region.
- Promundo will systematize promising practices and replicable models on working with perpetrators. This tool will be useful to advance with evidences in one of the areas with the least progress (secondary and tertiary prevention), to guarantee the non-recurrence of violence.
- Chirapaq, currently coordinating the "Enlace Continental de Mujeres Indígenas de las Américas – ECMIA", will systematize intercultural models of response the violence against indigenous women and girls.
- Humanity and Inclusion (Handicap) international will work on the systematization of inclusive models of response to violence against women and girls with disabilities, through a mapping of promising experiences in the region, meetings with experts and reference groups such as RIADIS which is the organization responsible for connecting people with disabilities in the region.

- UNFPA and PAHO advanced in the conversations to co-organize a training of trainers program for the health sector with the participation of 12 countries.
- UNICEF, PAHO, UN Women and UNFPA, preliminary conversations to advance in a joint work on the systematization of promising practices and technical guidelines to link child protection services with care services for gender-based violence were done.

Pillar 3

- A joint work plan was signed with the Central American Integration System (SICA), through the Council of Ministers for Women of Central America and the Dominican Republic (COMMCA). The work plan includes two main activities: 1) Conduct an assessment to identify the degree of incorporation of women's rights and gender equality in the educational sectors in the Central America countries. 2) Coordinate with the Council of Ministers of Education and Cultures (CECC), for advocacy and make a proposal to incorporate women's rights in the education sector based on the results of the diagnosis.

Pillar 5

- An interagency agreement with ECLAC was established to carry out activities that promote the development and improvement of statistics that provide a better understanding on the data on VAWG and femicide. Eight governments, experts from universities, think tanks and other UN agencies participated in a meeting to provide inputs on governments' engagement and capacities. The first draft of results from this exercise was presented at the XVI International Meeting on Gender Statistics in Aguascalientes; it included a strategy to engage actors at a regional and sub-regional level such as the Board and Presidency of the Regional Conference on Women (Chile), COMMCA and others.
- For actions in pillars 1 and 5 that will review the links between femicide in differentiated socio-economic and vulnerable contexts from a range of angles including data, legal frameworks and qualitative studies of differentiated contexts, UNODC and IOM were engaged to develop a comprehensive conceptual framework to guide policy research and advocacy activities on the topics of organized crime, trafficking, and migration. For this effort, other actors were engaged to lead some of the studies like, Global Women's Institute from the University of George Washington, Oxfam International and CEFEMINA, a feminist

organization working on VAW and Femicide in Costa Rica.

- Following a consultation with the governments of Central America, Mexico and Dominican Republic during the II Regional Congress for Migrant Women, an external advisory committee to oversee the policy research activities was set up to ensure an integrated and coherent approach for the different studies in design. The Committee is made up of representatives from the governments of Costa Rica and Mexico, NGOs, members of the Spotlight Civil Society Committee and academia.

Results

Overarching Narrative: Capturing Broader Transformation

During the first 6 months of implementation, Spotlight has positioned itself as a reference program working to accelerate the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls and femicide/feminicide. RUNOs under the regional program are working jointly with different sectors to ensure an integrated approach to addressing VAWG including femicide. At the UN to UN level, better dynamics and coordination efforts are resulting in an integrated approach to review and analyze social conditions that increase violence against women, including femicide/feminicide.

In light of UN Reform, cooperation efforts have prompted UN organizations to identify data gaps in the region that cannot be addressed at the country level. A multi-dimensional research effort aiming to inform public policy at the national and sub-regional levels by strengthening evidence about VAWG and femicide in new scenarios of high risk and social vulnerability. Some of those scenarios consist of intense migration flows, sustained presence of organized crime, and structural poverty and exclusion. Four independent studies are underway with UN agencies, external experts and research team leaders working under a common conceptual framework. The studies focusing on VAWG and femicide and their linkages to the aforementioned scenarios help to overcome the lack of evidence on the issues and also allow decision-makers to fully understand the complexity of the scenarios and design public policies to reduce the risks among more vulnerable groups of women and reduce femicides.

Conditions to strengthen the response to GBV were created through collaborations with implementing partners that have extensive experience working at local, national and regional levels with diverse groups of women and girls. These partners allow the program to develop specific elements to advance women-centered responses, taking into account the considerations of key population groups like indigenous women, women with disabilities, young women, girls and others.

Partners are identified through internal assessments that consider technical capabilities and expertise on intersectional, intercultural and inclusive methodologies necessary to ensure region-wide impact. Actors across all sectors are supported with financial and technical information and resources to strengthen their capacity and response while increasing their awareness and understanding of evidence-based models. These experiences come together through a Virtual Community of Practice on Essential Services set up for 15 countries in the region to address VAWG and systematize experiences.

Capturing Change at Outcome Level

Outcome 1: Legal and Policy Framework

In collaboration with the Inter-American Commission of Women's Follow-up Mechanism to the Belem do Pará Convention (MESECVI), the Spotlight team is providing operational and technical support to the development of several instruments that enhance governments' capacity to address VAWG and femicide/feminicide, including a guide to promote the adaptation and implementation of the Inter-American Model Law on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of the Gender-Related Killing of Women and Girls (Femicide/Feminicide). The guide is meant to outline the responsibilities and obligations of States as well as provide clear instructions on how to adapt existing laws to ensure they adhere to international human rights standards.

The Spotlight team held consultations and provided guidance to MESECVI to plan its forthcoming comparative review of legal codes to detect gaps that may contain discriminatory elements against women in situations of violence. Special emphasis is placed on norms related to marriage and civil unions, property law, paternity, custody and access to justice and systems for the protection of victims of violence. The Spotlight team also conceptualized and designed a separate review that considers existing criminal procedural laws in the region to identify priority areas that do not align with the Model Protocol for the Investigation of gender-related killings of women.

The Programme is in a position to strengthen states' response to GBV through numerous reviews of legislation and other mechanisms designed to support victims and survivors, including their right to reparations. All efforts are focused on existing international human and women's rights instruments as well as multi-disciplinary proven intervention models and initiatives. A capacity strengthening strategy is underway for decision makers and government entities, aimed at supporting the development and implementation of public policies, plans and programs to address VAWG and femicide from an intersectional perspective and recognizing that violence and femicide affect women in all their diversity, according to age, race, ethnicity, disability condition, socio-economic conditions, sexual diversity or gender identity, and different conditions of vulnerability in girls, teenagers and adult women.

A study on discriminatory EAW legislation was completed to identify trends across laws on domestic violence, sexual violence, femicide/feminicide and integrated VAWG, and generate recommendations to align with international human rights standard. The study reveals an expansion of legal frameworks on gender-based violence against women (GBVW) in the Latin American and Caribbean region. In great measures, the trend is attributed to the public demonstrations and demands from women and feminist movements that have taken a particular stand against femicide/feminicide. Moreover, in the context of weakening institutions and ineffective public policies, States are increasingly adopting criminal laws and punitive measures to respond to social problems. Despite significant progress on normative areas, the study concludes that there are few funded, comprehensive laws that respond to GBVW, and few signatories to the Optional Protocol to CEDAW, depriving women who are suffering human rights abuses with a complaint and inquiry mechanism.

Considerable limitations are shown with sexual and reproductive health legislation, specifically through total bans and other legal restrictions on abortion. Lack of progress in this area makes visible the partiality of legislative progress, since certain women's rights receive greater political support than others. This trend also reveals that women and feminist mobilizations have triggered legal reforms, however; not all demands have been met.

Finally, the study includes a series of recommendations for States, i.e.: a) Eliminate or reform laws that constitute direct or indirect discrimination against the rights of women to a life free of violence; b) Guarantee that the laws on GBVAW contemplate prevention, protection and reparation measures and are periodically monitored; c) Ratify the Optional Protocol to CEDAW; d) Harmonize legislation according to the evolution of the normative framework on GBV, under existing international standards on the matter; e) Monitor and

evaluate all legislation on GBV, together with movements of organized women and feminists, and detect areas where implementation difficulties occur; f) Allocate adequate resources for GBV laws.

The protection of women human rights defenders is a critical area of work under Pillar 1. Across the world and particularly in Latin America, women human right defenders who publicly condemn human rights violations suffer extreme violence, abuse and defamation from different groups threatened by their advocacy efforts. CEJIL's *Protocolo La Esperanza* aims to respond to the persistent threats against human rights defenders by strengthening the State's capacity to protect human right defenders and journalist, and to investigate threats against them. Building on this initiative, work under Pillar 1 of the Spotlight regional program ensures that the Protocol includes a gender perspective. Planning has started for a consultation with human rights defenders to include their experiences in the working draft of the *Protocolo Esperanza*.

Fifteen countries in the region have voluntarily decided to participate in a Community of Practice to implement the Essential Services Program in response and prevention of VAWG; the COP is the result of an opportunity created between Spotlight and the existing Essential Services Package Program created by the United Nations Joint Global Programme where UNFPA, UN WOMEN, WHO, UNDP and UNODC collaborate. Country representatives, specifically from prosecution and justice systems, positively evaluate the information provided by the program. Guidelines on multisectoral work have been particularly well received. To support continuous efforts to strengthen capacities, a virtual page and an online course was launched to facilitate real-time exchange on effective, intersectional, evidence-based models to support the response to GBV.

Working jointly on another area of Pillar 1 are UNODC, IOM and UNDP who are strengthening their partnership and supporting collective efforts to understand how organized crime and migration affect women, including links with GBV, sexual violence and femicide in Central America and Mexico. With technical support from UNODC, the agencies are reviewing existing legal systems, how countries register disappearances of women and the legal approaches to address organized crime and its links to VAWG, sexual violence and femicide. This work is facilitating interactive dialogues with governments on how to adapt the legal reviews and guidelines to create public policies in line with international resolutions such as the Palermo Protocol.

Outcome 3: Prevention and Norm Change

The program designed a coherent technical approach to promote prevention strategies based on holistic, comprehensive and ecological model analysis of VAWG, including different groups of individuals, with priority on adolescents and young people, men and boys and girls. It initiated contact to develop alliances with the media, journalists, private companies, and publicity agencies. This includes planning to involve decision makers from key sectors such as women's ministries, the education sector, the health and human rights sector, as well civil society organization and stakeholders (youth organizations, women's movement, feminists, among others).

To advance in the achievement of outcome 3, the incorporation of women's human rights into the education sector is a major action. A joint workplan was established with the Council of Ministers of Central America – COMMCA, that includes a diagnosis on the degree of inclusion of women's human rights within the educational systems of the Central American sub-region, followed by the development of tools that allow integrating gender equality as part of the curriculum of the education sector in this sub-region. It is important to highlight that this effort contributes to broadening joint efforts between the Ministers of Women and Ministers of Education in Central America which supports efforts for national implementation.

Progress has also been made on hiring a specialized consultancy for the construction of a toolkit for the inclusion of the prevention of gender violence and the transformation of social gender norms within comprehensive sexuality education programs inside and outside of schools. This toolkit will be supported by an advocacy strategy to promote CSE as an effective way to accelerate the prevention of GBV and the transformation of gender social norms.

The programme is also heavily focused on the identification of global initiatives that can be implemented in the region on the generation of evidence of what works in prevention of GBV. For this reason, a mapping of prevention initiatives was carried out in the region, classifying them in terms of communication for change, involvement of men and boys, prevention of violence in dating relationships, empowerment girls, community prevention, among others. Efforts to map the initiatives included interviews and exchanges with UN partners, NGO's working on prevention campaigns like Puntos de Encuentro, OXFAM, and RedLAC (Red Latinoamericana y Caribeña de Jóvenes por los Derechos Sexuales) and others that shared experiences and identified experts in the area. Identified experts form the Reference Group and actively provide

technical assistance in the process and the evaluation of regional prevention initiatives in the following areas: communication for development, violence prevention in relationships, girls' and women's empowerment, prevention campaigns for adolescents and youth. Spotlight has led the way for this unprecedented effort in the region that includes the exploration of successful initiatives with actors across all sectors working together under one objective.

The RUNOs are working with their partner agencies IOM and ILO to create a joint forum where key companies from the private sector will get together to share good practices in the sector to address violence against women. The RUNOs will be proposing UNDP's Gender Equality Seal as a starting point for companies to create a more equal and violence free workspace. In parallel, a dialogue will begin on more specific topics affecting the region such as the rights of migrant women in the workplace based on the efforts of IOM and ILO to integrate this topic in the private sector.

Outcome 5: Data

The work on pillar 5 (data) is based on the fact that femicide in the region is a complex phenomenon often linked to other challenges such as violence by intimate partners; organized crime; public insecurity; human trafficking; migration of women; etc. Additionally, countries in Latin America define and investigate femicide differently, which makes comparison across the region one of many challenges. As stated in the situational analysis of the Regional Programme Document, "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 2019 the Spotlight Initiative team focused on analyzing these challenges and intersections by designing recommendations for strengthening data collection. To that end, a Spotlight side event was held during the 2019 XX International Meeting on Gender Statistics in Aguascalientes. This meeting allowed experts and practitioners to exchange on the challenges faced to strengthen administrative records on violence against women and femicide. Panelists discussed the Spotlight Regional Programme and work with ECLAC's Gender

Equality Observatory to develop a femicide indicator and to harmonize the way data is collected across the region ensuring that it is properly disaggregated. Also, with significant support of partner agency ECLAC, the RUNOs have been working on the development of a single methodology for collecting data on femicide in the region by strengthening the existing relationship that administrative data collectors have with ECLAC's Observatory on Gender. Additionally, ECLAC has furthered its work on reviewing the existing data collection methodologies and creating one with inputs and validations of the data collectors. The agencies have been reviewing ECLAC's work and planning entry points for the next phase to have interactive discussions with the data collectors on the proposed methodology to achieve validations at a regional level.

Building on UN existing work, in 2019 a regional study on violence against women and girls and its linkages with citizen security in Central America and the Dominican Republic was published. The report: "La cara escondida de la inseguridad: violencias contra las mujeres en Centroamérica y República Dominicana," (InfoSegura PNUD/USAID) systematizes and analyzes relevant data to support the elimination of violence against women, including femicide, and the prevention of youth violence and gangs in Central America.

In 2019, official information for 15 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean was updated by ECLAC to produce the annual report on femicide and intimate femicide indicators as of 2018. Also, the experts meeting mentioned above "Measuring femicide in Latin America and the Caribbean," a draft proposal of a roadmap for the development of a femicide registration system was presented and validated. Understanding femicide or "gender-based killing of women" depends, to a large extent, on the existence of data deriving from detailed and reliable records that identify characteristics of the victim, the perpetrator, the relationship between the two, their environment, motivations and patterns of behaviour, among other factors. In this regard, another important contribution was the development of a study on the quality of data on femicide in Latin America and the Caribbean and the elaboration of a first report on this issue: "La calidad de los datos de femicidio en América Latina y el Caribe" (ECLAC, mimeo). Finally, the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean made progress in measuring femicide in the region and gathered reliable, verifiable and comparable information from the countries, with a view to using it to design, implement and evaluate public policies on protection for victims of violence, prevention of femicide, reparation for dependent collateral victims, and punishment of perpetrators. This data was systematized and publicized in the infographics, "Measuring

femicide: challenges and efforts to bolster the process in Latin America and the Caribbean” (ECLAC, 2019).

Using the partnerships established in Outcome 1 with UNODC and IOM the agencies are having interactive discussions based on their experiences and mandates on how to monitor and develop different types of data that link vulnerabilities with VAWG and other understudied links. With these two UN agencies the RUNOs are developing methodologies to improve data collection and analysis on disappearances and linkages with VAWG including femicide. The RUNOs are also creating new partnerships with International NGOs such as Oxfam International to explore the cultural vulnerabilities of women in extreme cases of inequalities and discussing which are the most prevalent in the region to obtain new data. These collaborations will produce knowledge products that will allow stakeholders to increase the monitoring and reporting of SDG target 5.2.

Results Framework

Beneficiaries

The first six months of implementation have focused on developing strategic alliances and signing agreements for the implementation of activities. Considering the regional scope of the programme, it was not possible to estimate the number of beneficiaries reached at this stage. Detailed information about beneficiaries reached will be provided in the 2020 report.

Indicative numbers	Direct (Targeted)	Indirect (millions) (Targeted)	Direct (Actual)	Indirect (Actual)
Women (18 yrs.and above)	527,259	173.2	Data not available at this stage.	
Girls (5-17)	0	27.4		
Men (18 yrs. and above)	332,573	115.3		
Boys (5-17)	0	20.3		
TOTAL	859,832	336.2		

Challenges/Difficulties Encountered and Measures Taken

- Structural problems like forced migration, organized crime, the persecution of human rights defenders and the criminalization of protests in Latin America, result in challenging contexts whereby it's necessary for the regional program to generate knowledge and evidence-based response proposals to GBV for effective implementation. Studies will be developed by UNFPA, UNDP and UNW to shed light on how these situations affect the situation of violence against women in region.
- Risks may be found on Annex B – Risk Management Report.

New Opportunities and Lessons Learned

- Coordinating with Spotlight country programs in the region was key to working towards achieving programmatic coherence with the regional program. This allows complementarity and contributes to capitalizing on the results achieved by other programs through systematization of good practices, installation of learning communities, and other shared practices.
- Spotlight has an opportunity to strengthen capacities and support women's and youth groups currently mobilizing in the region to denounce impunity and demand stronger efforts from states and societies to stop VAWG. These groups contribute to driving policy change for all groups of women, including youth, marginalized groups and/or groups facing intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization. The Regional Programme is ensuring that the women's movement and civil society can be meaningfully engaged and involved in decision-making at all levels and that they participate in the design, implementation and monitoring of interventions under the Regional Programme by strengthening their capacities.
- The novelty and complexity of the studies associated with femicide

in differentiated socio-economic and vulnerable contexts requires a thorough and step-by-step engagement process to ensure technically coherent reviews that respond to the presented scenarios. Recommendations must be generated under a single conceptual and methodological framework that is aligned with programme objectives.

Innovation and Promising or Good Practices

In the first 6 months of implementation, the Regional Programme highlights one promising practice:

Generate evidence for public policy on femicide in new scenarios of high risk and social vulnerability in Central America and Mexico.

- A multi-dimensional research effort will be conducted to inform public policy by strengthening of evidence about VAWG and femicide in new scenarios of high risk and social vulnerability. Some of those scenarios consist of intense migration flows, sustained presence of organized crime, and structural poverty and exclusion. This initiative consists of 4 independent studies linked under a common conceptual framework, agreed among the different stakeholders, such as UN agencies, external experts and research team leaders. The studies focus on VAWG and femicide and its linkages with 1) intense migration flows and human trafficking; 2) organized crime; 3) structural poverty and multiple exclusions and 4) livelihoods of migrant women.

This initiative will help overcome the lack of evidence on the issue and allow decision-makers better understand the complexity of the scenarios and which public policy measures could be taken to reduce the number of femicides and reduce the risk among more vulnerable groups of women. The objective of this activity is to build robust and up-to-date evidence on the least studied hot topics to inform public policy involving actively governments and regional mechanisms related to, i.e., women's rights, citizen security and migration. It rises as a promising practice since it provides a comprehensive framework to analyze specific situations of VAWG and femicide in understudied scenarios of social vulnerability in different countries of the region that suffer from similar tendencies to help build better public policies on the matter.

Please see Annex D – Promising Practices.

Next steps

As this report demonstrates, significant progress has been made in the implementation of the programme over this first 6-month period. Many activities are already underway with established partnerships established and work plans. Over the next few months, RUNOs will work together through the established interagency mechanisms to accelerate delivery and start generating results. This includes a critical assessment of programme work plans to review activities that cannot be implemented due COVID-19 context, as well as activities that need to be refocused to address new risk factors for VAWG and response efforts for victims and their families.

The outbreak of Coronavirus and the emergency measures that governments have put in place in the region and indeed globally will have a disproportionate impact on women and girls. Experiences of previous crises or emergency situations such as the Ebola epidemic demonstrate that violence against women is likely to increase whilst barriers to accessing essential services will be compounded. Anecdotal evidence from China, France and Italy suggests that the numbers of domestic violence cases have increased since the COVID-19 outbreak. Ensuring that essential services are prioritized and increased during this current crisis will be crucial to ensure that numbers of femicides/feminicides do not increase. Therefore, the delivery of many of the actions in the Spotlight work plan will also need to be reviewed to identify new delivery modalities or to evaluate their continued relevance in the current context. The EU representative has been involved in the process of reformulating work plans that address developing situations; once programme review is complete, RUNOs will meet with the CSRG to discuss possible adjustments to the programme and then a meeting of the Steering Committee will be convened.

After the new activities are approved, RUNOs will continue to work to ensure that partnerships are established with key actors and stakeholders to ensure rapid delivery.

As for current work plans under Pillar 1, recommendations generated through the various studies will result in publications which will be disseminated with key decision-makers at all levels like parliamentarians, women's organizations and political parties with the objective of strengthening knowledge and capacities for those responsible of generating reform. In response to the current COVID-19 crisis, a further action has been included in the MESECVI work plan to map states responses to mitigate against, prevent and respond to the impact of

COVID-19 on VAWG in the region as well as to undertake a study on good practices from other regions/countries.

A call for proposals will be launched to work with human rights defenders to enhance their ability to protect themselves, advocate for their rights and link up networks of human rights defenders across the region to expand their knowledge and self-support. A historical memory of emblematic cases of femicide will be recovered to raise awareness and bring attention to public policies and programmes on femicide.

For Pillar 3, work will be developed with media/journalists and advertising sector to improve the way they report on and communicate on VAWG. COMMCA will implement all activities under agreed work plan such as the design and implementation of a regional diagnostic of the inclusion of women's human rights content in educational systems, development of recommendations and design of a strategy to integrate concepts into education system. A toolkit in Comprehensive Sexuality Education is also being developed as an effective way to accelerate the transformation of social gender norms and prevent GBV, this toolkit will be socialized with education authorities together with an advocacy strategy.

In the first months of 2020, the gender violence prevention reference group is formed and a call for proposal will be launched for Universities, and study centers, to carry out a mapping systematization and evaluation of prevention strategies for GBV in the region, to generate evidence of what works in prevention of GBV.

For Pillar 5, work ahead will focus on mapping different methodologies and approaches for measuring femicides/feminicides and monitoring all policy research and advocacy activities that were mapped with partners, to ensuring the focus and methodological approaches are sound and that all review work takes place between March and May as it is not possible at this point to define when the field work will be done. Consultative meetings that were planned to take place in the first quarter of 2020 (February to April), have been put on hold, including a meeting of the Advisory Committee for work planned in Central America, Mexico and the Dominican Republic; an expert meeting on femicide and organized crime; an expert meeting on trafficking in persons in the migration contexts and its linkages with femicide; and an expert meeting on vulnerable contexts and femicide. In the next 10 weeks, concept notes will be sent to the Secretariats of COMMCA, CRM and MESECVI outlining strategies to engage them in several Pillar 5 activities.

The regional programme will also work to develop a knowledge management plan and to promote collaboration of the Community of the Spotlight Initiative

(COSI), created to foster a dynamic global community among Spotlight teams. The shared platform facilitates and streamlines knowledge exchange, including lessons learned and promising practices to build on existing evidence and create transformative change to EVAWG. The COSI Virtual Library folder for the Latin America Regional Programme will also be frequently updated to share relevant documents for all Spotlight teams to view, adapt and replicate.

In May 2020, a strategic communications plan will be developed with the following objectives: (1) raise awareness of violence against women and girls and femicide/feminicide (2) support the implementation of the program and the fulfillment of the results through campaigns and other strategies that seek to promote a cultural change in the population, change in attitudes and behaviors and sensitize the media (3) position the Spotlight Initiative and its pillars at the regional level on the public, political and media agenda as a benchmark program to prevent and eradicate violence, as well as ensure the visibility of donors, involved agencies and implementation partners.

Efforts to position the Spotlight Initiative at regional and global forums created around Beijing+25 will be revisited to seize the important opportunity to accelerate the elimination of VAWG, as a fundamental requirement to achieve gender equality and SDG 5.

Stories from the Field

The stories will be collected in the next months with the support of the Communications Specialist hired for the Regional Programme. The first six months focused on establishing governance structures, hiring operational team and establishing partnerships for program implementation, as well as defining work plans with implementing partners.

Testimonials

Testimonials will be collected in the next months with the support of the Communications Specialist hired for the Regional Programme.



Communications and Visibility

Attached 2019 communications and visibility plan outlines main objectives and activities for the 6 month period.

- A Spotlight Latin America Regional Program [fact sheet](#) was designed and printed to share with key partners.
- The regional program commemorated the 25th of November 2019 and the 16 days of activism through a mural painting that was displayed on a public wall in Panama's City of Knowledge, hub for innovation and collaboration in Panama City. The painting showed two diverse women, who side by side in solidarity denounced sexual violence and impunity. The company who painted the mural is owned by two women.

(Video) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MABhMr3NPY0&feature=youtu.be>

Fourteenth Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean: "Urgent action: Joining efforts to eliminate violence against women and girls and femicide/feminicide in Latin America," was held on January 30th, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. the Celso Furtado, ECLAC meeting room with the participation of approximately 160 people. The event was planned for November 2019 and moved to January 2020 due to the political context in Chile. The objective of the side event was to make visible the work of the different stakeholders who are committed to the elimination of the VAWG and femicide/feminicide in the region and to position the Spotlight Initiative as a reference. A brief introduction to the regional and national programs was presented and each panelist had an opportunity to speak about their efforts to eradicate violence against women.





(Additional photographs) <https://www.flickr.com/photos/unwomenamericasandthecaribbean/albums/72157712960745392>
Community of Practice for Essential Services Website

All Annual Reports and Annexes can be found [here](#).

Annex A

Latin America Regional Programme Outcome 1

Ouptut Indicator	Measuring?	Baseline	Milestone 1	Results for Reporting Period	Target	Reporting Notes
Indicator 1.1.4 Number of women's rights advocates with strengthened capacities to draft legislation and/or policies on ending VAWG and/or gender equality and non-discrimination, within the last year	Yes	0	0	0	0	Data collection for the definition of baseline, milestones and targets currently ongoing
Indicator 1.2.1 Number of evidence-based national and/or sub-national action plans on ending VAWG developed that respond to the rights of all women and girls, have M&E frameworks and proposed budgets within the last year	Yes	0	0	0	0	Data collection for the definition of baseline, milestones and targets currently ongoing
Indicator 1.3.4 Number of women human rights defenders with strengthened capacities to contribute to the development of laws and policies that guarantee the ability of women's rights groups, CSOs and women human rights defenders to advance the human rights agenda	Yes	Women Human Rights Defenders demonstrate				Data collection for the definition of baseline, milestones and targets currently ongoing
		0	0	0	0	
		Contribute to developing laws and policies				
		0	0	0	0	

These programme tables were generated by the Spotlight Initiative Online Platform, which is currently in pilot phase. In some cases, individual programmes' data has been modified to standardize the presentation across all Spotlight countries and regions. The wording of indicators and other narrative references in the tables are drawn from the Global-level theory of change and are not aligned to respective programme contexts or to local specificities. For these reasons, each programme is encouraged to present the specific Programme results framework to the Programme Steering Committee.

LA Regional Programme Outcome 3

Ouptut Indicator	Measuring?	Baseline	Milestone 1	Results for Reporting Period	Target	Reporting Notes	
Indicator 3.2.2 Number of people reached by campaigns challenging harmful social norms and gender stereotyping, within the last year.	Yes	Women				0	During the 2019 Campaign for the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence, the Latin America Regional Spotlight Programme reached 42,000 persons through social media media.
		0	0	21,000			
		Men					
		0	0	21,000	0		
		Girls					
		0	0	0	0		
Indicator 3.3.4 Number of journalists that have strengthened capacity to sensitively report on VAWG and GEWE more broadly	Yes	Journalists				0	Data collection for the definition of baseline, milestones and targets currently ongoing
		0	0	0	0		
		Women Journalists					
Indicator 3.3.5 Number of key informal decision-makers and decision-makers in relevant institutions that have strengthened awareness of and capacities to advocate for the implementation of legislation and policies on ending VAWG and for gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours and women and girls' rights	Yes	Decision Makers				1,000	
		0	150	300			
		Women Decision Makers					
		0	120	225	750		

Latin America Regional Programme Outcome 5

Outcome Indicator	Measuring?	Baseline	Milestone 1	Results for Reporting Period	Target	Reporting Notes	
Indicator 5.1 Globally comparable data on the prevalence (and incidence, where appropriate) of VAWG/HP collected over time	Yes	Prevalence				No	An annex compiling information on countries' prevalence and incidence of VAWG/HP has been submitted.
		No	No	No	No		
		Incidence					
		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Indicator 5.2 Publicly available data, reported on a regular basis, on various forms of VAWG/HP (at least on intimate partner violence, non-partner sexual violence, harmful practices when relevant, and trafficking and femicide at the country level	Yes	Femicide				Yes	An annex compiling information on countries' femicide rates has been submitted.
		No	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Indicator 5.3 National statistics related to VAWG/HP incidence and prevalence are disaggregated by income, sex, age, ethnicity, disability, and geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts	Yes	Sex Age 6) Geographic Location	Sex Age 6) Geographic Location	Sex Age 6) Geographic Location	Sex Age 6) Geographic Location	Data collection for the definition of baseline, milestones and targets currently ongoing	
Outcome Indicator	Measuring?	Baseline	Milestone 1	Results for Reporting Period	Target	Reporting Notes	
Indicator 5.1.3 Number of National Statistical Officers who have enhanced capacities to produce data on the prevalence of VAWG/HP, and incidence where appropriate, within the last year	Yes	Statistics Officers				0	Data collection for the definition of baseline, milestones and targets currently ongoing
		0	0	0	0		
		Women Statistics Officers					
		0	0	0	0		
Indicator 5.1.4 Number Government Personnel from different sectors, including service providers, with enhanced capacities to COLLECT prevalence and/or incidence data, including qualitative data, on VAWG in line with international and regional standards	Yes	Government Personnel				0	Data collection for the definition of baseline, milestones and targets currently ongoing
		0	0	0	0		
		Women Government Personnel					
		0	0	0	0		
Indicator 5.2.1 Number of knowledge products developed and disseminated to the relevant stakeholders to inform evidence-based decision making, within the past 12 months	Yes	Knowledge products				7	
		0	0	0	0		

Annex B

Risk Management Report for Latin America Region

Risks	Risk Level: Very high High Medium Low (Likelihood x Impact)	Likelihood: Almost Certain - 5 Likely - 4 Possible - 3 Unlikely - 2 Rare - 1	Impact: Extreme – 5 Major - 4 Moderate - 3 Minor - 2 Insignificant – 1	Mitigating measures undertaken during the reporting period (please include new risks, if any)	Responsible Unit/ Person
Contextual risks					
Resistance to adaptation of inadequate political/legal framework.	Medium	2	3	Frequent conversations with regional mechanisms to design strategies for regional implementation of the Belem do Pará Convention, including intergovernmental documents like Beijing Platform for Action, Santiago Compromise and Montevideo Strategy.	RUNOs
Changes in politicians in Latin American countries put the focus of VAWG policies at risk.	Medium	3	3	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. Example: Regional Conference on Women. Promote commitments related to ICPD+25 and Beijing +25 Dialogues with and knowledge transfer to institutional actors on issues of gender and the rights of women and girls in various scenarios (i.e. meetings, seminars, conferences, south-south exchanges, webinars, capacity development strategies, UNDP on-going projects on VAWG at multi-country and regional levels in Latin America, etc.). Work with diverse range of women human rights defenders and civil society organizations to strengthen their capacities to continue to promote women's rights and to advocate for laws, policies, data, prevention strategies and services.	RUNOs CS Reference Group
Militarism and authoritarian tendencies.	Medium	2	5	Build networks of support for human rights defenders and journalists.	RUNOs CS Reference Group

Risks	Risk Level: Very high High Medium Low (Likelihood x Impact)	Likelihood: Almost Certain - 5 Likely - 4 Possible - 3 Unlikely - 2 Rare - 1	Impact: Extreme – 5 Major - 4 Moderate - 3 Minor - 2 Insignificant – 1	Mitigating measures undertaken during the reporting period (please include new risks, if any)	Responsible Unit/ Person
Civil society debilitated in environment and increasing polarization.	Medium	2	4	Developed work plans targeted to providing 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. Support participation of Civil Society Organizations in regional and global forums.	RUNOs CS Reference Group
High violence and organized crime context with the presence of gangs and other irregular armed groups.	High	4	3	Work with community-based organizations related to security in early warning systems and greater efforts to protect human rights defenders. 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.	RUNOs CS Reference Group
Increase in anti-rights movements, increased conservatism and influence of fundamentalist and conservative groups in issues of women’s rights and gender equality.	High	3	4	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.	RUNOs CS Reference Group
Delays in implementation due to a global or regional crisis	Low	2	2	New working arrangements are implemented in order not to postpone delivery (i.e. telecommute from home, remote meetings with stakeholders, partners, online trainings).	RUNOs
Possible increase in risks surrounding violence against women and girls and femicide/feminicide due to unexpected crises and mitigation measures, including that the economic impact could lead to deprioritization of funding for implementation of EAW policies, plans and programmes	Very High	5	5	Strongly position the issue of VAWG and the impact of the crisis in the region. Adapt some activities of Spotlight Programme to respond to emerging needs.	RUNOs
Programmatic risks					
Regional partners with limited capacities to apply knowledge.	Low	2	3	Implement partnership strategies for the development of capacities through the direct participation of civil society and all regional partners.	RUNOs

Risks	Risk Level: Very high High Medium Low (Likelihood x Impact)	Likelihood: Almost Certain - 5 Likely - 4 Possible - 3 Unlikely - 2 Rare - 1	Impact: Extreme – 5 Major - 4 Moderate - 3 Minor - 2 Insignificant – 1	Mitigating measures undertaken during the reporting period (please include new risks, if any)	Responsible Unit/ Person
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	3	4	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.	RUNOs
Delays in execution due to the multiple decision-making processes that take a long time.	Medium	3	3	Frequent meetings between RUNOs; strong communication efforts to ensure all persons involved are informed of the progress and latest decisions. Shared platforms with digital archives on all program documentation. Involvement of CSRG in activities Explore alternative ways to create win-win incentives to build on strong existing partnership between UN agencies.	RUNOs
Delays or fragmented approaches to addressing complex issues regarding VAWG, including femicide at the regional level, due to the difficulty of coordinating with several different partners	High	4	4	Prepare and promote the adoption of a comprehensive and multi-dimensional research approach and protocol to address the linkages between VAWG, including femicide, and structural factors weakly explored at the regional level, inter alia, organized crime, trafficking in persons, vulnerable settings, and migrating contexts, to ensure a comprehensive and multidimensional approach of the phenomena and to avoid silo thinking and approach.	RUNOs
Institutional risks					
Austerity and fiscal restriction policies.	Medium	2	3	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.	RUNOs CS Reference Group
Limited availability of data and restricted capacities of state institutions for development and analyses.	Medium	3	3	Dialogues with and knowledge transfer to institutional actors to promote the adoption of common cross-referencing classifications and indicators to measure femicide. 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 (intersectional approach). Enhance capacity development for institutions involved in the generation and analysis of data on VAWG and femicide.	UNDP/ECLAC

Risks	Risk Level: Very high High Medium Low (Likelihood x Impact)	Likelihood: Almost Certain - 5 Likely - 4 Possible - 3 Unlikely - 2 Rare - 1	Impact: Extreme – 5 Major - 4 Moderate - 3 Minor - 2 Insignificant – 1	Mitigating measures undertaken during the reporting period (please include new risks, if any)	Responsible Unit/ Person
High rotation rate of staff members as in Latin America governments can delay implementation of the initiative.	Low	3	3	Advocacy efforts and strong communication with governments Close dialogue policy at national and regional level, with the direct support of delegations to guarantee that the fight against VAWG is a State policy, independent of the political alternative. Move towards more extensive capacity development tools, such as virtual courses, which combined with presencial courses can be an alternative to high rotation rate of staff members in governments.	RUNOs
Weak, fragmented coordination between State actors, among subregional and regional actors, and low capacity of institutions.	Low	2	2	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. Articulate the Spotlight program with the essential services package to promote a multisector response focused on victims. 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. institutional answers are developed, implemented and monitored. 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	RUNOs
Fiduciary risks					
N/A					

Assumptions:

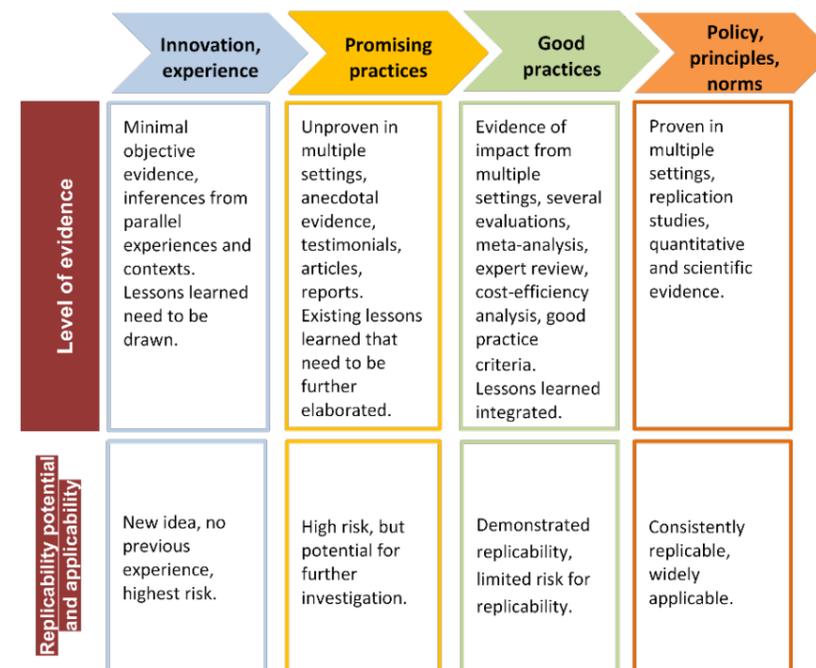
There are no changes in the political situation of the region that can affect the implementation of the Spotlight Initiative. The Spotlight Initiative counts on important political and administrative support that facilitates the participation and commitment of Latin American governments in spite of staff 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.

Annex D

Promising or Good Practices Reporting Template

State of a practice: good practice or promising practice?

The following set of criteria will help you to determine whether a practice is a good practice:



Adapted from Hancock, J. (2003): *Scaling-up for increased impact of development practice: Issues and options in support of the implementation of the World Bank's Rural Strategy. Rural Strategy Working Paper, World Bank, Washington D.C.*

Guidance and Template on Good and Promising Practices

As **demonstration fund**, the Spotlight Initiative will demonstrate the evidence base that a significant, concerted and comprehensive investment in gender equality can make a lasting difference in the lives of women and girls and in the achievement of all SDGs. It is thus critical that promising and good practices that have the **potential for adaptability, sustainability, replicability and scale-up**¹ in the field of EVAWG and chart a new way of working, both within the UN system and with various stakeholders to maximize the transformative potential of the Initiative are documented and shared.

This brief guidance and template is thus developed to ensure a common understanding of “**Promising and/or Good Practices**” in Spotlight, provide a set of criteria to determine whether a practice is a good practice or promising and a template for documentation. As Spotlight Initiative is in its early stages of programming and a mid-term review is yet to be undertaken, it is anticipated that countries will be documenting promising practices at this stage. Please see definition below and a diagram for further clarification.²

Definition of a Promising Practice

A promising practice has demonstrated a **high degree of success in its single setting**, and the possibility of replication in the same setting is guaranteed. It has generated some quantitative **data** showing positive outcomes over a period of time. A promising practice has the **potential** to become a good practice, but it doesn't yet have enough research or replication to support wider adoption or upscaling. As such, a promising practice incorporates a process of continuous learning and improvement.

Definition of a Good Practice

A good practice is not only practice that is good, but one that **has been proven to work well and produce good results** and is therefore recommended as a model. It is a successful experience that has been **tested and validated**, in the broad sense, has **been repeated and deserves to be shared**, so that a greater number of people can adopt it.

Title of the Promising or Good Practice	Generating evidence for public policy on femicide in new scenarios of high risk and social vulnerability in Central America and Mexico.
Provide a description of the promising or good practice. What pillars/principles of the Spotlight Initiative does it address? (When did the activity begin? When will it be completed or is it ongoing?)	Under Spotlight's Pillar 5, the Regional Programme in Latin America is conducting a multi-dimensional research that aims to inform public policy by the strengthening of evidence about VAWG and femicide in new scenarios of high risk and social vulnerability. Some of those scenarios consist of intense migration flows, sustained presence of organized crime, and structural poverty and exclusion. This initiative consists of 4 independent studies linked under a common conceptual framework, agreed among the different stakeholders, such as UN agencies, external experts and research team leaders. The studies focus on VAWG and femicide and its linkages with 1) intense migration flows and human trafficking; 2) organized crime; 3) structural poverty and multiple exclusions and 4) livelihoods of migrant women. This initiative will help overcome the lack of evidence on the issue and allow decision-makers better understand the complexity of the scenarios and which public policy measures could be taken to reduce the number of femicides and reduce the risk among more vulnerable groups of women.
Objective of the practice: What were the goals of the activity?	The objective of this activity is to build robust and up-to-date evidence on the least studied hot topics to inform public policy involving actively governments and regional mechanisms related to, i.e., women's rights, citizen security and migration.
Stakeholders involved: Who are the beneficiaries or target group of the practice? Describe how all relevant stakeholders were engaged.	Main target group is national governments from Northern Central American countries and Mexico. They are being involved in the development of the conceptual framework through regional mechanisms such as COMMCA/SICA and CRM and direct consultations to precise the focus of the studies, locations for field and other elements.
What makes this a promising or good practice? Identify distinguishing feature(s) that make this a promising or a good practice in the efforts to EVAWG and/or in the context of the UNDS reform.	It rises as a promising practice since it provides a comprehensive framework to analyse specific situations of VAWG and femicide in understudied scenarios of social vulnerability in different countries of the region that suffer from similar tendencies to help build better public policies on the matter.
What challenges were encountered and how were they overcome?	One of the major challenges was to find experts with extensive research experience on the specific issues addressed by the 4 studies. This was overcome by the activation of professional networks and internal rosters from the different agencies related to the initiative
Outputs and Impact: What have been the results thus far? Do they contribute to long-term impact?	So far, the activity has reached the full engagement of partner agencies (IOM and UNODC) and has agreed on a virtual meeting with the presence of partner agencies, external experts, government representatives, and research team leaders to start defining the conceptual framework of the studies.
Adaptable (Optional) In what ways can this practice be adapted for future use?	
Replicable/Scale-Up (Optional) What are the possibilities of extending this practice more widely?	
Sustainable What is needed to make the practice sustainable?	Maintain governments' participation and engagement in the revision processes of the studies and the formulation of recommendations for public policy development.

<p>Validated (for a good practice only): Has the practice been validated? Is there confirmation from beneficiaries/users that the practice properly addressed their needs and is there expert validation?</p>	
<p>Additional details and contact information: Are there any other details that are important to know about the promising or good practice? Please provide contact details of a focal person for this practice as well as any additional materials including photos/videos</p>	<p>Focal points: Eugenia Piza-Lopez, Sebastian Essayag (RBLAC).</p>



**Spotlight
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