



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

Annex C

Civil Society Funding Analysis

01 January 2020 – 31 December 2020

Initiated by the European Union and the United Nations:



FUNDING FOR CIVIL SOCIETY THROUGH SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE COUNTRY AND REGIONAL PROGRAMMES: MORE THAN A TWIN TRACK APPROACH

The Spotlight Initiative aims at addressing deep-rooted power imbalances often reproduced by international development programming by working towards an inclusive, human-rights based and feminist funding ecosystem that shifts money and decision-making power to grassroots and local women's organizations. The COVID-19 pandemic further exposed the vulnerabilities and scarce funding of women's organizations, reaffirming organizations' need for flexible funding to sustain themselves, strengthen their institutional capacity and remain resilient throughout and beyond the pandemic.

With the aim of contributing to this transformative funding landscape, and in line with the Spotlight Initiative's comprehensive Theory of Change – which aims to centre support to civil society to ending violence against women and girls and advance the Sustainable Development Goals – the Spotlight Initiative invests in civil society through a twin track approach: directly through its Pillar 6, focused on supporting autonomous women's movements; and through mainstreamed support across all other Pillars of the programme through partnering with civil society organizations to implement programmes. The Spotlight Initiative's civil society grant-giving programmes complement this approach in partnership with the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women and the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund.

Spotlight Initiative has made the following commitments to civil society in terms of funding:

- Civil society organizations will receive and deliver 30 to 50 per cent of the programmatic funds across all Outcome Areas, of which it is recommended that 50 to 70 per cent be delivered by national, and in particular, local and grassroots women's organizations
- 10 to 15 per cent of all country and regional programmes must be dedicated to Outcome 6 on supporting women's movements
- 10 per cent of each regional investment envelope is dedicated to direct grants or support to women's organizations through regional grant-giving programmes (the following section has more details on this).

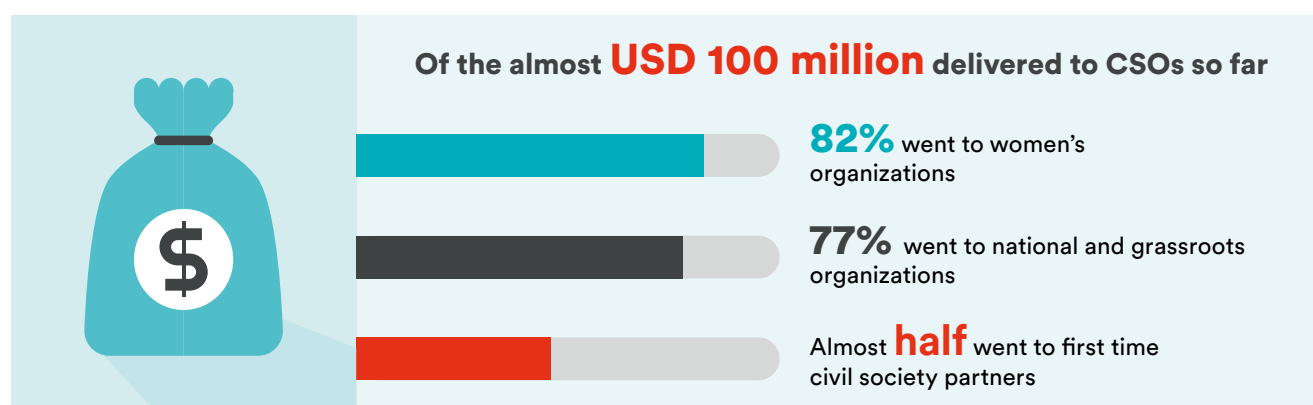
Our commitment to delivering 30 to 50 per cent of Spotlight Initiative programme funds through civil society organizations



* See methodology for this data at the end of this Annex.

The Spotlight Initiative programmes portfolio allocated 48 per cent, about USD 146 million, of its Phase I activity funds across all five regions directly to civil society organizations as of December 2020. All regions are exceeding the minimum target of 30 per cent, with Central Asia leading at 58 per cent. By reaching the set commitment close to the higher bracket, the Spotlight Initiative sent a strong signal around the importance of investing in autonomous women's movements and in national and grassroots civil society organizations as essential partners in eliminating violence against women and girls. As of December 2020, programmes that have completed their first or second year of implementation have delivered about 78 per cent¹ of the total allocated for civil society organizations. In all regions, the high implementation rate of funding through civil society organizations demonstrates how Spotlight Initiative is prioritizing engaging civil society organization partners as effective implementation partners.

Our commitment to key stakeholder groups: national and grassroots organizations, women's organizations, and new partners



* See methodology for this data at the end of this Annex.

¹ This figure reflects all programmes for Africa and Latin America that completed their first two years of implementation, as well as programmes for Pacific, Caribbean and Central Asia that completed their first year of implementation. Please see methodology for additional information.

Of the USD 96 million delivered to civil society organizations in the first phase of programming, 77 per cent went to national and grassroots organizations, underscoring the Spotlight Initiative’s dedication to resourcing and supporting local actors that are at the forefront of the transformative and sustainable change in the elimination of violence against women and girls. The Spotlight Initiative is committed to delivering 50-70 per cent of civil society organization funding to national and grassroots organizations. All regions are currently exceeding the 50 per cent minimum threshold, with Africa leading at 82 per cent.

Partner organizations that are either led by women, feminist organizations, or women’s rights organizations received 82 per cent of funds delivered through civil society organizations. This ranges from 66 per cent in the Pacific to 81 per cent in Central Asia. This demonstrates the Spotlight Initiative’s recognition of the women’s movement and dedication to centring women and girls as leaders in its work.

Lastly, Spotlight Initiative programmes delivered 46 per cent of civil society funding to new partners, which had not previously worked with the respective UN agency. In this field, Latin America led with 54 per cent. This demonstrates the Spotlight Initiative’s commitment to support an expanded range of partners, in particular when looking at working under the leave no one behind principle, as well as increasing the number of women’s organizations and other civil society organizations that have access to UN partnership opportunities.

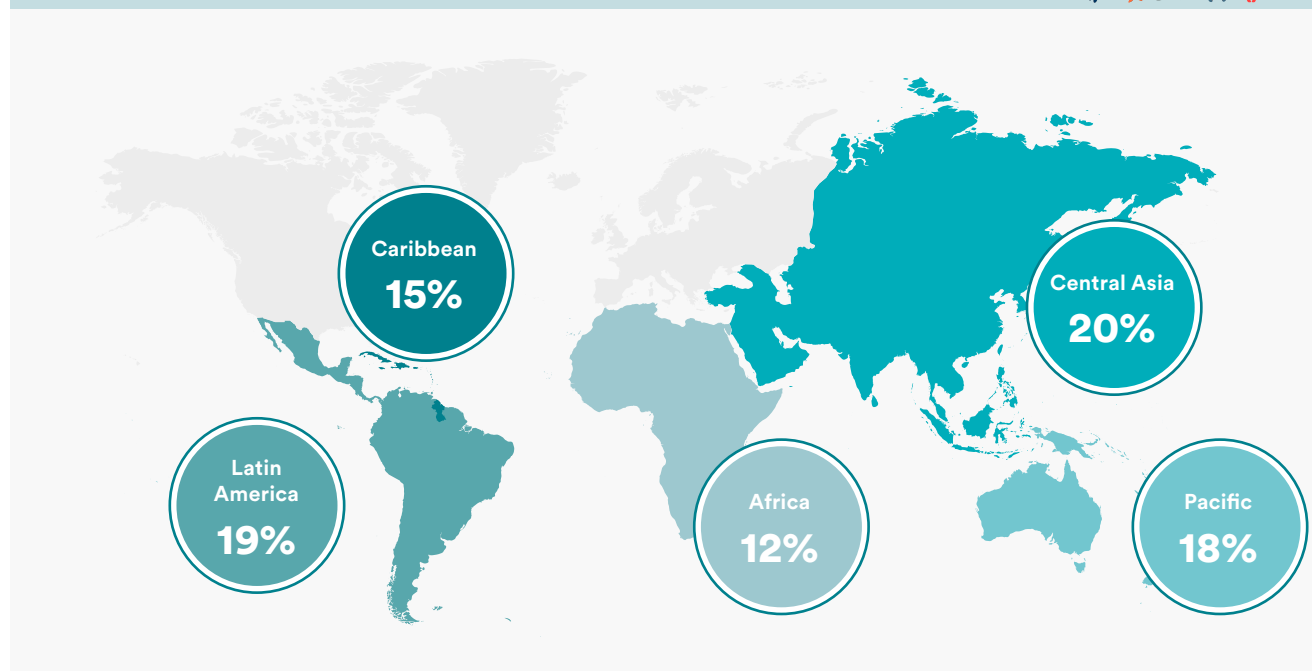
Our commitment to supporting the women’s movement through a dedicated outcome area

The recognition that the women’s movement is at the core of efforts to end violence against women and girls and harmful practices led, in 2017, to the expansion of the Spotlight Initiative Theory of Change with the inclusion of Outcome 6 focusing investments on strengthening the women’s movements. This includes network building, capacity strengthening, institutional funding of organizations and efforts to increase civil society organizations’ influence and agency to work on eliminating violence against women and girls.

All Spotlight Initiative programmes commit to investing 10-15 per cent of total activity funding to Outcome 6, which is focused on supporting women’s movements. Across all five regions, the Spotlight Initiative has achieved this target, with 14 per cent, about USD 33 million, of activity funding currently allocated to Outcome 6, and exceeding the target range in three out of five regions².

² Data on implementation of planned funding at outcome level was not available for the production of this report.

Allocation to Pillar 6 - Women's Movements



* See methodology for this data at the end of this Annex.

Regional analysis

Spotlight Initiative programmes in **Latin America** and **Africa** have completed their second year of implementation. Spotlight Initiative programmes in the **Caribbean**, **Pacific** and **Central Asia** have completed one year of implementation, with a few exceptions to this timeline, which are referenced in the methodology section. Therefore, the Africa and Latin America regions are comparable in terms of implementation progress. The Caribbean, Pacific and Central Asia regions are similarly comparable.

Year 2 Programmes, Africa and Latin America: Jan 2019-Dec 2020

Africa programmes allocated 42 per cent of activity funding to be delivered through civil society organizations, while Latin America planned for 39 per cent. Of this, Africa programmes that have completed their second year of implementation have delivered 76 per cent to civil society organization partners, while this rate was 93 per cent³ for Latin America programmes.

³ These data are self-reported by programmes, due to unavailable data points from UN agencies.

Year 1 Programmes, Caribbean, Pacific and Central Asia: Jan 2020-Dec 2021

With 58 per cent⁴ of activity funding allocated for delivery through civil society organizations, Central Asia has the highest rate of budgeted civil society organization funding among first-year programmes, followed by the Caribbean, with 46 per cent and the Pacific, with 39 per cent. Of programmes that completed their first year of implementation, the Pacific has delivered 83 per cent⁵ of its funding to civil society organization partners, followed by the Caribbean at 46 per cent and Central Asia at 18 per cent.

DISTRIBUTION OF CIVIL SOCIETY FUNDS DELIVERED BY SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE PROGRAMMES⁶

Region	% to National and Grassroots Organizations	% to Women's Organizations	% to New Partners to the UN Agency
Africa	82%	77%	28%
Latin America	64%	77%	54%
Pacific	61%	66%	51%
Caribbean	81%	78%	31%
Central Asia	94%	81%	34%

Africa civil society investment

Spotlight Initiative's Africa programmes collectively allocated 42 per cent, about USD 59 million, of first phase activity funding to be implemented via civil society organizations. Of this total, programmes that completed their second year of implementation delivered 76 per cent to civil society organization partners as of December 2020. This high implementation rate demonstrates that partnerships with civil society organizations have been prioritized and are being rolled out effectively by programmes. **Uganda, Niger, and Liberia** programmes reported the highest rates of progress in terms of awarding planned funding to civil society organizations in Africa. In Africa, funding delivered through national and grassroots organizations ranged from **Niger** leading with 100 per cent to **Liberia** with 62 per cent. Funding delivered through women's organizations is led by **Nigeria** and **Malawi** with 100 per cent and 88 per cent respectively. Funding delivered through new partners (of the respective UN agency) is led by **Mali** with 62 per cent.

Latin America civil society investment

Spotlight Initiative's Latin America programmes collectively allocated 39 per cent, about USD 7.6 million, of first phase activity funding to be implemented via civil society organizations. Of this total, programmes that completed their second year of implementation delivered 93 per cent⁷ to civil

⁴ The Afghanistan Programme is not included here as it is at a significantly different programme cycle stage and is not comparable to the rest.

⁵ These data are self-reported by programmes, due to unavailable data points from UN agencies.

⁶ This table only includes programmes in Africa and Latin America that have completed their second year of implementation and their first year of implementation for the Caribbean, Pacific and Central Asia. See methodology for additional information.

⁷ These data are self-reported by programmes, due to unavailable data points from UN agencies.

society organization partners as of December 2020. This high implementation rate demonstrates that partnerships with civil society organizations have been prioritized and are being rolled out effectively by programmes. The Spotlight Initiative programmes in **El Salvador** and **Mexico** reported the highest rates of progress in terms of awarding planned funding to civil society organizations. In Latin America, funding delivered through national and grassroots organizations is led by **Mexico** and **Argentina**, with 87 per cent and 79 per cent respectively. Funding delivered through women's organizations is led by the **Latin America Regional Programme** and **Mexico**, with 87 per cent and 84 per cent respectively. Funding delivered through new partners (of the respective UN agency) is led by **Honduras** and **Mexico**, which both report 67 per cent.

Caribbean civil society investment

Spotlight Initiative programmes in the Caribbean collectively allocated 37 per cent, about USD 10 million, of first phase activity funding to be implemented via civil society organizations. Of this total, programmes that completed their first year of implementation delivered 46 per cent to civil society organization partners as of December 2020. This relatively high implementation rate for a first-year region demonstrates that partnerships with civil society organizations have been prioritized and are being rolled out effectively by programmes. The Spotlight Initiative programmes in **Belize** and **Haiti** reported the highest rates of progress in terms of awarding planned funding to civil society organizations. In the Caribbean, funding delivered through national and grassroots organizations is led by **Guyana** and **Jamaica**, both with 100 per cent. Funding delivered through women's organizations is led by **Haiti** and **Jamaica**, with 96 per cent and 94 per cent respectively. Funding delivered through new partners (of the respective UN agency) is led by **Trinidad and Tobago** and **Jamaica**, with 64 per cent and 59 per cent respectively.

Pacific civil society investment

Spotlight Initiative programmes in the Pacific collectively allocated 39 per cent, about USD 10.6 million, of first phase activity funding to be implemented via civil society organizations. Of this total, programmes that completed their first year of implementation delivered 83 per cent⁸ to civil society organization partners as of December 2020. This relatively high implementation rate for a first-year region demonstrates that partnerships with civil society organizations have been prioritized and are being rolled out effectively by programmes. The Spotlight Initiative programmes in **Papua New Guinea** and **Timor-Leste** reported the highest rates of progress in terms of allocating planned funding to civil society organizations. In the Pacific, funding through national and grassroots organizations is led by **Samoa** and **Papua New Guinea**, with 100 per cent and 79 per cent respectively. Funding delivered through women's organizations is led by **Samoa** and **Papua New Guinea**, with 98 per cent and 96 per cent respectively. Funding delivered through new partners (of the respective UN agency) is led by **Papua New Guinea** and **Timor-Leste**, with 81 per cent and 74 per cent respectively.

⁸ These data are self-reported by programmes, due to unavailable data points from UN agencies.

Central Asia civil society investment

Spotlight Initiative programmes in Central Asia collectively allocated 58 per cent,⁹ about USD 5.7 million, of first phase activity funding to be implemented via civil society organizations. Of this total, programmes that completed their first year of implementation delivered 18 per cent to civil society organization partners as of December 2020. In this region partnerships with civil society organizations are being rolled out effectively by programmes albeit slower than for other comparable regions. In Central Asia, funding through national and grassroots organizations is led by **Tajikistan** and **Kyrgyzstan**, with 100 per cent and 92 per cent respectively. Funding delivered through women's organizations ranges from **Kyrgyzstan**, with 88 per cent to **Tajikistan**, with 53 per cent. Funding delivered through new partners (of the respective UN agency) ranges from **Kyrgyzstan** with 36 per cent, to **Tajikistan** with 26 per cent.

Civil Society Grant-Giving Programmes

In addition to the funding channeled through Spotlight Initiative country programmes, the Initiative has committed to channeling 10 per cent of the overall regional envelope of each of the five regions for Civil Society Grant-Giving Programmes. These funds are aimed at mobilizing resources to reach smaller and grassroots feminist organizations and to support women's movements. Since July 2019, the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women had been awarding Spotlight Initiative civil society grants in **Africa** and **Latin America**, with the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund further supporting in certain African countries. In July 2020, the Operational Steering Committee approved the integration of the 10 per cent regional allocation for civil society grants into the regional programmes of the **Caribbean** (USD 2,952,830), **Central Asia** (USD 1,773,584) and the **Pacific** (USD 2,952,830), by adding a Pillar 6 that focuses on strengthening the women's movements including through both programmatic activities and direct grants. It was further decided to channel the civil society grants for **Afghanistan**, **Haiti** and **Papua New Guinea** through the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund. Overall, these grant-giving programmes have allocated USD 36.7 million to civil society organizations to address violence against women and girls.

The Civil Society Grant-Giving Programmes for **Latin America** and **Africa** have jointly delivered about USD 28 million out of USD 31.2 million allocated to civil society organizations as of December 2020. Of the total funds delivered, 78 per cent supports national and grassroots organizations, 94 per cent supports partner organizations that are either women-led, women's rights or feminist organizations. Lastly, 70 per cent was awarded to new partner that had not previously worked with the respective UN Civil Society Grant-Giving Programmes prior to the launch of the Spotlight Initiative.

As of December 2020, the **UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women** had awarded about USD 24 million in direct grants to 55 civil society organizations in 25 countries in **Latin America** and **sub-Saharan Africa** (more under Chapter 5, Pillar 6). An initial cohort of 35 civil society organizations - 24 in sub-Saharan Africa and 11 in Latin America - were awarded grants through a 2019 call for proposals.

⁹ The Afghanistan Programme is not included here as it is at a significantly different programme cycle stage and is not comparable to the rest.

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic revealed the need to fund women’s organizations more radically to support their institutional resilience to survive the challenges posed by the pandemic. In July 2020, the Operational Steering Committee re-allocated USD 9.1 million, as a COVID-19 response, from the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women’s planned envelope for Africa for institutional funding support to existing grantees in sub-Saharan Africa. A total of 44 civil society organizations in sub-Saharan Africa received funding for institutional strengthening through the COVID-19 window in 2020. The re-allocation included USD 500,000 to create a practitioner-based online collaboration platform to enhance the exchange of knowledge and information on the intersection of crisis response, organizational strengthening and ending violence against women and girls.

- 93 per cent¹⁰ of the total funding envelope of about USD 24 million has been invested in women-led or women’s rights organizations
- 72 per cent of the total envelope of about USD 24 million went to national and grassroots organizations
- Of the cohort of 55 grantees, 32 organizations are first time partners to the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, while 23 grantees were existing partners.

Through its partnership with the **Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF)**, the Spotlight Initiative has awarded about USD 4.4 million to 48 grantees in Africa, of which 100 per cent were national and grassroots organizations and 97 per cent were women’s organizations. Of the 48 grantees, 33 were new partners to the Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund. In 2020, the partnership with the Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund was expanded to a further USD 6 million to three additional countries: **Afghanistan, Haiti and Papua New Guinea**. This new partnership, launched during the COVID-19 pandemic, was designed to best respond to the needs of local women’s organizations and the dire impacts of COVID-19 on their operations by offering the option to apply for either or both institutional funding and programmatic funding opportunities. While partners have been selected in Papua New Guinea, the partner selection process in Afghanistan and Haiti was still underway in December 2020.

Methodology

The analysis of Spotlight Initiative funding to civil society is based on three types of data: as stated in approved programme budgets, self-reported by UN agencies and self-reported by programmes. All data are as of 31 December 2020. Data referred to as “allocated” are related to funds budgeted and approved by the Operational Steering Committee. Percentages of funds allocated by programmes are calculated off the total programme outcome budgets and are referred to as “activity funding” for ease of understanding. Expenditure and commitments self-reported by the respective recipient UN agencies as of 31 December 2020 are referred to as funds “delivered” or funds “awarded” to civil society. This may be in the form of grants, engagements as implementing partners or as providers of

¹⁰ The Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund activities in Papua New Guinea, Afghanistan, and Haiti are not reflected due to different expenditure patterns.

specific services to the programmes. The disaggregation by type of civil society organization partner is based on reports by Spotlight Initiative programmes.

It is important to note that as of December 2020 only a first phase of funding had been approved and allocated to ongoing programmes. As the second phase of funding begins to be approved in 2021, additional funds will be awarded to civil society. The Spotlight Initiative is committed to continuing on an upward trajectory in supporting civil society organizations and more specifically women's movements with financial resources.

Some programmes have different start dates as well as expenditure patterns (such as grant-giving programmes versus country or regional programmes) and have at times been excluded to ensure data were comparable. The following programmes have been excluded from reporting progress against budgeted amounts:

- Programmes with a recent start date from July 2020 onwards: Africa Regional Programme; Central Asia Regional Programme; Caribbean Regional Programme; Ecuador Country Programme; and Afghanistan Country Programme. Afghanistan is also removed from Central Asia regional percentages due to its recent start date.
- Programmes with different expenditure patterns: Civil Society Grant-Giving Programmes through the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund in Papua New Guinea, Haiti and Afghanistan.

These programmes are also not reflected in total funding delivered through women's organizations, national and grassroots organizations, and new partners.

The Safe and Fair programme in ASEAN countries has a different programmatic structure, and as a result, no information on the budget planned for civil society is available. For Safe and Fair, the amount of funds delivered to civil society organizations as of December 2020 was used as a proxy for the budget planned information. This delivery information was self-reported by UN agencies.

Definitions

The following definitions have been provided to Spotlight Initiative programmes to disaggregate their work by type of civil society organization partner.

National and grassroots civil society organizations

National civil society organizations operate only in one particular country. Local and grassroots organizations focus their work at the local and community level and do not have a national scope. They tend to have a small annual operational budget (for example, under USD 200,000); to be self-organized and self-led; and to have a low degree of formality.

Woman-led civil society organizations and women's rights or feminist organizations

To be considered a “woman-led civil society organization,” the organization must be headed by a woman. To be considered a “women's rights or feminist organization,” the organization's official mission or vision statements must reflect its commitment to addressing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and advancing gender equality and women's rights. The organization should aim to address the underlying drivers, systems and structures, including patriarchy and gendered power dynamics, that perpetuate violence against women and girls and gender-based violence and work to transform these.

New Partner

To be considered a “new partner”, the UN agency in question, or UN Trust Fund in the case of Civil Society Grant-Giving Programmes, must not have engaged the civil society organization in any partnership modality, prior to the start of the Spotlight Initiative programme. The underlying rationale is to understand the extent to which UN agencies are expanding their outreach to civil society organizations beyond usual partners and giving opportunities to new civil society organizations.