



ANNUAL NARRATIVE PROGRAMME REPORT

PROGRAMME TITLE: Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) grant-giving to civil society organizations under the Spotlight Initiative

PROGRAMME START DATE:

01 April 2019 for WPHF-Spotlight Initiative Africa Partnership (The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Uganda)

24 July 2020 for WPHF-Spotlight Initiative in Haiti, PNG and Afghanistan

REPORTING PERIOD: 01 JANUARY 2021 - 31 DECEMBER 2021











Programme Title & Programme Number

Programme Title: Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) grant-giving to civil society organizations under the Spotlight Initiative

MPTF Office Project Reference Number:1

Africa: 00117147

Afghanistan: 000123503

PNG: 000123505 Haiti: 000123504

Recipient Organization(s)

Civil society organizations

Programme Cost (US\$)

Africa (DRC, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Uganda): 7,075,472 USD

Papua New Guinea (PNG): 2,000,000 USD

Haiti: 2,000,000 USD

Afghanistan: 2,000,000 USD

Priority regions/areas/localities for the programme

The WPHF-Spotlight Initiative partnership covers 8 countries:

Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Uganda, Papua New Guinea, Haiti and Afghanistan

Key Partners

Civil society organizations in particular local/grassroots women's rights or women-led organizations

Programme Start and End Dates

WPHF-Spotlight Initiative Africa Partnership (The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Uganda)

Start Date: 01 April 2019

End Date: 31 December 2022

WPHF-Spotlight Initiative in Haiti, Papua New

Guinea and Afghanistan

Start Date: 24 July 2020

End Date: 31 December 2022

Report Submitted on:

20 April 2022

¹ The Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) Office Project Reference Number is the same number as the one on the Notification message. It is also referred to as "Project ID" on the project's factsheet page the MPTF Office GATEWAY.











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Acronym List

ADF Allied Democratic Forces

CfP Call for Proposals

CBO Community Based Organization

CMC Case Management Committees

CO Country Office

CSO Civil Society Organization

CSW Commission on the Status of Women

DRC Democratic Republic of the Congo

EU European Union

EUD European Union Delegation

EVAWG Eliminating Violence Against Women and Girls

FCI Foundation for Community Initiatives

FSW Female Sex Workers

GBV Gender Based Violence

GEWE. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

HP Harmful Practices

ME Management Entity

MoWA Ministry of Women's Affairs

M&E Monitoring and Evaluation

NAP National Action Plan

NSC National Steering Committee

PBSO Peace Building Support Office

PCA Partnership Cooperation Agreement

P4SDP Platform for Sustainable Development and Peace











PNG Papua New Guinea

PWD People with Disabilities

RBM Results-Based Management

SCR Security Council Resolution

SEA Sexual exploitation and Sexual Abuse

SGBV Sexual Gender Based Violence

SI Spotlight Initiative

SRHR Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

ToT Training of Trainers

VAWG Violence Against Women and Girls

VSLAs Village Saving and Lending Associations

WHW Women Have Wings

WPS-HA Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action

WPHF Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund

UN United Nations

UNSCR United Nations Security Council resolution











Executive Summary

The partnership between the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) and the Spotlight Initiative (SI) aims to channel funding to civil society organizations working on eliminating violence against women and girls (VAWG) in conflict-affected and humanitarian settings. The partnership focuses on Outcome 6 of the Spotlight Initiative's Regional Results Framework (strengthening Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and supporting women's movements) and on WPHF Impact Area 5 (Protection of women and girls). The partnership targets specifically local, grassroots and community-based women's organizations, with grants ranging in size from USD 2,500 to USD 200,000.

2021 was marked by several crises which impacted the implementation of projects. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), implementation was challenged due to increased activities of armed groups and state of emergency in the Eastern part of the country as well as due to the volcano eruption in May 2021. In Papua New Guinea (PNG), the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and lack of connectivity slowed down implementation. In Afghanistan, following the Taliban takeover in August 2021, all projects were paused for safety reasons while programme adaptations and financial transfers were being discussed closely with CSOs, UN agencies and the Spotlight Initiative (SI) Secretariat. In Haiti, an earthquake and hurricane in August 2021 hit three provinces where WPHF-SI grantees are located, and armed gangs continued to limit some activities and transportation. These added an additional layer of complexity to the rapidly changing crisis and conflict contexts. These challenges have also led to a delay in the contracting process of CSOs as well as the start of implementation of project activities. Despite these challenges, significant progress was achieved during the reporting year.

In this context, WPHF, in close coordination with the SI Secretariat and UN Women country offices (CO), ensured that the principle of Do No Harm remains central to the programme's approach and delivery. Flexibility to adapt to changing contexts was key to ensuring safe and smooth implementation, including for CSOs to adapt their project activities and budgets, due to the pandemic restrictions and inflation of prices, but also to prevent and respond to the increasing rise in VAWG. Moreover, in response to the grantees' limited experience in monitoring and evaluation (M&E), including reporting on movement building, the WPHF Secretariat developed capacity building webinars on key topics such as Gender Sensitive and Feminist M&E, qualitative data collection methodologies, data visualization and additional guidance (M&E Guide, Indicator Tip Sheets on WPHF Impact Area 5, Tip Sheet on beneficiary counting, guiding questions for quarterly reports) to strengthen the grantees' skills and improve the quality of reporting with specific tools and tips. In 2021, the drafting of a new tip sheet on measuring women's coalitions and movement building commenced:











the tip sheet will be released in 2022. The webinars on M&E have engaged 153 CSO participants².. The quality of reporting, especially on efforts linked to coalition and movement building has improved as a result of these efforts, yet capacity building remains key throughout project implementation.

During the reporting period, 48 new grants were approved by National Steering Committees (NSCs) in Afghanistan (16), Haiti (15) and PNG (17), bringing the total number under the Spotlight Initiative and WPHF partnership to 96 grants, 97% of which are implemented by women-led and/or women's rights organizations, including those representing marginalized women and girls.

Overall, 42 Partnership Cooperation Agreements (PCAs) were formalized in 2021 (16 in Africa³, 11 in PNG, and 15 in Haiti) and projects started implementation early 2021 (Malawi, the DRC 2nd round of selection⁴, PNG and Haiti). Twelve projects were completed in 2021 (8 in Liberia, 1 in Nigeria, 1 in DRC and 2 in Haiti). In Afghanistan, due to the Taliban takeover in August, the PCAs and implementation was paused until January 2022.

During the reporting period, 74 WPHF-SI partners across all countries⁵, reached 126,223 direct beneficiaries, of which 92,128 (73.0%) were women and girls. Of these, 74.8% were women above the age of 18 and 25.2% were girls and young women below the age of 18. Among all active projects in 2021, different age and population groups were reached, including survivors of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) in the spirit of leaving no one behind. Overall, 20% of grantee projects work with women who are forcibly displaced, 41% with women and people living with disabilities, 27% with child or single mothers and widows, and 4.1% with other groups at risk, and 8% with indigenous and ethnic minorities.

An estimated 2,533,810 indirect beneficiaries were also reached. Almost half of partners are receiving funding for the first time through the UN (47%), showing the ability of WPHF to reach local and grassroots organizations that had not been previously supported by the UN.

⁵ 74 projects were in active implementation in 2021. This also excludes Afghanistan as implementation was paused due to the Taliban takeover and will resume in 2022.









² Participation numbers reflect the attendance in multiple sessions and by several WPHF grantees CSO staff members, including WPHF-Spotlight grantees.

³ DRC and Malawi

⁴ In 2020, the envisioned funds for Mali were redirected to the DRC, where the WPHF-Spotlight CfP received more than 400 applications. Hence, additional shortlisted proposals were selected in a second selection round. In Afghanistan, while 16 grants were approved by the NSC, due to the security situation these projects are not yet operational.



Table 1: WPHF-SI Grants and Partners

Country	No of grants	No of CSOs ⁶	Country	No of grants	No of CSOs
DRC	15	26	Afghanistan	16	TBD ⁷
Liberia	8	15	Haiti	15	24
Malawi	9	11	PNG	11	9
Nigeria	7	15			
Uganda	9	15			

Africa

In 2021, WPHF-SI partners in Africa (the DRC, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria and Uganda) reached 118,856 direct beneficiaries, of which 86,741 (73.0%) were women and girls. Of these, 74.3% were women above the age of 18 and 25.7% were girls and young women below the age of 18. Among all active projects in 2021, different age and population groups were reached, with 29% of grantee projects working with women who are forcibly displaced, 46% with women and people living with disabilities, 35% with child, single mothers and widows, and 4.1% with other groups at risk, and 4% with indigenous and ethnic minorities. An estimated 2,438,614 indirect beneficiaries were also reached.

Almost half of the 48 partners in Africa are receiving funding for the first time through the UN (42%), showing the ability of WPHF to reach local and grassroots organizations that had not been previously supported by the UN.

During this reporting period, grantees have built upon results of the first year of implementation through enhanced coordination with women's groups, girl clubs, CSOs and community based organizations (CBOs) as well as undertaking advocacy initiatives and enhancing their agency and influence contributing to the security and safety of women and girls in the target communities. Partners continued to mobilize for ending and addressing VAWG. They strengthened the capacity of local women's organizations and service providers in EVAW, SRHR, Human Rights and advocacy. Together, they mobilized a variety of stakeholders to jointly

⁷ Several projects under revisions, number of co-implementers to be confirmed.









⁶ Includes lead CSOs and their co-implementing partners (many projects are implemented in consortiums)



advocate to EVAW. Overall, WPHF-SI grantees enhanced women's movements by connecting a total of 1,273 CSOs, including CBOs, women's and girls' groups and associations.

As a result of WPHF-SI partners initiatives, several changes have already emerged. In Malawi, two grantees joined forces to advance gender equality and ending VAWG/SGBV and HP leading to the abolishment of HP against mothers of twins in the Rumphi district. In **Uganda**, 18 women groups developed three position papers in three districts with recommendations to the district leadership on measures to EVAW. All three position papers have been adopted by the district leadership and one integrated into the Local Action Plan (LAP) on UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on women peace and security. The implementation of the recommendation is now regularly monitored through the monitoring mechanism of the LAP. In the first year of implementation, grantees in Nigeria have established Gender Rights, Early Warming Committees and Good Governance Committees in Borno State as well as three SGBV stakeholders' coordination platforms in Yobe State, enhancing the capacity of their members, who are now monitoring GBV cases, coordinating responses, reporting to the appropriate service providers, and jointly advocating for the end of VAWG in respective communities. Movements formed in 2020 such as the Women Peace Brigades in Liberia have continued expanding their reach. The have reached and built the capacity of over 5,000 Brigades young women and Girls in Human Rights, VAW and the referral system as well as how to advocate to EVAW in the Districts of Lofa, Grand Gedeh, and Montserrado. . In the DRC, for example, traditional chiefs Bena Mbale, Bena Mande and Kalamba now intervene and speak out for peace and an end to SGBV in their villages due to the WPHF-SI partners' awareness raising and discussions with the leaders.

Furthermore, across countries, enhanced agency and influence of the grantees have also enabled them to engage more freely with elders and local authorities, who are now committed to act against VAWG and are part of planning and implementing frameworks, action plans and awareness raising campaigns. WPHF-SI grantees have increased accountability through advocacy work and capacity building of stakeholders, which has led to an estimated 11,576 women and girls—accessing—justice and survivor-centred VAWG services. Grantees from all countries reported that cases are now being handled in a timelier manner, which has reduced the number of case backlogs and improved justice for survivors. Addressing reported cases has seen great improvements due to improved functionality of referral mechanisms emanating from the improved coordination at district and community levels together with the grantees and partners. Local CSOs and women's networks developed and used social accountability tools developed through the projects, such as community scorecards for tracking of cases, the SAVapp or also audio-visual representation of research findings to advocate jointly against VAWG.

Afghanistan, Haiti, and PNG











For PNG, Haiti and Afghanistan, the year began with the National Steering Committee (NSC) meetings for the selection of projects. In Haiti, on February 8th, 2021, the NSC selected 15 projects (including institutional funding and programmatic funding) implemented by women's rights or led organizations, across 9 regions of the country. In Afghanistan, the NSC endorsed 18 projects (including 8 for institutional funding and 10 for programmatic funding) on the 25th April 2021. The latter selection was re-assessed following the Taliban takeover in August, to ensure CSOs felt comfortable and safe to revise and implement their projects. As a result of these assessments, 16 projects (5 for institutional funding and 11 for programmatic funding) were confirmed and are undergoing revisions to adapt to the new context and risks. The revised list of projects will be approved by the National Steering Committee (NSC) and will begin implementation in 2022. In PNG, following the launch of a Call for Proposal (CfP) in March, CARE International was selected by the NSC to provide capacity building in proposal drafting, reporting and monitoring and support WPHF-SI partners to access funding. A second CFP was launched in PNG in the summer to identify organizations in specific remote and conflict affected areas. The NSC endorsed all 7 shortlisted projects, including 3 for institutional funding and 4 for programmatic funding. In line with the key principle of leaving no one behind, all selected CSO projects adopted an intersectional lens to their activities and included marginalized women who face multiple and intersecting forms of violence as target beneficiaries in their delivery, addressing women's needs and promoting their rights.

In 2021, WPHF-SI partners in Haiti and PNG supported 77 local women's groups, CSO and associations and reached 7,367 direct beneficiaries, of which 5,387 (73.1%) were women and girls. Of these, 83.4% were women above the age of 18 and 16.6% were girls and young women below the age of 18. Among all active projects in 2021, different age and population groups were reached, with 2% of grantee projects working with women who are forcibly displaced, 17% with women and people living with disabilities, 6% with child, single mothers and widows, and 2% with indigenous and ethnic minorities. An estimated 95,196 indirect beneficiaries were also reached.

In 9 months of implementation, WPHF-SI partners have been gaining more influence, and contributing to progress towards gender equality, women's empowerment, and the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls, including SGBV and HPs.

The impact is noticeable at two levels in Haiti and PNG. First, through institutional funding, CSOs have strengthened their institutional capacity making them more equipped to respond to women and girls' needs in crisis contexts and contributing to building women's movements and networks. During the reporting period, new adaptive strategies, tools and systems were adopted for continuity of their operations, including in Haiti where 3 women's rights organizations developed risk management and contingency plans or strategies. In PNG, 5 local women's rights organizations strengthened their operational and technical capacity, through











staff training on referral and case management of survivors of violence, acquiring IT equipment and transportation to enhance their reach within local communities. Institutional funding also contributed to strengthening women's organizations' staff confidence and their relationships with local stakeholders to implement their projects. This contributed to several advocacy initiatives led by grantees in Haiti and PNG to improve monitoring of violence against women and girls in the contexts of increased brutality, conflict and humanitarian crisis. This funding has also helped organizations become more resilient and to sustain themselves during crises, with 221 staff/volunteers in Haiti retained during the reporting period for the continuity of their operations.

Second, through programmatic funding, 7 women's rights organizations in Haiti have been strengthening their roles in community coordination and mobilization, in increasing access to services for survivors of Gender Based Violence (GBV) and other forms of exploitation as well as in the area of advocacy and awareness-raising. Women's rights organizations and networks of women's organizations are working in synergy to strengthen their coordination and mobilization roles for more effectiveness in the prevention and fight against GBV, including through the establishment of five protection committees in the Grande-Anse district. WPHF-SI partners' efforts have contributed to strengthening and scaling up prevention and response to GBV through improved access to essential services to more than 4,000 GBV survivors and facilitated access to legal support, medical, psycho-social support, and economic empowerment of women. Moreover, awareness-raising, advocacy, and training actions to prevent violence against women and girls were initiated through the departments and communes of intervention to change people's perception and understanding of GBV and mobilize communities in the fight to eradicate it. In the southern department of Haiti, 14 radio programs were produced and broadcasted, including programs led by women and girls with disabilities to raise awareness of their roles in the prevention of SGBV.

Finally, across all countries and regions, project results have also demonstrated the importance of economic independence and have shown to be an effective deterrent of VAWG, enhancing women's and girl's agency and coordination, and resiliency against abusive relationships. During the reporting period, community structures such as Village Saving and Lending Associations (VSLAs) and access to entrepreneurship opportunities have increased women's access to savings and income, building their confidence in speaking out against violence, contributing to advocacy efforts and taking up leadership positions in their communities. In order to ensure a do-no harm approach men and boys are included in the different structures and associations as well as all activities are combined with sensitization activities for the communities.

In 2021, the European Union remained on the WPHF global Funding Board as a member for a second consecutive year and continued to play a role as a member in national level decision-making bodies (Steering











Committees) to monitor and select the WPHF-Spotlight Initiative grantees, including in Haiti, PNG and Afghanistan.

Contextual Shifts and Implementation Status

During the reporting period, the WPHF-SI target countries continued to face the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, a deteriorating security and/or humanitarian situation and political violence, worsening the situation of women and girls. The 2021 annual WPHF CSOs survey found that 44.1% of CSOs had received threats to their organization or staff over the past year as a result of their work in Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action (WPS-HA).

All countries reported that the gendered impacts of the pandemic continued in 2021. This includes increasing cases of child and early marriages, rape, and defilement due to patriarchal norms increasing as a result of the pandemic and which has been reinforcing power dynamics in disfavour of women. Additionally, the loss of livelihoods due the COVID-19 restrictions made economic activities difficult and impossible in many instances. COVID-19 restrictions amidst the rise of the Delta variant cases in 2021 further heightened the risk of intra-household conflict, family separation, and potential child abuse, as well as reliance on other "coping" mechanisms such as early and child marriage. Prolonged school closures had detrimental effects on girls with increases in teenage pregnancies, early marriages and girls dropping out of schools, with many estimated not to return. To these already existing challenges, local conflicts in PNG, the volcano outbreak in the DRC, an earthquake in Haiti and the takeover of the Taliban in Afghanistan have created additional challenges for grantees to safely implement their projects.

During the reporting period, **Liberia** continued to face local and national, security concerns that require ongoing monitoring. Internal conflicts i.e., existing land disputes and ethnic divisions heightened political rhetoric, together with pervasive poverty, especially among the youth, as well as the legacies of the civil war make Liberia vulnerable to internal conflicts. The economy remains precarious, leading to inflation, rising costs, low commodity prices and severe cuts on public expenditures threatening peace and security in the country. Liberia still suffers from the normalization of violence and widespread impunity fostered by civil wars marked by high levels of sexual violence. The increasing politicization of gender work has led to shrinking civic space for women's rights organizations, who are viewed as critical to the government.

In the **DRC**, political, economic and security tensions further deteriorated, in particular in Eastern DRC, worsening the humanitarian situation, together with the volcanic outbreak in May 2021, leading to a massive displacement of people, many crossing the border to Uganda. This insecurity also led the government to announce a state of emergency in the provinces of Ituri and Nord Kivu. Women's rights continue to be undermined on all levels, and women and girls face a spiral of GBV, particularly domestic violence.











In **Malawi**, 2021 was a year of continued transition following the elections of 2020. Among other things the government was encumbered with the fight against corruption as many cases were unveiled. Concerning gender equality, women's participation in decision making positions has been a cause for concern as most of the new appointments made, did not adhere to the for 60/40 quota of either sex in all public appointments and recruitments. At the end of 2021, women in decision making in the public service stood at a meagre 26%. COVID-19 still posed a challenge, whereas the humanitarian situation has improved since 2020. In 2021, Malawi also adopted its first National Action Plan (NAP) on the implementation of UNSCR 1325.

In **Nigeria**, the continued instability of the security situation during 2021 has resulted in incidents of GBV also increasing exponentially, exacerbating the already high levels of violence endured by women and girls. Economic disruptions resulting from the pandemic are causing severe hardships for women and girls in the Northeastern part of the country, which was already economically vulnerable prior to the crisis, with 10.6 million recorded as needing urgent assistance. Additionally, conflict-affected women and girls in this region continue to witness the intensification of already existing vulnerabilities.

In **Uganda**, the COVID-19 pandemic related lockdowns and curfew continued to pose a challenge for women and girls, and in particular the number of teenage pregnancies increased dramatically. The election period saw only a few violent incidents. In quarter 4 of 2021, Uganda experienced 3 bombing (2 in the city center of Kampala). The bombings have been related to the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), an armed group mainly active in the neighbouring DRC. Uganda host 1.4 million refugees and an increasing number of refugees are continuing to arrive from the DRC.

In **Afghanistan**, the Taliban takeover of Kabul on 15 August 2021 and full international troop withdrawal from Afghanistan have had a seismic impact on all areas of life in the country. Women and girls are seeing their rights being rolled back. According to the first Gender Alert on Afghanistan released by UN Women, women and girl's access to education, health care, employment, and public life continues to be limited. The engagement of Afghan female humanitarian staff and local women's organizations in the humanitarian response remains limited, due to restrictive gender norms that further inhibit women's full participation in humanitarian work and the lack of civic space for women CSOs to openly engage with decision-makers. Recent findings from the inter-agency Protection Cluster on the situation of female Afghan humanitarian staff showed that 44% reported feeling very unsafe and 41% reported feeling unsafe going to work. Some 71% of the female respondents stated that specific groups of women were particularly unsafe and at higher risk.

⁸ UN Women Annual report 2021











In addition to restrictions on women's right to work, the shrinking space for women's rights organizations to operate directly has impacted life-saving service delivery for women and girls. When civil society faces challenges in operating, it will negatively impact the realization of women's rights across Afghanistan, as evidence shows that women's civil society is the driver and engine in advancing women's rights.

In Haiti, the political context has continued to have a considerable impact on the programme's actions and slowed down its pace during the whole reporting period. The weakness of the state in these gang-affected areas had a direct impact on the increase in cases of GBV and a decrease in the reporting of cases. Violence against women and girls remains a constant and recurrent threat, undermining their personal and collective safety while depriving them of the enjoyment of their human rights. The earthquake on August 14th, 2021, and the ensuing chaos disrupted the already precarious protection system (safety nets, including the health and legal systems managing GBV cases and social support networks), leading to an increased risk of violence and a weak response. One out three women were subject to violence and at least 12% of girls have faced sexual violence. Displacement, lack of privacy and lighting, as well as overcrowded camps and lack of separate toilets for women and men have also increased the risk of violence for women and girls. To avoid negative survival mechanisms, it is important to integrate protection activities across all sectors and ensure that people living in temporary sites, especially women and girls, are safe. These different elements have a considerable impact on the functioning of the rule of law and reinforce gender disparities in terms of access to basic services and representation/participation of women in decision-making spaces. The grantees of the WPHF-SI have played a major role at this level, whether in the cleaning of debris, the identification of affected people, especially women and girls, the realization of awareness-raising and advocacy actions against VAW and sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (SEA), and/or the coordination of consultation spaces against GBV. The situation is still very precarious, and protection remains a key component to be addressed.

In **PNG**, the pandemic and lockdown contributed to increased levels of VAWG and hindered accessibility of vital VAWG services for survivors of violence. Peace and security remained a challenge in the country. The pandemic also affected livelihood options of women thereby exposing them to poverty and further abuse. At the end of 2021, the estimated number of active conflicts increased in the Hela and Southern Highlands provinces, placing substantial pressure on the realization of human rights, social/structural stability, and humanitarian development. Remote locations and connectivity issues slowed down the capacity assessments and contracting of selected women's rights organizations.

Despite the ongoing conflict and crisis settings in which these organizations work, projects in Africa are on track and are planned to meet the programme end date of 31 December 2022. In PNG and Afghanistan,

⁹ https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Haiti-Earthquake-RGA-September-2021.pdf











projects are delayed. A no-cost extension has been approved at the time of writing, to extend projects in Haiti, PNG and Afghanistan until December 2023.

Implementation progress by outcome area:

Spotlight Initiative - Outcome areas	Implementation progress as of 31 Dec 2021
Outcome 6: Women's Movement	63 %
TOTAL	63 %

Programme Governance and Coordination

In 2021, the European Union continued to serve as a member of the WPHF global Funding Board and played a role as a member in national level decision-making bodies (Steering Committees) to select the WPHF-Spotlight Initiative grantees.

At the global level, during the reporting period, the WPHF Secretariat worked closely with the SI Secretariat following the Afghanistan Taliban takeover, on the way forward to ensure a do no harm approach for selected grantees and that local women's organizations for women's rights remain supported in a flexible way to adapt to the new context restrictions and challenges. In addition, WPHF and Spotlight Secretariat organized together an online public event on the importance of institutional funding for women's rights organizations, as well as an online peer exchange event for Spotlight and WPHF grantees on movement building for peace and EVAW.

During the reporting period, the WPHF Secretariat participated in regular exchanges with the SI Secretariat and the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (UN Trust Fund) to ensure collaboration, complementarity, and non-duplication, based on the comparative advantages of both Funds. The WPHF and the UN Trust Fund have shared good practices and challenges to improve reach, accessibility, flexibility, and support to women's rights organizations.

National Steering Committees (NSCs)











To ensure inter-agency and programme coordination and to avoid duplication of funding, the WPHF uses existing national decision-making mechanisms (e.g., Spotlight Initiative National Steering Committees) and establishes new WPHF National Steering Committees (NSCs), where needed. The members of the WPHF NSCs include UN agencies, the EU Delegation, Government representatives, and civil society representatives. The NSCs are co-chaired by the Government and the UN Resident Coordinator, with a few exceptions according to the context. During the selection of proposals, special attention is given to women's rights organizations that have not received previous UN funding, as well as those that work in remote areas and with people facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination (people living with disabilities, indigenous groups, LGBTQI, female sex workers, single mothers, or child mothers, etc.). Throughout the project implementation, the NSC is informed of implementation progress and members are invited to join monitoring missions to visit grantees. In addition, if major challenges or risks are encountered or revisions are needed, the NSC is consulted on the decision and action to be taken.

Description of NSC mechanisms:

- In Liberia, Malawi and Nigeria, WPHF is using the Spotlight Initiative's NSCs for final project endorsement.
- In the DRC, WPHF is using its own NSC, which was already established prior to this partnership. In Uganda, it was decided to create and use the WPHF NSC. The EU Delegation is a member of both WPHF's NSCs.
- In PNG, WPHF is using the Spotlight Initiative's NSC, which proceeded with the final selection of the grantees during the reporting period.
- In Haiti and Afghanistan, during the reporting period joint WPHF-Spotlight NSCs were established respectively, as no Spotlight or other mechanism was in place. The EU Delegation is a member in both NSCs.

All existing Spotlight Initiative NSC and newly established WPHF-Spotlight Initiative NSCs, have at least 20% civil society representation. The civil society representatives are selected by self-nomination process, including where possible from the Spotlight Initiative Civil Society National Reference Groups. CSO representatives provide valuable feedback to influence the selection process taking advantage of their extensive experience and further enhance transparency in the decision taken. The NSCs provide also a multi-stakeholder platform for CSOs representatives to highlight their priorities for funding and their role for transformative change.











Programme Partnerships

The WPHF Secretariat supported UN Women Country Offices (COs), as the Management Entities (ME) for civil society organizations in processing the transfer of funds for selected organizations. As per the WPHF Operations Manual, the designated UN Management Entity (ME) for CSOs (UN Women in countries where UN Women has a field presence) assumes programmatic and financial accountability for funds received and ensures timely disbursements of funds to partner CSOs and other designated institutions or entities in accordance with the decisions of the country level steering committee and its rules and regulations. This also contributes to building linkages between projects and CSOs—where there are other existing SI implementing partners and grantees. In Uganda, UN Women invited the WPHF-SI grantees to the regional consultations for the elaboration of the women's movement building strategy developed under Pillar 6 of the Spotlight Initiative country programme. In Malawi, the grantee "Purple Innovation" linked the 86 CSOs that have been trained in ending VAWG to the existing SI project coordination structures through District Coordinators ensuring joint planning, implementation and monitoring. As such "Purple Innovation" was part of 8 monthly district coordination meetings and 2 field joint planning and monitoring that were conducted in an effort to contribute towards improved coordination and collaboration.

The UN ME also ensures project monitoring, evaluation, and audit of CSO projects and manages the reporting system of CSO projects on behalf of the country's NSC and in line with its rules and regulations. The UN ME for CSOs is also responsible for the management of risks related to cash advances to implementing partners.

a) Government

Through the NSCs (Spotlight Initiative or WPHF), government representation and ownership in the selection of projects and monitoring of implementation is secured. For example, in the DRC, the NSC meetings are attended at the highest levels with the Ministers of Solidarity and Humanitarian Action, Minister of Gender, Children and Family, and the Minister of Planning. This space contributes to raising awareness and recognizing the important role that local women's organizations play in ending VAWG and promoting women's movements, but also the long road ahead and the need for further support from the government and national stakeholders to sustain the work of women's organizations.

b) Civil Society

As a Fund working in crisis settings, , the leaving no one behind principle is at the center strengthening local ownership and ensuring a human rights based approach











During this reporting period, a new partnership was formalized with CARE International in PNG, to strengthen the capacity of local women's organizations working on women's rights, ending violence against women and peacebuilding. Following the first WPHF-SI Call for proposals (CfP) in PNG, the quality and number of proposals from local organizations were identified as a gap. To ensure the funding remains accessible to organizations across the country and of all sizes, the NSC selected a first round of partners and decided to launch a second CfP limited to remote regions most affected by local conflict and crisis. Connectivity issues and limited experience in applying for international funding were identified as barriers to access the funding. To mitigate these barriers, a CfP was launched to identify a national or international CSO to support and build the capacity of these local women's rights organizations in the application process and implementation of their projects. CARE international, with an office and staff in PNG, was selected by the NSC amongst the 2 shortlisted organizations. All funds were allocated in 2021, with a combination of institutional funding and programmatic funding to strengthen these organizations' capacities. Organizations selected in the second round will begin implementation in 2022.

In addition, civil society is not considered as only an implementing partner for WPHF, but also a decision maker in both its Global Funding Board and its NSCs (see previous section on NSCs). This contributes to reinforcing the perspectives of civil society in decision-making processes, for more accessible and demand-driven flexible funding.

c) European Union

In the WPHF-Spotlight Initiative countries, the EU Delegation (EUD) is a member of the NSC and therefore part of the decision making at country level for the selection of partners, but also for any reapproval of projects revisions due to COVID-19 or the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan. The NSC meets based on the needs in the country, but at least once a year. During the reporting period, the UN Women CO in Uganda, ensured that the Political Advisors of European Member States and the EUD could exchange with a WPHF-SI grantee ensuring the view from grassroots women's on the protection of women and girls are shared with the delegation during their mission to Northern Uganda in May 2021.

At the global level, the WPHF Secretariat contributed to the strategic calls with the EU HQ, organized by the Spotlight Secretariat and together with the UNTF EVAW to share progress, challenges and best practices. Moreover, the EU as a WPHF Board member in 2021, was engaged in quarterly Board meetings which presented results and opportunities to highlight Spotlight Initiative impact as well as informed decisions on funding allocation to sustain results of the Fund in these areas. For example, in Liberia, the WPHF Board decided to allocate additional funding in Liberia as a result of the great results of WPHF-SI grantees.

d) Cooperation with other UN agencies











UN agencies are members of the Global Funding Board and NSCs. At the Global Funding Board level, in 2021, UN agencies included UN Women, UNFPA, Peace Building Support Office (PBSO) and UNDP. At the country level, similarly, several UN agencies - different based on context and presence- take part in the decision-making process to ensure no duplication in funding and coordination. During the reporting period, in Uganda for example the NSC member UNHCR conducted a monitoring mission together with the UN Women CO as well as held a training for WPHF-SI grantees on Refugee settlement management and cooperation possibilities.

e) Other Partners and resource mobilization

In 2021, the WPHF Secretariat continued to cultivate relationships with diverse actors in the private sector, celebrities and high net-worth individuals to raise awareness and support for local women's organizations working to prevent and respond to SGBV on the frontlines of conflicts and crise s. WPHF mobilized new support from various corporations and fostered relationships with a number of celebrities, artists, influencers, and media partners throughout the year, including WPHF Global Advocate Kristen Bell, Whoopi Goldberg, Lila Downs, Ariel Sinha and Global Citizen.

As part of WPHF Global Learning Hub (L-HUB), in 2021, WPHF leveraged expertise and resources of 8 international NGOs, government and private sector entities to provide capacity development opportunities to WPHF-SI grantees. A series of 31 capacity building webinars and knowledge exchanges were held on disability inclusion mainstreaming, gender sensitive and feminist monitoring and evaluation, risk management and anti-corruption, and prevention of sexual harassment and abuse at organizational level. Overall, 86.1% of grantees who participated in capacity building initiatives report using new knowledge and skills. WPHF has promoted south-south knowledge exchange to foster the wealth of knowledge of the grantees, build networks and strengthen project delivery. For example, through participating in peer exchanges, CSOs have been inspired to use new approaches in project implementation and create new partnerships and synergies at local level. One CSO participant noted that "Networking between local and international CSOs is very important for gaining knowledge and learning about the successful experiences of countries that are suffering from violence and insecurity."

WPHF organized jointly with the Spotlight Initiative Secretariat the online Peer Exchange « Coalition Building on the Frontlines: Advocating for Women's Rights and Ending Violence Against Women and Girls» in November. The event, convened 229 participants from over 30 countries from both WPHF and Spotlight communities of practice, including 88 WPHF CSO participants. A Peer Exchange Session is an interactive discussion enabling knowledge sharing and mutual learning between CSOs. The Peer Exchange on Coalition Building provided a unique space to reflect and share ideas on running coalitions from different sectors and areas of work to advocate for gender equal and safe societies.











In 2021, WPHF also launched the <u>CSO Peer learning Awards</u> in partnership with Women Have Wings to foster mutual strengthening between CSO tandems (CSOs working in pairs) as a contribution to reinforcing women's coalitions, collaborations and movement building through joint advocacy, sharing of information and lessons. Two WPHF-SI grantees, "DCR Ambassadors" from Nigeria and "Soutien à la femme autochtone de Walungu" from the DRC were selected and will implement a peer learning project with another organization in 2022.

2021 also marked the launch of its new 5-year #1,000WomenLeaders Campaign aimed at investing in 1,000 women leaders in crisis-affected communities through financial contributions, highlighting the work and impact of women CSO leaders, amplifying their voices and recognizing their agency to prevent conflict, respond to crises, end SGBV and build a more peaceful and gender-equal world. The WPHF Secretariat made progress towards the goals of the campaign by facilitating the participation of 32 local women CSOs representatives, including 2 youth speakers, in global platforms and events and raised USD \$803,395 through private sector engagement. As part of this campaign, the #1000WomenLeaders Campaign Steering Committee was established, a network of philanthropists and high net-worth individuals with high levels of influence and capacity for giving, who will continue to endorse WPHF and leverage their networks to build a base of donors to accelerate financing for WPHF to meet its \$112M USD campaign goal. On the sidelines of the Commission on the Status of Women in 2021, the WPHF and the Spotlight Secretariat organised a donor advocacy event to raise awareness on the importance of institutional funding for local women's organisations in fragile and conflict affected areas leading in the joint development of a Policy Brief with key recommendations to continue advocating and mobilizing support for a feminist and decolonial funding ecosystem.

Results

Overall, in 2021, WPHF-SI partners reached 126,223 direct beneficiaries, of which 92,128 (73.0%) were women and girls. Of these, 74.8% were women above the age of 18 and 25.2% were girls and young women below the age of 18. Among all active projects in 2021, different age and population groups were reached, including survivors of SGBV in the spirit of leaving no one behind. Overall, 20% of grantee projects work with women who are forcibly displaced, 41% with women and people living with disabilities, 27% with child, single mothers and widows, 2.7% with LGBTQI communities and 4.1% with female sex workers¹⁰, and 8% with indigenous and ethnic minorities. The women and girls were reached through targeted capacity building measures and awareness raising activities leading to enhanced knowledge on women's rights, SGBV,

¹⁰ Two of the CSOs working with female sex workers, also focus on LGBTQI communities (Africa only).





SRHR, the referral system and skills for income generation leading to women and girls feeling more confident to speak up for their rights and report cases; access health and social services; as well as enhanced resilience to GBV through financial independence. An estimated 2,533,810 indirect beneficiaries were reached mainly through community awareness raising sessions, as well as radio and TV shows leading to enhanced awareness on women human rights, VAW and its consequences for the entire community.

Men and boys were especially targeted through awareness raising activities and motivated to become male change agents. Further, men were specifically engaged in their roles of government representatives, administrative authorities, religious and cultural leaders and benefitted from capacity building in VAW, GBV, referral systems and human rights.

Almost half of partners are new to the UN (47%), showing the ability of WPHF to reach local and grassroots women's rights organizations that had not been previously supported by the UN. In addition to broad dissemination of CfPs, WPHF limited requirements, simplified applications and guidance provided to applicants has increased the quality and diversity of applications received.

A total of 821 CSOs, women's groups and/or associations across 6 countries¹¹ have been supported or collaborated with WPHF-SI grantees. They have coordinated efforts linked activists together, to advocate for and carry out interventions focused on the prevention and response of SGBV and ending VAWG and other discriminatory and harmful practices. This strengthening their collective influence in addressing systematic barriers for women and girls. These efforts have also improved the understanding of the broader community and duty bearers on the causes, impact, and response to SGBV, and contributed to improving local and regional plans and policies in this area. Moreover, these efforts have improved psychosocial, legal and referral mechanisms established to address the needs of women, girls and other vulnerable populations.

In 2021, WPHF-SI partners also initiated steps to establish or increase the use of social accountability mechanisms in order to plan, monitor and engage in prevention and policy interventions for ending VAWG. Overall, 68 different community, district or regional mechanisms drawing on different modalities have been used by CSOs. These range from consultation frameworks for gender rights early warning committees, to the use of community score card systems to monitor commitments towards the protection of women and girls.

¹¹ Afghanistan and PNG are not included. See next paragraphs on progress.





In total, 461 CSOs, CBO, local women's groups, and associations across six countries are making progress in increasing their influence, advancing gender equality, and protecting women and girls, and ending VAWG, including community and family violence in conflict, crisis and humanitarian contexts. These organizations have equally built their confidence in continued advocacy efforts towards their work in the prevention and response of SGBV and tangible changes around local planning and policy. These changes are a result of targeted capacity building efforts and coaching conducted by partners on prevention approaches, laws, and policies around violence against women, in the use of social accountability tools, social media campaigns and community sensitization, and institutional strengthening opportunities for CSOs.

As a result of the coordinated efforts of WPHF-SI partners and local women's groups, CSOs and CBOs, an estimated 15,500 women and girls and marginalized groups have accessed essential survivor-centered services such as psychosocial counselling, legal services, referrals and accompaniment through the judicial system.

During the reporting period, progress was also made in the partner selection process in Afghanistan, Haiti and PNG. In PNG, despite some delays in the contracting process due to COVID-19 lockdowns and the remoteness of WPHF-SI partners, ten PCAs were signed, and implementation began shortly after. Following the selection of projects under the first CfP, the NSC members noted that very few women's organizations from more remote and conflict affected regions in PNG applied or passed the technical evaluation. To be able to reach smaller women's organizations and support them with flexible quality funding, and in consultation with Spotlight Global Secretariat and Spotlight PNG, the NSC decided to launch a specific call for proposals to identify a national or international organization to accompany and build the capacity of selected WPHF-SI partners and future applicants in PNG in areas such as proposal drafting, reporting, and EVAW programmatic expertise. A short CfP was launched in March 2021. 8 proposals were received and from the 2 shortlisted proposals, the NSC selected CARE International end of April. This was followed by a targeted CfP aimed at reaching women's organizations in more remote and conflict affected regions of PNG (Western, West Sepik, Hela and Southern Highlands), opened from 30th June to 20th August 2021. 18 applications were received, of which 7 were shortlisted, including 3 for institutional funding and 4 for programmatic funding. To accelerate the selection process, the NSC reviewed all proposals online and approved all 7 projects. One of the organizations was selected for both institutional and programmatic funding, which will strengthen their organizational capacity and programming. 70% of selected organizations in PNG are new to the UN, demonstrating the ability of WPHF to reach local and grassroots organizations that have been marginalized with limited access to financing.

In **Afghanistan**, the National Steering Committee endorsed 18 projects (including 8 for institutional funding and 10 for programmatic funding) on 25th April 2021, as well as a reserve list of 4 additional projects (22











projects in total). The organizations were endorsed subject to assessment of their respective capacity. UN Women country Office proceeded with the capacity assessment of the 22 selected organizations and review of the 22 project documents, working closely with the selected organizations. The deterioration of the security situation in the period June-July 2021 created further delays in finalization of the contracting of the selected CSOs. After the fall of Kabul in August 2021, UN Women conducted a rapid assessment to understand the status and operationality of the WPHF-SI grantees. As a result of these assessments, 16 women's rights organizations (5 for institutional funding and 11 for programmatic funding) expressed willingness to continue implementation and started their revisions. To ensure the safety of the partners, implementation was paused until January 2022, and in order to re-assessing the situation, including channels for transferring funds to the partners in secure ways.

In **Haiti,** on February 8th, 2021, the NSC selected 15 projects (including institutional funding and programmatic funding) implemented by women's rights or led organizations, across 9 regions of the country.

In line with the key principle of leaving no one behind, all selected CSO projects adopted an intersectional lens to their activities and include marginalized women who face multiple and intersecting forms of violence as target beneficiaries in their delivery, addressing women's needs and promoting their rights.

Capturing Change at Outcome Level

Outcome 6: Women's Movement

Indicator 6.1 Proportion of countries where women's rights organizations, autonomous social movements and relevant CSOs, increase their coordinated efforts to jointly advocate to end VAWG, including SGBV and HP¹³.

A total of 821 CSOs, women's groups and/or associations across 6 countries¹⁴ have jointly coordinated efforts, and linking activists together, to advocate for and carry out interventions focused on the prevention and response of SGBV and ending VAWG and other discriminatory and harmful practices, strengthening their collective influence in addressing systematic barriers for women and girls. These efforts have also improved the understanding of the broader community and duty bearers on the causes, impact, and response

¹⁴ DRC, Haiti, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria and Uganda.









¹² Please note that organization names are not included for protection/security

¹³ Please note for WPHF grantees, the indicator's unit of measurements is 'number of CSOs'.



to SGBV, and contributing to improving more local and regional plans and policies in this area. Moreover, these efforts have improved psychosocial, legal and referral mechanisms established to address the needs of women, girls, and other vulnerable populations (also see Indicator 6.2).

In addition to partners having achieved results on movement building within their projects, UN Women Country Offices brought partners together to ensure knowledge exchange and better coordination among them. As much as possible, country offices ensured exchange through virtual meeting platforms and ensured one-on-one follow up with grantees, who had challenges in access to these meetings due to weak internet reception.

Africa

816 CSOs, CBOs and women's groups actively collaborated in planning, monitoring, information sharing and reporting of cases of SGBV in their communities. These organizations have increased their confidence in engaging in and facilitating dialogue with duty bearers, including service providers, government authorities and district level administration in ensuring that survivor-centred legal, health and psychosocial services and referral pathways are accessible and available to survivors, as well as concerted efforts in increasing the understanding of the boarder community on the causes, impact and response to SGBV.

This coordination has also led to more stigmatized groups accessing services, but also increased positive engagement with local health providers, government authorities and police. In **Uganda**, for instance, WONETHA has been supporting female sex workers (FSWs), and collectively they have advocated for their human rights and finding alternative livelihood solutions which put them at less risk for violence. As a result of their mobilization, the health seeking behaviour among the FSWs (i.e., demanding health services) has increased by 27.5% from 2020, including accessing HIV/AIDS testing of 978 FSWs, family planning and sexually transmitted disease services . Furthermore, there has been an increase in reporting gender-based violence cases faced by FSWs to the police as reported by the peer-educators, who are in touch with the FSW and were trained by the grantee in 2020. They also reported a more positive attitude from health workers and the police towards FSWs seeking health services and justice.

Joint advocacy and collaboration has also increased among younger women and children, with 41 girls' rights clubs established in two countries, which are now acting together as change agents in the prevention of SGBV and HPs among their peers. In **Malawi**, these groups have been linked to the District Task Force on Ending Child Marriages and the District Gender Working Group, leading to the adoption of by-laws in targeted districts areas aiming at curbing child marriage, GBV/SGBV and HP. In addition, the grantee "SOFERES" has jointly worked and advocated with four CSOs in strengthening coordination platforms within the refugee community in the Dzaleka community, to address gender issues faced by school going girls in the camp and











surrounding communities. This collaboration has strengthened school management structures in addressing school related GBV.

The impact of these coordinated efforts between women's groups, CSOs and CBOs are also evident in local planning and policy changes. For example, in **Uganda**, through the capacity building measures of "Coalition for Action on 1325", 3 CBOs continued to train 157 women from 18 CBOs and developed together 3 position papers with recommendations on implementation of EVAWG in the Kumi, Kyegegwa and Kamwenge districts. All 3 position papers were adopted by the district leadership and the paper in Kyegegwa spearheaded by "Humen Rights Democracy Link" (RIDE Africa) and developed with 4 other CBOs 15 was integrated into a Local Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 on women, peace and security of the district. And, in **Liberia**, through the Community Sustainable Development Organization, the collaboration between women's groups and traditional leaders, youth and men, have led to solutions being identified to support women's rights in land tenure and inheritance rights, including the establishment of a regional women's network (PAWORLO), which resulted in 79 women gaining land rights and ownership during the reporting period.

Finally, in **Uganda**, 112 activists (32 community Para-social workers and 80 SASA! Team members) have increased their awareness, knowledge, advocacy, response, and referral skills on SGBV and VAWG. Almost 90% of these community activists are engaged in evidence gathering, referrals, documentation and advocacy leading to 430 cases of GBV being received, of which 343 cases (79%) successfully mediated or resolved. Another 34 cases were referred and 53 were pending at the end of 2021. Decision makers at all levels have also registered 191 SGBV cases against women and girls through awareness raising activities, including sport events, within the target communities by the grantee TEWPA.

Haiti

Through programmatic funding, 5 local women's organizations, CSOs or autonomous social movements have been coordinating efforts to end SGBV. For example, as a result of the various interventions of WPHF-SI partner JPHRO in Jérémie, 4 CBOs (AFAGA, Fanm Grandans, Fanm Solid and Entr'Elles), have been defending human and women's rights, and formed a coalition for a joint response against acts of violence against women and girls. These CBOs have worked jointly in synergy with the relevant state bodies of the Department of Grand Anse and other civil society actors to better understand the problems of sexual violence against women and girls and in turn fight gender inequalities for a more equitable and just society in relations between women and men. They directly implemented the project in 6 areas by creating a synergistic working environment with the actors of the local and departmental protection chain (CASEC, ASSEC, Civil

¹⁵ Miryante Orphanage Home, Kateete Women's Group, Kibuye Women's Group and Hapuyo Women's Group.





Society, MCFDF, IBESR, OPC, BPM, BSEIPH, IDETTE, GRADE, MOFEDGA and SOFA). These organizations jointly participated in response activities carried out in targeted communities through awareness sessions, radio broadcasts, working meetings, and exchange sessions around the Gender Thematic Tables organized by MCFDF and MOFEDGA. As a result of this synergy, the referencing of cases of sexual violence against women has improved.

Indicator 6.2: Proportion of countries where there is an increased use of social accountability mechanisms by civil society in order to monitor and engage in efforts to end VAWG, including SGBV and HP^{16}

In 2021, WPHF-SI partners initiated steps to establish or increase the use of social accountability mechanisms in order to plan, monitor and engage in prevention and policy interventions for ending VAWG. Overall, 68 different community, district or regional mechanisms drawing on different modalities have been used by CSOs, ranging from consultation frameworks to gender rights early warning committees to the use of community score card systems to monitor commitments towards the protection of women and girls.

In the **DRC** for example, Moyo Foundation successfully developed and strengthened a consultation framework with 50 delegated members (including 27 women) from the provincial government, public administration, civil society, police and army to resolve issues of gender, peace and protection. Since its creation, these consultation frameworks have already managed and referred to the competent authorities 70 cases of GBV on minors and 35 cases of domestic violence.

In **Liberia**, the SAV App that was developed in 2020 by "Foundation for Community Initiatives" continued to be used in selected communities. This App has facilitated the reporting of cases of SGBV by 200 newly trained monitors, and in line with protection and confidentiality of data. As a result, communities showed an increased level of trust in reporting cases of SGBV, thus breaking the silence and ensuring that survivors received support in a timely manner. Monitoring, reporting and accompaniment to judicial proceedings for survivors of violence in Liberia have also been carried out by local 60 CSOs (56 women and 34 men champions) who have been built their skills through training conducted in 2021. Finally, three sub-national GBV Coalitions were established and empowered with legal and institutional framework training on GBV prevention and response, and are now tracking, reporting, and following up on GBV cases.

¹⁶ Inclusive of the DRC, Haiti, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria and Uganda. PNG information is not available.











In **Nigeria**, the "DCR Ambassadors", "Women in New Nigeria & Youth Empowerment Initiative" and the "Initiative for the Development of the Needy, Orphans, less privilege and Widows", have established and strengthened SGBV community-based structures, with 195 members who have been trained on SGBV prevention, response, and coordination as well as advocacy, communication and leadership. As a result, this led to the establishment of 5 Gender Rights and Early Warming Committees (75 women), and six Good Governance Committees (60 men) in Borno State, as well as 3 SGBV stakeholders' coordination platforms (60 members in total) in Yobe State. Members of these structures are now better able to monitor violence indicators, coordinate responses, report to the appropriate service providers, and jointly advocate for the end of VAWG in respective communities.

In 2021, "Hope for Relief", "Partners in Action for Sustainable Development", "Foundation for Rural Development" in **Malawi**, enhanced accountability, and access to justice for women and girls, who experienced GBV through close collaboration with stakeholders and service providers such as the community and Malawi Police Victim Support Units, community policing structures, case management committees and the judiciary to ensure reported cases are addressed. Cumulatively, 396 women and 33 adolescent girls accessed judicial services. In addition, the District GBV Prevention Network was revitalized through efforts by "Hope for Relief", and as a result, the mobile court system, in cooperation with the police and judiciary was established, handling 321 cases, and addressing a backlog in the system which denied women and girls expedient access to justice. Community structures have also been strengthened. In Lilongwe, "Foundation for Rural Development" strengthened the capacity of 65 CBOs and women and youth groups to address GBV and succeeded in integrating them into 10 Case Management Committees (CMC). The CMCs have managed to handle 54 cases demonstrating a 37.8% increase in reporting in comparison with cases recorded by other structures like Community Policing in the same period in the previous year.

In **Malawi**, community score cards have been used by 37 women's groups and by 15 groups in **Uganda** as an accountability tool for tracking the progress of efforts and response to EVAWG. This tool has assisted in the collection of evidence and enhanced advocacy with service providers, traditional leaders and governments, particularly to improve their response and commitments in the fight against VAWG and protection of women and girls.

Community structures such as the Village Saving and Lending Associations (VSLAs), have also been established in three countries by WPHF-SI partners, building the economic resilience and independence of survivors of SGBV. Initial results in **Uganda** show that there is a clear link between income and increased confidence of group members in advancing accountability systems in their communities and in their ability to engage in efforts to end VAWG. To date, 136 groups, including youth focused groups, have generated savings of \$USD 5,660. The work of "UHOPI" has equally enhanced the economic resilience of 55 women











who have established cottage businesses, resulting in an increase of income by 50%, and consequently less dependency on abusive relationships. In **Liberia**, as a result of 12 established VSLAs, 300 women have also accessed loans and have developed commitment and buy-in on addressing critical issues (SGBV, denial of land rights, etc.) affecting women and girls and have mitigated risks following the various capacity building trainings, awareness raising workshops and events. This in-turn has empowered women including those from the vulnerable groups to live free of violence and have access to land and other rights.

In **Nigeria**, "Green Concern for Development" and "Women and Youth Empowerment Initiative" have also contributed to improving women's access to micro income generating opportunities, increasing socio-economic recovery and resilience of survivors, while also mitigating the multi-dimensional effects and consequences of SGBV. As a result, 270 women (including 28 girls) in Borno and Yobe states, have now started their own businesses and are involved in processing and packaging different products. In addition, 4 VSLAs were created to increase access to financial assets/income generation and basic financial services for 322 survivors. Initiatives in **Malawi** to increase economic recovery of survivors have also been achieved. "Purple Innovation", built the capacity of 8 women-led group businesses on financial management and entrepreneurship in Mzimba and Nkhatabay and have accessed start-up capital to establish their businesses.

Haiti

In Haiti, increased coordination and funding has contributed to increasing accountability, including through strengthening and scaling up access to SRHR and services for GBV survivors. During the reporting period, women's rights organizations and networks of organizations have begun to equip themselves, to work in synergy to strengthen their coordination and mobilization roles for more effectiveness in the prevention and fight against GBV. For example, in the district of Grande-Anse, WPHF-SI partners have set up 5 integrated protection committees on the prevention of gender-based violence, community management of cases of sexual violence against women and girls and in particular child protection. In the area of Apricots, one of these committees was created at the level of 3 communal areas of Apricots and downtown. The objective of this committee is to monitor and report to the WPHF-SI partner CASDA, the cases of sexual violence reported at the level of the respective areas. The committee is composed of representatives of local authorities, women's organizations and civil society. The committee meets every two weeks to deal with and follow up on reported cases of violence. Members of women's organization, who are knowledgeable of the area were selected as focal points and actively report cases of violence against women to the committee. These structures will help to increase accountability on GBV at community and regional levels.

Overall, WPHF-SI partners' interventions in Haiti have improved access to support services for more than 4,000 GBV survivors. This work is marked by the increase of the provision of essential services to GBV survivors and the facilitation of access to legal support, medical, psycho-social support, and economic











empowerment of women survivors. Notably, 293 women and girls who reported experiencing forms of aggression/violence (verbal, physical, sexual etc.) and with advanced trauma received psychological assistance and/or were referred/or accompanied to care sites. 17 investigations were carried out in the civil prison of Les Cayes, in the courts, hospitals, public markets and red-light districts during the reporting period. Furthermore, 43 women and 15 girls have received legal support (legal advice, drafting and sending complaints from women and girls survivors to the competent courts). These actions have enabled beneficiaries to regain confidence and reintegrate into their communities as drivers of change.

Indicator 6.3 Proportion of women's rights organizations, autonomous social movements and CSOs, including those representing youth and groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization, report having greater influence and agency to work on ending VAWG, including SGBV and HP

Overall, 461 CSOs, CBO, local women's groups and associations across 6 countries are making progress in increasing their influence, advancing gender equality, and protecting women and girls, and ending VAWG, including community and family violence in conflict, crisis and humanitarian contexts. These organizations have equally built their confidence in continued advocacy efforts towards their work in the prevention and response of SGBV and tangible changes around local planning and policy. These changes are a result of targeted capacity building efforts and coaching conducted by partners on prevention approaches, laws and policies around violence against women, in the use of social accountability tools, social media campaigns and community sensitization, and institutional strengthening opportunities for CSOs.

Africa

During the reporting period, 82 partners (lead CSOs and their co-implementing partners) as well as 454 local CBOs, women's groups and/or associations have implemented initiatives and actions in EVAWG, including SGBV and HP. Overall, these efforts have led to approximately 11,576 women and girls accessing essential survivor-centered services, including legal and judicial services, psychosocial, and health services, including youth friendly and sensitive responses.

CSOs in Africa have successfully influenced key local planning and policy changes as a result of their advocacy efforts and interventions. Specifically,

In Liberia, key recommendations were drafted in favor of GEWE and EVAWG, following 23 official
dialogues held with 1,150 stakeholders including community members, government officials from key
line ministries, senatorial candidates', women's right groups and CSOs. Facilitated by "Partnership
for Sustainable Development" the recommendations were disseminated to relevant decision-makers











at both local and national levels for consideration and are informing policy and programme formulation.

- Also in Liberia, leaders and Gbarpolu County authorities allocated funds (10,000 USD) for the
 construction of a safe home to be used for the protection of SGBV survivors and witnesses at the
 county level, as a result of community dialogues. They also committed to take actions to improve
 GEWE and EVAWG policy implementation, increase public financing, create awareness, promote
 participation and capacity development of women and girls.
- In Malawi, "Partners in Action for Sustainable Development" facilitated interactions and dialogues
 with government counterparts, resulting in a series of recommendations being adopted including the
 undertaking of joint case follow ups, development of by-laws, building the capacity of community
 structures to work better with police, and which are now in the process of being implemented. As of
 December 31 2021, drafting of by-laws to address SGBV/HP such as child marriages and GBV
 commenced.
- Through the capacity building efforts by the grantee "Coalition for Action on 1325", the CBOs Teso Karamoja Women Initiative for Peace (TEKWIP), Human Rights Democracy Link Africa (RIDE-AFRICA) and Karambi Action for Life Improvement (KALI) in **Uganda**, are engaging local authorities to influence local policies and plans with the aim of advancing gender equality and women's empowerment, VAWG prevention and response. They have trained further 157 women from the three target communities and develop together three position papers to end VAWG by the district leadership in Kumi, Kyegeggwa and Kamwenge districts. The district leaders have integrated the position papers into their respective District Development Plans.
- In Uganda, as a result of recommendations put forward by "Women's International Peace Centre", to address WPS and SGBV, Ciforo Sub County scaled up awareness on VAW through community dialogues and sensitization at village and parish level, there has been an observed improvement in case management, referral and follow-up in accordance with the referral pathway, and a new GBV coordination committee at the district level was established convening quarterly, and more women are taking up leadership positions in governance structures (e.g. woman activist now the chairwoman for Agojo Settlement).

Moreover, awareness-raising, advocacy, and training actions to prevent violence against women and girls were initiated across the five countries in Africa, contributing to improved perceptions and understanding of SGBV of community members, government authorities, service providers and local duty bearers, and engaging communities to end it. For example:











- In the DRC, 22 CSOs have successfully influenced local, regional and national authorities and duty bearers through targeted actions. For example, "Sauti ya Mama Mukongomani" (SMM) conducted workshops with human rights activist groups for the continued coordination and awareness raising on EVAWG and are now collaborating in four committees (25 members each) and already conducted 6 joint advocacy actions with political and administrative authorities at the local level concerning the protection of women, girls and children as well as 1 joint advocacy meeting with political and administrative authorities at the national level enhancing the stakeholders awareness of the need of women ang girls in Eastern DRC..
- A Girls Summit on SGBV Prevention in Bong County, organized by the partner, "Helping our People Excel" in Liberia, resulted in a tangible joint action framework to end the occurrence of GBV. The local authorities are using this as a tool to guide their prevention and response efforts on VAWG. The summit engaged lawmakers and County Officials from the Ministries of Justice, Health, Internal Affairs, and Gender, Children and Social Protection
- In Malawi, dialogue and advocacy with traditional leaders and government officials were taken to
 curb the harmful traditional practice in Rumphi District of isolating women who give birth to twins or
 in breech in forested areas for several weeks, exposing mothers and their babies to malnutrition, cold
 and hunger. As a result, the district has committed to the abolishment of the practice and traditional
 leaders are patrolling to prevent further incidents and to raise awareness with the community.
- Two WPHF-SI partners in Malawi also enhanced the capacity and collaboration of young women and girls as influencers for their peers. "Solidarity of Refugee Women for the Social Welfare" supported 60 adolescent girls in 12 primary schools through training, awareness campaigns and the distribution of information materials leading to the participation of these girls in school management committees and related decision-making processes. The girls have since spearheaded school campaigns to end school related violence and have established a girls club to address VAWG in the targeted schools. While "Partners in Action for Sustainable Development" established 5 Tusinde Youth Clubs to address SGBV in their communities, these clubs have been involved in awareness raising campaigns reaching out to youth in TA Mposa.
- In Nigeria, "Initiative for the Development of the Needy, Orphans, Less privilege and Widows" established three Stop Violence against Women and Girls Clubs in boys' secondary schools, where 60 boys have been mentored on gender equality, SGBV, EVAW, and negative social practices. These boys are now able to speak up against VAWGs/HPs in their communities. Similarly, in Borno State the grantee "GREENCODE" and "Grassroots Researchers Association" sensitized community members about SGBV through role play. Public awareness on GBV prevention was also raised through jingles produced by the project and aired in local languages and radio phone-in programmes aired in the state strengthening the grantee's influence and agency in the communities to end VAWG.











• In **Nigeria**, through the interventions of "Grassroots Researchers Association", "Muslim Sisters Organization", and "Green Concern for Development" there is increased awareness and preparedness at the grassroots level to engage in community advocacy and seek for accountability of duty bearers. Trained representatives of women's groups and local activists are now supporting each other and taking ownership of the change in their communities by engaging with community leaders, government and stakeholders from other sectors. In 2021, twenty-two official multistakeholder dialogues between government authorities and women rights CSOs, women-focused groups, including representatives of marginalized women and girls and people living with disabilities, were facilitated by the project's implementing partners in all target states and 8 joint communiques were developed.

In addition, women's rights organizations have enhanced the availability of quality data and disaggregated information to inform planning and influence decision-making by key stakeholders. For example, "Platform for Dialogue and Peace" in **Liberia**, adopted several innovative strategies to disseminate the research findings of the "Cultural and Social Barriers Research" conducted in 2020 wherein key social, cultural, religious and political barriers to women accessing justice under the dual legal systems in Liberia and alternative means of justice at the disposal of women and girls were documented. Through audio-visual research results broadcast at movie halls (theatre) the partner advocated for transformative change to overcome the barriers for women accessing justice. As a result of the dissemination, two new grassroots women's groups were established to sustain the advocacy work done by the grantee with government and communities.

Capacity building efforts have also contributed to enhancing women's organizations and women's rights activists influence and agency to work on ending SGBV. For example:

- In Liberia, "Gbowee Peace Foundation" strengthened 150 Peace Brigades involving 5,380 young
 women in advocating for the rights of women and girls, conflict prevention and response to violence
 in their respective communities through their weekly door-to-door outreach activities in violent- prone
 communities of Lofa, Grand Gedeh, and Montserrado.
- In Malawi, "Purple Innovation" strengthened the capacity of 82 women and youth groups including community structures to support the design, implementation and monitoring of programmes and policies on VAWG, including SGBV/HP, and promote women's and girls' SRHR. These groups, through the training received, now have the skills to participate actively in community platforms working to end SGBV/HP, including the community victim support units, mother groups, Child Protection Forums, and Community Policing Forums. The women and girls have successfully influenced the discussions, case handling, planning, and monitoring of interventions and policies.











• In the **DRC**, 449 survivors accessed psychosocial and psychological care as a result of the establishment of five listening rooms by "Association pour la Défense des Droits de la Femme". The listening rooms staff counsellors, social workers and legal advisors provide high-quality services tailored to the needed of the survivors. To date, the organization has also used their influence to reach 6,000 people through radio campaigns and monthly sensitization sessions about the listening rooms and topics of human rights, GBV, sexual violence and COVID-19.

Influence in ending violence against women and girls has increased as a result of CSOs coordinated and joint efforts through coalition building and strengthening local and regional mechanisms. For example:

- In Liberia, two Women Peace Huts have been constructed and are utilized as a permanent space for gender actors to provide services and resources for women and girls to have safe and private spaces in which they can dialogue freely. These huts are also used as referral centers for any GBV cases, and coordination meeting centers for the Women Groups/Coalitions and SGBV Prevention Committees to continue their work on advocacy, women empowerment, and economic empowerment.
- In Malawi, "Hope for Relief" has built the capacity of 64 CBOs, CSOs and groups of women and
 girls in facilitating awareness raising, coordination of efforts and influencing to end SGBV. Further, it
 worked closely with 42 of the trained CBOs lobbying with the district to ensure a coordinated
 approach to implement efforts to end VAWG including joint monitoring and advocacy to enhance
 GBV law implementation as well as increased budget for efforts ending SGBV in the district.
- In **Uganda**, "Slum Aid" and its two implementing partners established the Urban Women's Settlement Forum, strengthening the collaboration between 15 women groups in the slums of Arua and Kampala and together with the 15 women groups they are applying the community score card (a social accountability tool) developed through the project.

Haiti

During the reporting period, 7 WPHF-SI partners reported having greater influence and agency to work on preventing and ending SGBV.

At the organizational level, through institutional funding as a key to women's movement building in crisis settings, 5 women's rights organizations are better equipped, and 10 organizations under programmatic funding are now operational and mobilized to respond to emergencies and different impacts of violence against women and girls. The capacities of these organizations have been strengthened to adapt and improve their responses to women and girls, as well as providing resources for essential advocacy and coordination work. This has allowed them to continue to support women and girls who are survivors of multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, including women with disabilities and women headed











households across the 9 geographic intervention areas and to strengthen their organizational resilience and influence in their field of work for the protection of women's rights. This includes (i) strengthened management systems (staff training, access to workstation & materials, management experience), governance (emergence of new female leaders, knowledge, and resource management) and fund-raising capacities (financial management experience with international structures), (ii) improved premises and service locations for women such as offices and health clinics/centres, access to radio broadcasts, and awareness-raising tools for use with targeted communities, etc.

Moreover, institutional funding has supported women' rights organizations to sustain themselves for an average of 9 months each with 221 staff/volunteers retained during the reporting period through remuneration and stipends. They have also developed and/or adopted adaptive strategies, tools, or systems, for continuity of their operations including development of risk management and contingency plans. At the management systems level, the five (5) recipient organizations have improved management and financial literacy skills and systems. This has improved staff performance and efficiency and has increased the role of women's organizations making them more equipped to respond to women and girls needs in crisis contexts and contributing to building women's movements and networks.

For example, a WPHF-SI partner which was affected by the earthquake of August 2021, MOFEDGA, and who received institutional funding, was able to adapt to the crisis by working remotely part of the time, as well as sustain itself by retaining its staff and equipping them with new technology in order to continue their work. This flexible funding not only contributed to rebuilding part of the destroyed premises (electricity with solar panels, windows, computer equipment), but also allowed the organization to more efficiently and quickly respond to women and girls' urgent needs on the ground. In response to the earthquake, MOFEDGA provided technical support to the Departmental Emergency Operations Centre (COUD), by making available to the latter some members of its staff and the material resources (telephone, laptop, internet, printer etc.) financed by the project. Further, 11 women, including 2 who had been physically assaulted, 4 adolescent girls and 2 girls, were accompanied through referral activities and case management of GBV/SGBV survivors. MOFEDGA has carried out a prevention and awareness campaign to counter any increase in GBV/SGBV cases in the municipalities most affected by the earthquake and coordinated a round table on gender-based violence bringing together more than thirty local and government actors on a regular basis. This space brought together local actors to better address the different problems and difficulties of the community and to take concrete actions to solve them. Through this space, the follow-up of cases of survivors of violence were treated systematically. It is also a space for exchanges between actors on good practices and complementary approaches to interventions in favor of survivors of violence.











Through WPHF-SI programmatic funding, women's and girls' rights groups, movements and CSOs, including those facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination, are also making progress to increase their influence and advance gender equality, protect women and girls and end VAWG, including family violence, in a fragile humanitarian context. During the reporting period, awareness-raising, advocacy, and training actions to prevent violence against women and girls were initiated through the departments and communes of intervention and contributed to improving people's perception, understanding of GBV and engaging communities to end it. In the southern region of the country, 14 radio programs were produced and broadcasted, including programmes bringing in women living with disabilities to raise awareness of their roles in the prevention of SGBV. Other communication and awareness-raising materials on gender-based violence and human rights were published, reaching hundreds of people and CSOs.

Capacity building efforts have also contributed to enhancing women's organizations influence and agency to work on ending SGBV. The progressive development of capacity of women's organizations has been key in the programme in order to use their power and influence in advocating to end violence against women and girls. For example, in the North-Easters parts of Haiti, through training of trainer's modalities, 20 people (18 women and 2 men) have improved their knowledge in the management of SGBV cases, the protection and well-being of women and girls who are survivors of GBV. These 20 people represented new ambassadors of the cause and will support in the relay of information to targeted communities. As a result, 902 people were trained and sensitized through 4 communities of the Grande-Anse region, including representatives of CBOs. These individuals have strengthened their capacity to process GBV cases and to monitor and evaluate their projects. Through M&E training provided by representatives of women's rights and community-based partner organizations, they each worked to develop a monitoring and evaluation plan.

PNG

During the reporting period, 5 local women's rights organizations strengthened their operational and technical capacity, through staff training on referral and case management of survivors of violence, acquiring IT equipment and transportation to enhance their reach within local communities. Institutional funding contributed to strengthening women's organizations staff confidence and their relationships with local stakeholders to implement their projects. For example, "Kup Women for Peace" expanded their awareness sessions and training for government and non-government representatives, and as a result saw an increase in men standing up against violence and enrolling their girls in schools. It also contributed to mobilization of women's organizations through advocacy initiatives to improve monitoring of violence against women and girls in the contexts of increased police brutality and conflicts. In addition, "Eden Empowerment" submitted a joint coalition recommendation to the PNG Government to adopt the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and established the platform 'Tok Aut Blong Stretim'











(TABS) to drive the mobilization of CSOs in PNG to monitor the current systems that protect women, girls and children.

Reporting on SRHR:

In Malawi, WPHF – SI grantees have reported notable progress on SRHR. Over the reporting period "Partners in Action for Sustainable Development" has reached 1,119 adolescent girls enabling them access to SRHR information and services. This also includes training that has built their capacity to report and support the community and their peers in the fight against SGBV/HP. In addition, "Karonga Debate Club" led a total of 37 interventions contributing towards raising awareness and also stimulated demand for SRHR services. 72 key gatekeepers such as traditional leaders, male champions, and mother groups' chairpersons, have also been key in the engagement with adolescents through their existing structures in addressing the critical barriers they face in accessing SRHR services and information. As such, these gatekeepers have been able to interact with the adolescent girls and women on SRHR creating a free and safe environment for girls and young women to access SRHR services and information. The grantee reached 8,979 (6,944 girls below 18 and 7,772 above 18) through dialogues and discussions on SRHR at district and community levels in schools and target communities through community dialogues, arts competitions, awareness rallies/campaigns, and engagements with community level groups. As per the District Health Office records in 2021, this has resulted in an increased uptake of SRHR services of 290% (from 1,159 to 4,517) by adolescents and young women.

In Haiti, as a result of WPHF-SI partners interventions during this reporting period, 65 female adolescents aged 12 to 17 years, and 81 women aged 18 to 35 years have accessed SRHR services and information, including training on GBV and STI/STD prevention, mentoring, and support for girls; facilitating access to specialized SRH services; and the development of prevention programs with educational sessions for young women and men on sexuality and their rights. They also received key techniques to strengthen their professional and personal development (self-esteem in mental and emotional health).

Rights Holders ("Beneficiaries")

Indicative numbers	Direct for 2021	Indirect for 2021	Comments / Explanations	
Women (18 yrs. and above)	68,942		DRC, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Uganda, Haiti and PNG. WPHF	
Girls (5-17 yrs)	23,186			











Men (18 yrs. and above)	24,467		does not collect disaggregated data for indirect beneficiaries.
Boys (5-17 yrs.)	9,628		
TOTAL	126,223	2,537,378	

Challenges and Mitigating Measures

During the reporting period, several challenges occurred. For example, in Africa, Haiti and PNG the continued persistence of the COVID-19 pandemic slowed down project implementation due to lockdowns, and several partners contracted COVID-19 leading to office closures for weeks, as well as several partners who suffered from illness and the sudden loss of staff or family member. WPHF and UN Women CO provided flexibility to slow down project activities and revise workplans and budgets as well as grant no-cost extensions where needed.

Second, during the reporting period, inflation of prices has led to increased costs in the implementation of projects. WPHF and Country Offices (CO) continued to guide implementing partners closely to discuss possible strategic changes in implementation and have provided the necessary flexibility to make adaptations in the project designs and budgets.

Third, as monitoring visits and capacity building efforts were shifted to online modalities as a result of the pandemic, weak internet connection, coupled with low ICT skills of partners, particularly in remote areas where WPHF-SI partners are active, has caused challenges in providing capacity building and support for women's organizations. In many countries, COs were required to follow up individually via phone with respective grantees to ensure the necessary information was received, and support could be provided. This was particularly challenging in PNG, where communications and onboarding of partners was severely delayed due to challenges in reaching the organizations and their limited capacity as small women's organizations. The partnership with CARE International aims to mitigate these barriers and support these organizations further by strengthening their organizational and programmatic capacity, bringing them together for increase coordination and mobilization, and improving communications channels and information sharing. However this support has been limited in its implementation in 2021 due to COVID-19. A detailed action plan and timeline for improved support to these organizations will be developed in 2022, to mitigate these challenges.

In addition, the volatile security situation in several countries including in the DRC, Nigeria and Haiti rendered project activities as well as capacity building efforts challenging. The insecurity and prevalence of armed











groups in project areas affected access to beneficiaries as well as the need to postpone meetings, trainings, and workshops to ensure safety. In the DRC, a state of emergency was announced in three provinces in the Eastern DRC, leading to the instalment of military governments. This made it almost impossible for grantees to work with district authorities, who are solely focusing on the fight against armed groups in the region and were not open to any advocacy or awareness raising activities on GBV. The security risks were however mitigated through a strategic selection of activity locations, travel times and access routes. Most importantly, all activities were paused if there were any risks for partners or beneficiaries, and adaptation and flexibility was provided to CSO partners. Moreover, the eruption of the Nyragongo volcano, near Goma in May 2021, slowed down dramatically the implementation of projects in these areas. Grantees are now in the process of revitalizing their activities in close cooperation with the UN Women office in Goma. Continued monitoring of security situations was undertaken while strictly following UN security briefings and guidance for UN missions. In the case of Afghanistan, the contracting process was delayed and then paused until January 2022 due to the escalating security situation and the Taliban takeover in August 2021.

Other challenges were also experienced, such as limited knowledge and/or experience in measuring and monitoring coalition building/movement building of the grantees. With most of the WPHF-SI projects having kicked off and made progress during this reporting year, a limited knowledge and/or experience in measuring and monitoring coalition building was noticed in the reports. Often, results were limited to activity based reporting, and tools used for collecting the data were not adapted to measure and monitor efforts for advocacy, coalition and movement building. In consultation with CSO partners and UN Women Country offices, the WPHF Secretariat developed a tip sheet on Measuring Coalition Building for Women's Social Movements to support partners, which highlights key metrics around formation and mobilization, implementation and impact, as well as various methods for collection of data and a set of adaptable data collection tools. In addition, the WPHF Secretariat developed a short one-pager with guiding questions to be included in the narrative quarterly reports of partners, to help them track their efforts and the change resulting from these efforts in a consistent and regular manner. See section below on promising practices for more details.

Timelines for project implementation, aside from the aforementioned factors, was also a challenge in 2021. As the priority for the WPHF is to reach local women's rights organizations in remote areas and from marginalized groups, through the CfPs, guidance and selection of organizations, the limited connectivity and non-UN experience of local women's rights organizations in remote areas, such as in PNG, has caused significant delays in their onboarding. To facilitate this, a new partnership was established with CARE PNG to increase the capacity of these organizations and ensure close support is provided to these smaller and more marginalized organizations. In person and mobile phone support was provided by both CARE and UN Women, while recognizing that more time needed to be provided to these organizations for capacity building











throughout the process. The variety of organizations selected and onboarded, required tailored capacity building and support, which in turn required more time. These different rhythms in onboarding and implementation have impacted the project timelines. Overall, it is essential to balance the leave no one behind approach with more programmatic timeline flexibility for a Do No Harm and feminist approach for equal partnerships. Quality funding of local and grassroot women's organizations from different sizes requires tailored support and flexible timelines.

Despite previous lessons learned aimed at reducing the selection time period at the national level, during the reporting period in Afghanistan, Haiti and PNG, delays were experienced in the selection process of proposals, mostly linked to challenges in setting a date for the final selection process at the national level due to the high-level nature of the NSCs and conflicting agendas of co-chairs. COVID-19 and security developments at the country level also shifted agenda availability for meetings to take place. In Haiti, to address these delays, discussions, and consultations on the Spotlight Initiative NSC took place until December 2020 and concluded with the organization of an ad-hoc committee in early 2021 to proceed with the final selection of projects. In PNG, NSC selection processes took place online to accelerate the timeline for implementation. In Afghanistan, during the reporting period, the UN Women country office in Afghanistan supported the establishment of the NSC for the WPHF, merged with the Spotlight National Steering Committee. The Ad Hoc Technical National Steering Committee Meeting for the Women's Peace & Humanitarian Fund and Spotlight Initiative was organized in mid-February 2021 but had to be postponed due to political challenges and changes in leadership in the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA). The Ad Hoc Technical National Steering Committee Meeting was ultimately held on 25 April 2021, co-chaired by the Deputy Minister of the MoWA and the Resident Coordinator's Office. National ownership by decision-makers is key to the sustainability and impact of the CfPs and projects.

During the reporting period, three cases of corruption/financial mismanagement among WPHF-SI grantees were recorded (2 in Uganda and 1 in Nigeria) and consequently these projects, in line with UN Women rules and regulations and after approval of the WPHF NSCs, were terminated. The UN Women Country offices are currently in process of finalizing all financial requirements followed by negotiations with the respective NSC on how to best utilize the recuperated funds from the three grantees.

Lessons Learned and New Opportunities

a) Lessons Learned

In the face of the gendered impacts of COVID-19 and the lack of funding posing existential risks for local women's rights organizations, WPHF together with SI included a new funding stream for institutional support











to the CfP. This provided the opportunity for local women's rights organizations to receive both institutional and programmatic funding to strengthen their capacity and cover the costs of adapting to COVID-19 (technology, safety, hygiene kits, internet costs, etc.) and simultaneously having time to focus on their advocacy and train their staff in proposal writing to ensure future funding and sustainability of their actions. After less than a year of implementation of these institutional grants, it is clear that institutional funding is key in the sustainability of small women's rights organizations, particularly in crisis contexts, and has been used to not only strengthen organizational capacity and resiliency, but also to adapt to and be more effective in carrying out their mission in the protection of women and girls. This is supported by WPHF's global annual CSO survey¹⁷ which revealed that 90.7% of CSOs feel that their organization's existence is at either moderate, high or very high risk due to lack of institutional funding or core funding in the WPS and humanitarian sphere, an increase by approximately 4 percentage points from 86.4% in 2020. Another 20.5% of organizations feel that this risk has substantially increased from 2020. WPHF will continue to promote and provide institutional funding to local women's organizations to contribute to women's movement building and sustain their presence and participation in conflict and crisis settings where their presence is key to protecting and advancing women and girls rights. See result section for examples.

Another lesson learned is ensuring the Leave No One Behind and Do No Harm principles are applied not only through the application and selection process but also through the implementation of projects. With almost half of WPHF-SI partners receiving funding for the first time from the UN, WPHF has demonstrated its ability to reach new and grassroot organizations. In addition to broad dissemination of CfPs, WPHF limited requirements, simplified applications and guidance provided to applicants has increased the quality and diversity of applications received. Indeed, donor flexibility for programmatic timelines as well as capacity building of small local women's rights organizations in remote areas and from marginalized groups are key for inclusive movement building. Through the WPHF-SI partnership, almost half of the partners are receiving funding from the UN for the first time. Delays encountered due to low connectivity (remote areas) and lower capacity of organizations in terms of organisational management as well as monitoring and reporting should not be responded to with additional pressure for delivery but rather flexibility in timelines for implementation. Onboarding trainings, M&E support, organizational capacity building, and when needed no cost extensions, have been key to strengthen the organizations and leave no one behind.

Since the WPHF aims at partnering with women's rights organizations that have not yet been reached by the UN, who are mainly local and grassroots organizations, a comprehensive kick-off workshop that thoroughly

¹⁷ 161 WPHF previous and current CSO grantees across 23 countries participated in the survey, including 51 CSO from SI targeted countries.











explain the reporting obligations, both financial and narrative, as well as the basics of Results Based Management (RBM) is crucial. UN Women offices held either in-person trainings or online orientation workshops with new grantees. For example, in Nigeria, UN Women reported fewer challenges regarding the reporting obligations of the grantees as a result of this onboarding process, which also included sessions on communications guidelines. Further user-friendly guidance on RBM, collection of data using Do No Harm approaches, feminist and ethical considerations in M&E, and monitoring and measuring coalition building and movement building, were developed by the WPHF Secretariat, along with short, accessible and adaptable tools for CSO partners to improve the quality of reporting.

b) New Opportunities

At the global level, WPHF amplified local women's rights organizations' voices and their expertise was recognized and shared through various platforms.

The WPHF Secretariat provided spaces for local women's rights organizations to share their expertise, demands and recommendations globally with different stakeholders through online events and through its global Community of Practice (CoP). In total, WPHF facilitated the participation of WPHF-SI partners as speakers in 4 events, with representation from Haiti, PNG and Nigeria.

The 2021 WPHF Annual Survey on WPHF Learning Hub Initiatives reveals that women's organizations have a strong interest in capacity development and knowledge exchange with 43 organizations asking for more regular training webinars and peer exchanges to support their work. The importance of providing online and in-person platforms for discussion and learning from others was highlighted repeatedly. Building on previous efforts, WPHF launched the Mentorship Scheme in late 2021, to provide learning and mentoring opportunities for women's organizations. By leveraging creative partnerships with governments, private sector entities and I/NGOs, WPHF aims to continue offering meaningful opportunities to women leaders to meet, share and cross-pollinate their experiences and lessons, especially relating to advocacy and movement building to promote gender equality in crisis and conflict settings.

At the country level, through the support of the WPHF Secretariat, grantees developed their organizational capacity, which enabled them to be more aware of further funding opportunities. In Uganda for example the WPHF grantees were invited to hand in their application to become a partner to implement the Strategic Note of the UN Women Country Office 2022-2025.

Innovative, Promising or Good Practices

At the grantee/partner level











Several grantees of the WPHF-Spotlight Initiative used art, music and sport to raise awareness and end VAW. The grantee "Teso Women Peace Activists" in Uganda organized sport events together with local clubs and government in order to gain attention of the local communities, in particular youth, to educate them about VAW. The grantee "Umbrella of Hope Initiative" in Uganda and "Association 4 Chemins" developed a drama skit that was acted out by individuals of the community during community awareness raising activities. In Liberia, the grantee "Platform for Dialogue & Peace" presented its research results in short videos using testimonies from community members, which were broadcast at theatres before movie screenings or in bars before football games. In Nigeria, the grantee "Initiative for the Development of the Needy, Orphans, Less privilege and Widows" developed jingles educating the target population about VAW, which were aired in 3 local languages on the radio. Sports, drama skits, videos are innovative tools to create attention of local communities, in particular youth as these tools enable grantees to raise awareness about VAW in a subtle yet engaging way. The actors, singers or stakeholders of the tools are from the community themselves, which enables the community members to identify with the activity and the topic and take ownership.

At the global level

In 2021, WPHF produced several key guiding documents to support WPHF-SI partners. The first, is a Peer Exchange Brief on the Key steps to Coalition Building Advocating for Women's Rights, Advancing Peace, and Ending Violence Against Women and Girls in collaboration with the SI Secretariat to summarize CSOs' learnings and best practices after the Peer Exchange conducted in November 2021. A Peer Exchange Infographic was also produced to present concepts and tips to work effectively in a coalition in an accessible format. The second was a tip sheet on Measuring Coalition Building for Women's Social Movements, highlighting key metrics around formation and mobilization, implementation and impact, as well as various methods for collection of data and a set of adaptable data collection tools. Finally, to complement quarterly reporting by partners, a set of guiding questions for documenting and reporting on advocacy and coalitions and movement building results was developed by the WPHF Secretariat. The webinars' recordings and companion training resources have been made available through the WPHF Global Learning Hub (L-HUB) channels (email list, digital platform, Facebook group) to enable CSOs with low connectivity access the training contents and information. These tip sheets and resources are user friendly and accessible for local grassroots women's rights organizations and have effectively facilitated their work around coalition building, measurement of their programmes, and results-based reporting.

Communications and Visibility

a) Overview











In 2021, the WPHF Secretariat executed a wide range of strategic communications and public advocacy initiatives aimed at driving enhanced visibility for the WPHF-SI partnership while amplifying the central role of the EU as a generous donor, and the voices and transformative impact of women civil society leaders working to end SGBV in crisis contexts. WPHF and SI worked in close coordination throughout the year to develop a range of complementary communications initiatives that enhanced public awareness of the WPHF-SI partnership and the critical work of its civil society partners - building on a strong foundation of strategic collaboration that continues to effectively shift public narratives of women from passive survivors to active agents of change and centers the critical contributions and voices of local women's rights organizations in crises settings working at the forefront of SGBV prevention and response.

The WPHF Secretariat worked throughout the year to reinforce among its partners and managing UN Women CO focal points, the WPHF-SI Communications Guidelines, which outlines comprehensive guidance on cobranding, logo usage, social media best practices and standard language used to effectively communicate on the WPHF-SI partnership across various traditional and social media channels.

The WPHF Secretariat also leveraged its growing social media presence across its Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn channels (with a total following of over 19,000 constituents around the world) to enhance the visibility of the WPHF-SI partnership, new funding opportunities for local women's rights organizations in crisis contexts, and the impact of its partners on the front lines. In close coordination with the Spotlight Initiative global communications team, WPHF highlighted key initiatives across its social media channels, including the active promotion of joint WPHF-SI calls for proposals, furthering the visibility and awareness among a wide range of audiences. WPHF also leveraged the International Day to End Violence Against Women and the corresponding 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence campaign to drive broader awareness of the impact of WPHF-SI CSO grantees and local women's rights organizations to end sexual and gender-based violence in crises settings across the globe.

b) Messages

Throughout 2021, WPHF highlighted the impact of WPHF-SI-supported partners through regular contribution such as articles and success stories the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women, UNiTE Action Circulars. These publications successfully targeted the UN, INGO and other expert advocacy audiences with messaging on the unique added value of local women's civil society organizations and their contributions to a range of SGBV-related topics, such as funding, prevention, response and collecting data on the improvement of SGBV services.

c) Media and visibility events











In 2021, WPHF facilitated spaces for WPHF-SI grantees, to amplify their voices, their roles and the visibility of the impact of their work in protecting women's rights and EVAW in crisis and conflict affected countries. These contributed to Spotlight Initiative visibility and influencing the donor community for more flexible and quality funding to support local women's rights organizations as key actors for transformative change.

On the sidelines of the Commission on the Status of Women 65 (CSW65) 2021, WPHF together with the SI organized an online event reaching a variety of CSOs, UN, EU, government and academia representatives. The dynamic discussion demonstrated the need for flexible institutional funding to strengthen the efforts and influence of local women's rights organizations and their work on the frontlines of WPS and humanitarian action. The event included voices from 7 WPHF grantees from across the world, including 2 WPHF-SI grantees from Haiti and PNG, who shared testimonies of how institutional funding has supported their organization and work through crisis and complex environments. The discussion led to a policy brief on the importance of flexible quality institutional funding to continue to influence the international community, especially ahead of the UN Peacebuilding Financing discussions in 2022. WPHF has integrated institutional funding in its funding streams since 2020, to respond to the demands and needs of WROs to sustain themselves through crisis, adapt and strengthen their capacity and contribute to women's movement building.

In October 2021, WPHF partnered with Ireland, the International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN) and the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) on a virtual event on the sidelines of the UN Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security: Investing in Local Women Leaders on the Front Lines: Accelerating a Global Movement for Inclusive Peace & Humanitarian Action. The event raised the visibility of the WPHF #1000WomenLeaders campaign among Government donors and UN stakeholders – underscoring the new WPHF campaign as a formal commitment of the WPS-HA Compact of the Generation Equality Forum - amplified the voices and critical work of 5 local women peacebuilders, humanitarians and WHRDs – including a WPHF-SI partner from Nigeria, on the urgent global imperative to accelerate support for local women's rights organizations across the globe.

On 24th November, a WPHF-SI partner from Haiti participated as a speaker in the UNiTE International Day for the Elimination of VAW event organized by UN Women. It was the opportunity to highlight the universal nature of VAWG and acknowledging the particular challenges related to COVID-19, humanitarian and conflict situations as well as to celebrate the success stories, showcasing the ground-breaking and transformative work that is being carried out despite the impact of the pandemic and often in highly complex humanitarian settings around the world, to show that VAWG can be prevented and inspire scale up and greater investments in the proven solutions.











d) Campaigns

In March 2021, WPHF unveiled its new 5-year campaign: #1000WomenLeaders: Accelerating a Global Movement for Peace and Equality. The campaign aims to invest in 1,000 women leaders – including women rights leaders working to end SGBV in 1,000 crisis-affected communities through contributions to 5 key areas:

- (1) Mobilize Financing to Support their Work;
- (2) Strengthen their Institutional Capacity;
- (3) Amplify their Voices, Priorities and Impact;
- (4) Drive Innovation, Connection & Community; and
- (5) Advocate for their Rights, Recognition & Influence.

The campaign highlights numerous leaders from the WPHF grantees, among them 2 from WPHF-Spotlight Initiative funded organisations (Uganda and Liberia). It was launched on International Women's Day and hosted by celebrity Whoopi Goldberg and featured WPHF Global Advocate Kristen Bell, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Leymah Gbowee, Global Coordinator of the Spotlight Initiative Nahla Valji, Chief of UN Women's Peace, Security and Humanitarian Section Paivi Kannisto, and Razia Saltana of the Rohingya Women Welfare Society, a WPHF partner in Bangladesh. The campaign launch was also promoted on The View, the highest-rated day time talk show in the United States with over 2.5 million total viewers per week. The WPHF Secretariat also arranged for two global landmarks – the London Eye in the United Kingdom and the Jet D'eau in Switzerland – to illuminate in the Fund's colors to mark the campaign launch and honor local women peacebuilders, humanitarians and CSO leaders working to prevent and respond to SGBV in contexts of crises across the globe.

e) Human interest stories:

As part of the WPHF #1000WomenLeaders campaign, a story from a WPHF-SI partner in Uganda was published here: https://wphfund.org/in-her-own-words-robinah/













Testimony of Maureen Petit-Frère - Gender project officer at HAGN (Haiti) - Under the institutional funding.

I am Maureen Petit-Frère. I work at HAGN as a gender project officer. My role within the organization is to implement strategies and programs aimed at the prevention of gender-based violence and the leadership development of adolescent girls and youth.

I enjoyed working with teens and youth face-to-face in safe spaces, an essential component of the asset creation program for them. But the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted my work environment and threatened my job at HAGN.

Indeed, due to the lockdown, weekly group meetings through safe spaces have been interrupted in communities. In addition, HAGN lost much of its funding to its institutional strengthening, which faced it with a possible closure.

This situation affected me psychologically and the entire network. First, I used to use technology, but it wasn't an integral part of my work environment. Second, mentors did not have access to technological tools such as smartphones. This made the task of remote project management and capacity building illusory for me. Finally, HAGN no longer had the means to adapt to this new environment of social distancing, which would result in the loss of my job.

Thanks to this WPHF-SI institutional funding, I was not only able to keep my job for the long term, but it also allowed me to improve my communication strategies and adapt to the new work environment thanks to the support of technological tools, teleworking software, and access to high-speed internet.

Today, it is easy for me to stay at home and continue to remotely build the capacity of mentors on issues of peacebuilding, protection, and prevention of gender-based violence.

This institutional funding saved me from the fear of losing my job, allowed me to adapt to this challenging work environment and above all allowed HAGN to continue to meet the needs of the most vulnerable women and girls in the targeted communities and respond to the crisis.

f) Testimonials:

The following testimonies are from WPHF-SI partners from around the world:











We recommend that donors consider the situation of local women's organizations working in extremely hard conditions to address discrimination and violence against women and girls. We ask donors to trust local women's organizations and to provide flexible institutional funding to support their work."

-Roselaure Aubourg, WPHF-SI partner MOFEDGA, Haiti

"I think having seen my mother struggle to raise all of us into adulthood was a great lesson in resilience. I have seen women walk for miles to get what they want. And I want to contribute to pushing them from behind. Organizations like CoACT do the real work on the ground, yet we are hampered by lack of adequate and sustained funding. Local organizations work directly with women and communities affected by conflict and violence. The perpetrators of war and SGBV live in the communities where we work. We help build peace from the ground up. You cannot build peace from top down."

- Robinah Rubimbwa, WPHF-SI partner CoACT 1325, Uganda

"We need to work together to support each other to end Violence Against Women and Girls.

-Angela Apa, WPHF-SI partner KUP Women for Peace, PNG

"Thank you for your message and update. It is really hopeful for Afghan women that donors are still working and are besides of Afghan women". "Let me thank you from the bottom of my heart for striving to protect and sustain women led organizations".

Two WPHF-SI partners in Afghanistan (anonymized for safety)

g) Photos













In Malawi, the WPHF + Spotlight Initiative partnership is supporting Partners in Action for Sustainable

Development (PASD) to implement TUSINDE (Let Us Change) project to address SGBV through enhancing service delivery for survivors, working with community groups, such as women's forums, youth clubs, Area Development Committees, traditional leaders, and community policing structures. © Amos Chiyenda, PASD













In **Nigeria**, the WPHF + Spotlight Initiative partnership is supporting the work of the **MOGEWE Consortium**, composed of four youth and community-based women's groups, on a project called "Mobilizing CSOs for Gender Equality and Women Empowerment in Borno State," which is mobilizing youth, women and girls' groups for advocate for and enhance awareness of SGBV prevention and response efforts, while also building local women survivors' capacity to develop skills for income generation. Soap Production class in Konduga Local Government Area, Borno State, Nigeria. © MOGEWE / April 2021













In Uganda, the WPHF-SI partnership is supporting the Women's International Peace Center to strengthen the leadership capacity and influence of local women leaders and women's groups across refugee settlements and host communities in Adjumani district as well as effectively influence peace building and decision-making processes to advance gender equality in humanitarian settings. © 2021 WIPC

h) Videos:

The following video series was created as part of the #1000WomenLeaders campaign, which includes the voices of WPHF-SI partners from the Women Empowerment Network and the Gbowee Peace Foundation in Liberia.

https://youtu.be/Zr7hcwQbMig

https://youtu.be/cSe82hp1dN4

The following video highlights the voices of WPHF-SI partners as they share their perspectives on the importance of flexible, institutional financing to sustain the efforts of local women's rights organizations in Haiti and PNG working to prevent and respond to SGBV in contexts of crises.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X-m2trkoMwY&t=13s

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NVRdxsASAwE











Next Steps

For the DRC, Malawi, Nigeria, Uganda and Haiti, 2022 will be crucial in demonstrating further results at the outcome and impact levels. The respective ME in country will provide close guidance in implementation and impact measurement through further online trainings, capacity building workshops and field visits.

For Afghanistan, project revisions will be finalized and contracting and onboarding of the 16 projects will be completed gradually in the first and second quarter of 2022 .

For PNG, meetings will be organized at managerial and deputy level to find solutions and set up plans for final onboarding of the second round of partners and improved monitoring and evaluation, with capacity building of WPHF-SI partners and more coordinated efforts at the country level.

Further field missions by the UN Women CO together with the WPHF Secretariat will be carried out in all countries, as the UN COVID-19 travel restrictions are mostly lifted.

Quarterly monitoring calls will continue to be held between the WPHF Secretariat and the WPHF focal points in the UN Women COs of all WPHF-Spotlight Initiative countries in order to closely monitor the budget absorption as well as discuss progress, results, challenges and successes.

The WPHF Secretariat and UN Women country offices will continue to support WPHF-SI visibility through regular social media posts and development of stories and other communications products.

As part of its continuous advocacy in support of women's rights organizations in crisis settings, the WPHF will continue to amplify and facilitate spaces for local women's rights organizations voices in international platforms.

Finally, a webinar dedicated to strengthening the understanding and skills for WPHF-SI partners on monitoring and measuring coalition building/movement building will be organized in 2022, following the Tip Sheet distributed to countries and partners.











ANNEXES

Annex B: Risk Matrix

Annex C: CSO Engagement Report

Annex D: Innovative, Promising or Good Practices Reporting Template







