



Spotlight Initiative

ANNUAL NARRATIVE PROGRAMME REPORT

PROGRAMME TITLE: SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE PACIFIC REGIONAL PROGRAMME

PROGRAMME START DATE: 01 OF JANUARY 2020

REPORTING PERIOD: 01 JANUARY 2020 – 31 DECEMBER 2020



Programme Title & Programme Number Programme Title: Spotlight Initiative Pacific Regional Programme MPTF Office Project Reference Number: ¹ 00119129	Priority regions/areas/localities for the programme 16 Pacific Island countries: Fiji, Samoa, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Nauru, Tuvalu, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, PNG, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tokelau, Niue and Cook Islands. Multi-Country Focus: Fiji, Republic of Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands																					
Recipient Organization(s) UN Women; UNFPA; UNDP; UNICEF; IOM	Key Partners Government/Intergovernmental organizations: The Pacific Community Regional Rights Resource Team (SPC RRRT); UN Agencies/UN Programme Partners; Civil Society Organizations; Academic Institutions																					
Programme Cost (US\$) Total Phase I approved budget as per the Spotlight CPD/RPD: 7,835,932 USD Phase I Spotlight funding: ² 7,077,830 USD Agency Contribution: 758,102 USD Spotlight Funding and Agency Contribution by Agency: <table border="1" data-bbox="120 1079 786 1423"> <thead> <tr> <th>Name of RUNO</th> <th>Spotlight Phase I (USD)</th> <th>UN Agency Contributions (USD)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>UNWOMEN</td> <td>4,278,744</td> <td>482,117</td> </tr> <tr> <td>UNFPA</td> <td>1,142,597</td> <td>139,012</td> </tr> <tr> <td>UNDP</td> <td>791,284</td> <td>27,133</td> </tr> <tr> <td>UNICEF</td> <td>674,635</td> <td>100,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>IOM</td> <td>190,571</td> <td>9,840</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL:</td> <td>7,077,830</td> <td>758,102</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Name of RUNO	Spotlight Phase I (USD)	UN Agency Contributions (USD)	UNWOMEN	4,278,744	482,117	UNFPA	1,142,597	139,012	UNDP	791,284	27,133	UNICEF	674,635	100,000	IOM	190,571	9,840	TOTAL:	7,077,830	758,102	Programme Start and End Dates Start Date: 01.01.2020 ³ End Date: 31.12.2022 Report Submitted By: Sanaka Samarasingha, Resident Coordinator to Fiji, Fed. States of Micronesia, Solomon Islands, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Palau, Tonga, Vanuatu, Nauru and Tuvalu.
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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](#).

² The Spotlight Contribution refers to the amount transferred to the Recipient UN Organizations, which is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#).

³ Pre-funding start date 1 June 2019 as per OSC#7 (14 May 2019) approval. Pillar 6 start date 24 July 2020 as per OSC#9 decision.



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Acronym List

Acronyms and Definitions

AWP	Annual Work Plans
CEDAW:	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CROP:	Council of Regional Organizations of the Pacific
CSOs:	Civil Society Organizations
DFAT:	Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
DHS:	Demographic Health Survey
DV:	Domestic Violence
EVAWG:	Ending Violence Against Women and Girls
EU:	European Union
FLE:	Family Life Education
FPA:	Family Protection Act
FSM:	Federated States of Micronesia
GRB	Gender Responsive Budgeting
IOM:	International Organization for Migration
IPV:	Intimate Partner Violence
KM:	Knowledge Management
LBT:	Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender
LGBTQI:	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning, Intersex
NGOs:	Non-Government Organisations
M&E:	Monitoring and Evaluation
MCO:	Multi-country Office
NDMO:	National Disaster Management Office
PCC:	Pacific Council of Churches
PIFS:	Pacific Island Forum Secretariat
PJSI:	Pacific Judicial Strengthening Initiative
PLGED:	Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration
PNG:	Papua New Guinea
PPDVP:	Pacific Prevention of Domestic Violence Programme
RC:	Resident Coordinator
RMI:	Republic of the Marshall Islands
RRF:	Regional Results Framework
SPCC RRRT:	Regional Rights Resource Team of the Pacific Community (SPC RRRT)
RUNOs:	Recipient United Nations Organizations
SDGs:	Sustainable Development Goals
SGBV:	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
SPC:	The Pacific Community
SRH:	Sexual Reproductive Health
SRHR:	Sexual Reproductive Health Rights



UN:	United Nations
UNDAFs:	United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks
UNEG:	United Nations Evaluation Group
UNFPA:	United Nations Fund for Population Activities
UNICEF:	United Nations Children's Fund
UNDP:	United Nations Development Programme
UN Women:	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
VAC:	Violence against children
VAG:	Violence against girls
VAW:	Violence against women
VAWG:	Violence against women and girls
WHO:	World Health Organization



Executive Summary

Key results:

Key results of the Spotlight Initiative Pacific Regional Programme in the first year of implementation have focused on the set up of the programme, establishing key partnerships, and putting in place the platforms to ensure *the principles of UN Reform and leaving no one behind* are well integrated into the programming.

While 2020 was a foundational year for the Pacific's implementation of the Spotlight Initiative, it is encouraging to already see three major shifts and indications of broader transformations across the region in the areas of increased galvanization of political will in the region to address violence against women and girls (VAWG); increased focus on and bolstering of support to small, grassroots organizations who are facilitating critical work at the local and national level; using Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) as a game changer in addressing gender and power dynamics, unequal power in intimate relationships; and contribution to substantive social norm shifts with influential sectors, namely faith. These shifts are critical steps forward in the programme's objectives of fostering an enabling environment and increased government resources that are dedicated to ending Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG).

Engagement with Government and Civil Society representatives has been ongoing during the reporting period, facilitating the establishment of diverse programme partnerships, and development of work plans, defining agreements, and advancing implementation. Some examples of joint work that Spotlight Initiative conducted with these partners in 2020 included: (i) The costing of violence/gender-responsive budgeting work and confirmed collaborative working relationships with a network of regional and country partners over the reporting period. This includes women's machineries in Solomon Islands and Fiji; Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development; The Pacific Community (SPC), the key technical intergovernmental body in the Pacific; Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIFS), which is the key organization that implements the Gender Declaration for Pacific Island Leaders, and existing programmes such as the Pacific Partnership to End Violence Against Women and Girls. (ii) The work within countries in close collaboration with National Government partners, to ensure stakeholder buy in and in moving programme implementation forward. (iii) The Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC) and the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) were also selected as key implementing partners with regional influence and mandates. PCC's partnership will contribute significantly to the promotion of social and behaviour change towards gender-equitable, child-friendly and violence-free norms, within and through member Churches across the region and IPPF was selected as an implementing partner on Comprehensive Sexuality Education (known as Family



Life Education in the region) across the Pacific and their work on the strengthening capacity of health workers to enable mobilization of communities to support women's access to services. (iv) The Partnership with the Fiji and Solomon Islands Parliaments will help legislators shape laws to ensure they reflect gender-sensitive priorities and recognize the needs of domestic violence survivors in particular. (v), A diversity of new civil society partners was brought onboard in 2020 across outcome areas. Partners engaged through the small grants mechanism for civil society represent groups traditionally unreached by EVAWG funding, and they were chosen because of the intersectional nature of their work, which already exhibited the principle of "Leaving No One Behind". Resourcing civil society, especially smaller civil society organizations in Pacific Island Countries that receive less funding opportunities and investment, encourages their engagement in advocacy at national and regional levels. By targeting countries that have little to no access to EVAWG funding, the programme was able to break the mold on feminist partnerships and support groups with a more intersectional focus, reaching the most marginalized groups.

Key highlights of the progress made towards the implementation of all pillars under the Spotlight Initiative Regional Programme are the following:

Pillar 1: Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) policy efforts resourced by the Spotlight Initiative weave with regional efforts to build civil society capacity for GRB led by PIFS and national initiatives to mainstream gender in budgets led by Ministries of Women, Ministry of Economy and other government departments. While COVID-19 delayed discussions on GRB, key dialogues and foundational relationship-building processes with stakeholders which took place in 2020 will spur forward actions and priorities for the region over the coming years.

Pillar 2: Institutional work in 2020 focused on securing resources and partnerships for referral strengthening of multi-sector response services in the North Pacific; bolstering the costing of violence research to include a capacity strengthening components for governments and civil society; and resourcing civil society partners to undertake policy and legislative advocacy in parallel to the research. Referral strengthening efforts in the North Pacific have primarily focused on the Republic of Marshall Islands in the health and social services sector. Linked to Outcome one, the costing of violence research has built in a flexible capacity-building, mentoring and technical assistance component to ensure that the research is as participatory and holistic in each country as possible. Foundational processes and relationship-building dialogues with civil society partners were also required to support their policy advocacy partnership agreements.

Pillar 3: In the policy landscape, the programme broke through political and social barriers to supporting sexual and reproductive health and rights for young people via the launch of the International Technical and Programmatic Guidance on Out-of-School Comprehensive Sexuality Education. This has ignited political commitment and broken social barriers to ensure



national capacities for designing and rolling out CSE across the Pacific region are increased. The development of regional and national policies and praxis on a faith-based Safe Church policy that will greatly influence the Pacific region. COVID-19 created a challenge to the facilitation of regional events in person but also the opportunity to increase participation as well as national ownership. In the regional faith-based prevention space, consultations have taken place with a broad range of stakeholders on faith-based engagement in EVAWG, which has contributed to opening a space within highly traditional and structured communities to talk more openly about EVAWG and the moral imperative of faith-based organizations and faith-based leaders to influence change within and outside of the Church.

Pillar 4: Provision of quality essential services, pillar four in the global Spotlight Initiative Theory of Change, is not covered by the Spotlight Initiative Pacific Regional Programme.

Pillar 5: Holistic data efforts to tackle prevalence, multi-sector administrative data and capacity-building on data for the Pacific was underway in 2020. The objectives of the data pillar are to build capacities to collect, analyse and report on prevalence and administrative data. This includes, harnessing learning across the region to support evidence based EVAWG programmes. The kNOwVAWdata Initiative launched an Expression of Interest for the region's comprehensive training course. In the GBV Multi-Sector Administrative Data space, a regional technical reference group has been coordinated between UN agencies in partnership with the Pacific Community (SPC) and University of Melbourne, who are key implementing partners under Pillar five.

Pillar 6: Significant headway has been made to create space and amplify voice for feminist movements and civil society in the Pacific recognizing that Spotlight funds contribute to a broader feminist strategy three decades in the making for the region. In 2020, the key outcomes achieved have been to resource small, grassroots organizations (directly or via granting mechanisms) that are often left out of mainstream funding for EVAWG or Gender Equality and to strengthen relationships with feminist movements and change makers so we can collectively engage as partners for the next two years of the Spotlight Initiative. In particular, a COVID-19 Response for Small Grants was released and supports eight grantees in four countries, noting that the process and trust building has been as important as the outcome.

Programme governance arrangements and implementation status:

During the reporting period, the Spotlight Initiative Pacific Regional Programme implementation was affected by global and regional emergencies (Tropical Cyclone Harold, followed by Tropical Cyclone Yasa, and the global pandemic of COVID-19) coupled with delays in the start-up of programme setup for the Spotlight Initiative have hampered implementation capacities during the reporting cycle, generating delays.



Despite these contextual shifts and related challenges, under the overall strategic oversight of the Resident Coordinator, in partnership with the European Union Delegation, and close coordination among UN agencies engaged as Recipient United Nations Organizations (RUNOs) and regional partners, the Pacific Regional Programme for Spotlight Initiative has made progress in establishing foundational processes. This includes the establishment of a Multi-Stakeholder Regional Steering Committee; advancing strategic discussions and planning for the establishment of a Civil Society Regional Reference Group; and development of annual work plans to ensure that the programme is well placed for accelerated implementation moving forward. The Initiative has been able to re-assess programming to ensure that regional activities integrate considerations related to the impact of COVID-19 on the region. A COVID-19 response plan was developed and discussed with the EU Delegation, and COVID-19 considerations were integrated into the 2020 Annual Work Plan developed in consultation with regional stakeholders and civil society partners. The regional programme's strategic edge is to advance innovative approaches and regional agreements that forward ending Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). COVID-19 lessons learned and ongoing impacts, especially the social and economic impacts unique to the Pacific region, will be centered in almost all aspects of programming in 2021. Another key highlight for 2020 was the launching of the Spotlight Initiative Regional Programme in Suva, Fiji on October 13th of 2020.

Delivery Under UN Reform:

Spotlight Initiative is promoting a new way of working together which is collaborative and coherent to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In line with UN Reform and under the overall leadership of the Resident Coordinator for Fiji, Fed. Micronesia, Solomon Islands, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Palau, Tonga, Vanuatu, Nauru and Tuvalu, the coordination measures set up during the first year of implementation have facilitated ongoing interagency coordination, cohesive programme management, and technical coherence, all of which will allow the programme to operate more flexibly and efficiently in order to achieve transformative results. All these processes embody the principles of UN Reform, reflective of a “new way of working” which aims to facilitate programme coherence and streamlined delivery of the Spotlight Initiative Pacific Regional programme.

The Spotlight Initiative also amplifies and complements existing leadership and work underway in the Pacific's EVAWG ecosystem, having joined existing coordination spaces both at regional and country level. The Regional Programme aims to add value, maximize investment, and contribute to the scale, sustainability, visibility, lessons learnt and replication of existing regional (EVAWG) programming. The Regional Pacific Programme builds on and complements the



Regional strategies of the EU-funded Pacific Partnership to End Violence Against Women and Girls (Pacific Partnership) to address the gaps in EVAWG programming and amplify the impact of EVAWG work across the Pacific region. In addition, the regional programme supports multi-country interventions in Solomon Islands, Fiji and the Republic of Marshall Islands. The multi-country component is an extension of the Regional Programme and focuses on piloting innovative approaches and adapting key regional initiatives at the country level in these countries and in-line with country-based priorities.

Approach: The UN Resident Coordinator (RC) has been responsible for overall co-ordination, strategic direction and oversight of the Spotlight Initiative Programme, including responsibility for planning, implementation, communication, monitoring and review, and facilitating collaboration amongst stakeholders. The RC draws on the technical expertise of the Recipient UN Organisations (RUNOs), enabling a coordinated and concerted approach to address VAWG across the Pacific through streamlined delivery. The Spotlight Initiative Programme is heavily engaged in technical coherence and coordination supported by the Technical Coherence Lead Agency. The Technical Coherence function has sought to ensure coherence within the Spotlight Initiative Programme as well as with the existing EVAWG ecosystem in the Pacific region.

The Regional Programme strategy takes a gender transformative approach and recognizes and addresses the intersection of different forms of discrimination and adopts a comprehensive ‘do no harm’ approach that ensure strategies are tailored and inclusive where required, to ensure the ‘leave no one behind’ principle is mainstreamed across all pillars and actions. The approach is grounded on evidence and centered around the partnership with civil society, autonomous feminist and women’s rights organizations particularly, as the key drivers to achieving sustainable policy and social norm change to end violence against women and girls.

The cascading impact of COVID-19 in the Pacific, namely social, economic and health implications, has hampered a cross-cutting approach in the programme which is regional dialogue, regional advocacy and regional engagement, as these interventions are typically held in-person. Although this has impacted the gender and EVAWG space, it will be a larger topic of discussion for the region.

Contextual Shifts and Implementation Status

Significant shifts and new developments in broader social, political, or economic context: Other than COVID-19, significant contextual shifts and new developments in the broader social, political and economic context of the Pacific Region in 2020 have been mainly linked to



natural/climate disasters, and changes in Government. During the reporting period, two category five Tropical Cyclones affected the Pacific region, Tropical Cyclone Harold and Tropical Cyclone Yasa, making landfall and severely affecting Vanuatu, Fiji, Tonga and Solomon Islands in particular. The state of emergency declared during both Tropical Cyclones has required prioritization of immediate, lifesaving needs and hampered the ability to advance discussions with Government and Civil Society partners on various work streams. In person meeting and dialogues were also impacted, and the set up of governance structures was delayed. Overall implementation was also affected, as strategic partners needed to prioritize all capacity and resources to respond to the emergencies. This played a significant part in the delay experienced in the development and implementation of workplans with both Government and CSO partners. In affected communities, the disasters also increased the risks for women and girls to experience violence.

Despite these challenges, under the overall strategic oversight of the Resident Coordinator, technical engagement from the Technical Coherence Lead Agency, and close coordination among Recipient United Nations Organizations (RUNOs), the Pacific Regional Programme for Spotlight Initiative remains on track with workplans underway, having been able to re-assess programming to ensure that regional activities integrate considerations related to the impact of natural/climate disasters and the global pandemic of COVID-19.

Effects of COVID-19 on the context of work: Although the Pacific Island Countries (PICs) have recorded a smaller number of cases of COVID-19 compared to other regions, travel restrictions and border closures to prevent imported cases of the COVID-19 have been in place. Declarations of state of public health emergency were made effective in most countries, closure of borders, lockdowns, curfews and social distancing requirements were also introduced to prevent the transmission of COVID-19. COVID-19 effectively narrowed the focus of work of all Government and CSO partners to prevention and containment efforts. The development and implementation of activities under workplans became increasingly difficult for partners to prioritize, and in particular the Ministries of Health were completely subsumed by COVID-19 efforts. The region, characterized by its high dependence on tourism has suffered immensely from border closures and lockdowns and—the loss of tourism revenue, with knock on effects on overall economic activity, supply chains and job losses. COVID-19 has substantial social and economic impacts on the Pacific region leading to increased economic, food and shelter insecurity for many including women and girls in rural areas, female and child headed households and informal sector workers (mostly women) and those who are not captured in existing social protection schemes in countries where such schemes exist. The extended period of border closures, covering most of the year 2020 and continued in 2021, has impacted



livelihoods and the socio-economic status of many families, in turn also driving up the risk factors for domestic violence and intimate partner violence.

Dampened economic activity and consumer spending has had and will continue to have serious repercussions on the developmental outcomes of PICs and their ability to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) warranting an immediate response in containing the spread of COVID-19 and stabilizing the regions' economies in a resilient and sustainable manner.

Programme response and adjustments relative to COVID-19: Despite the challenging and uncertain context of operation, through close inter-agency coordination and timely technical coherence discussions, a COVID-19 response plan was developed and discussed with the EU Delegation, and COVID-19 considerations were integrated into the 2020 Annual Work Plan developed in consultation with regional stakeholders and civil society partners. This plan highlighted how each outcome area responds to and integrates COVID-19 realities. These actions facilitated next steps in the establishment of programme partnerships, developing work plans and defining agreements with counterparts.

Given the programme's regional footprint, the Spotlight Initiative Pacific Regional Programme was able to contribute to regional response efforts and directly support COVID-19 and Tropical Yasa response. The Spotlight Initiative Pacific Regional Programme took advantage of the programme document development for Pillar six at the onset of COVID-19 to re-programme \$100,000 USD for COVID-19 small grants to grassroots and frontline CSOs, especially those addressing the social and economic impact of COVID-19. These grants are anticipated to make a substantive impact in given the social and economic implications due to COVID-19 that will substantially affect the Pacific and require sustained, long-term support and visibility. In countries like the Republic of Marshal Islands (RMI), key issues and opportunities to address Violence Against Women and Girls were positioned during the COVID19 Table Top Exercise in August 2020, also supporting efforts led by the Gender and Protection cluster in reviewing standard operating procedures and assessing available referral services. Furthermore, resources in Pillar 3 were re-programmed to support the prevention of violence in Fiji in partnership with Foundation for Rural Integrated Enterprises and Development (FRIEND) by targeting food insecurity and loss of livelihoods.

Throughout the planning process, there was meaningful collaboration across activities and programmes and strategic partnerships to address immediate and long term needs: For example, the costing of violence and gender-responsive budgeting outcomes across Pillar one



and two integrate a costing analysis as to how national budgets must be gender-sensitive against the backdrop of economic crisis and liquidity challenges. Another example is the utilization of referral strengthening support for the North Pacific in Pillar two to integrate a preparedness lens to create referral modalities that are ready to respond in a diversity of scenarios, including a COVID-19 lockdown. The Regional Programme maintains a position as a strategic programme that can address long-term needs related to COVID-19 while other funds, such as the Pacific Partnership and humanitarian response funds have covered gaps that emerged at emergency onset. Increasing focus on local ownership and leadership: At the regional level, all activities were pivoted to virtual modalities or delayed in the expectation that travel would be permitted in 2021. For example, the regional launch of the Guidance on Out of School Comprehensive Sexuality Education was originally envisaged as an event at which there would be in person participation, but was instead rolled out through the creation of national events networked together to support the regional launch. The opening of the event by the Prime Minister of Samoa is indicative of the success of the shift in modality in maintaining high political engagement. Further, the regional Spotlight Initiative programme envisaged several in person regional learning events which required the travel of technical experts as well as in country Ministry and CSO stakeholders to central locations. The University of Melbourne and the Pacific Community have re designed and reconfigured the programme in such a way that the same outcomes can be achieved through different modalities. One such way is through the design of several regional learning tools and online sites. These include the development of a website through which Pacific national stakeholders can access best practice tools, including Information Sharing Protocols and Prevalence data collection Support Plans as well as training materials to support safe and ethical prevalence and administrative data collection. It will also contain links to standardized reporting templates to enable increased analysis, reporting and use of data relating to gender-based violence. The redesigned Pillar five also includes the development of an online platform through which multi sectoral administrative data collection can be adapted and used by Pacific national stakeholders. Finally, given that regional capacity building curriculums cannot be provided in person, the University of Melbourne and the Pacific Community will develop national technical pods who will together participate in online training sessions with the kNOWVAWdata Initiative team and work together through the curriculum as a support network and a community of practice. This approach will ensure the requisite support in country to ensure uptake and completion of the course curriculums in country. Overall, the onset of COVID19 has required a significant increase of focus in the national ownership of activities with external and regional technical assistance guiding and supporting the process.

In terms of opportunities and catalysts for change which emerged through collaborative efforts responding to VAWG in the context of COVID-19, a range of key positive outcomes included



the development of a range of best practices and guidelines for COVID-19 response and containment efforts at a national and regional level which the result of collaborations across UN agencies and CSOs. While this work were not deliverables under the Spotlight Initiative, the work and demand for the work created political space in countries to advocate, scale up or prioritize Spotlight Initiative activities. At a regional level, for example, a regional guidance was developed jointly by various UN Agencies, together with IFRC and SPCⁱ. This was distributed regionally and resulted in the inclusion of GBV in national Pacific COVID-19 response plans. UN agencies also jointly contributed the report of the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, highlighting the particular impact of COVID-19 on the incidence of GBV and measures takenⁱⁱ.

As a central partner of the Initiative, civil society was engaged in a call for small grants on COVID-19 response and advocacy, which has resulted in a total of eight grantees in four countries. Civil society organizations also participated in the 2020 COVID-19 budget process with discussion on gender budgeting based on analysis by the Floating Office for Parliaments in Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. In support of the important work led by civil society organizations on risk mitigation and prevention during natural/climate disasters, the Spotlight Initiative was also able to facilitate assistance to civil society partners with the procurement of both food and nonfood items, including wheelchairs, which reached communities located in the West of Fiji who were affected by Tropical Cyclone Yasa. The International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), together with the United Nations, led a regional launch of the 2020 International Technical and Programmatic Guidance on Out-of-School Comprehensive Sexuality Education. The virtual launch, with an estimated 700 participants at physical locations across 11 countries, mobilized high level Government commitment and engagement of civil society including Faith Based Organizations, generating a momentum to increase the delivery of out of school comprehensive sexuality education across the Pacific.

Governments were mobilized almost entirely to support COVID-19 prevention and response efforts. Some Pacific Island Government service providers transitioned briefly to providing remote services during short periods of lockdowns, however most resumed normal face to face services once community transmission of COVID-19 was shown to be nil. In most countries this period was a few weeks up to a few months, not the entire year. Although this initially affected the implementation of workplan activities under the Spotlight Initiative, due to competing priorities as partners reconfigured and pivoted their programmes, the collaboration and close engagement has picked up. One key example of this close engagement is the situational analysis of comprehensive sexuality education in the Republic of Marshall Islands which commenced in partnership with between the International Planned Parenthood Federation



(IPPF) and Government. Government representation also supported the launch of the International Technical and Programmatic Guidance on Out-of-School Comprehensive Sexuality Education, including the Prime Minister of Samoa.

Overall, the programme implementation has picked up significantly in 2020, despite initial delays in programme set up and implementation. The 2021 Annual Work Plan and related budget revisions will integrate measures to ensure the programme remains on track and accelerates implementation.

Programme Governance and Coordination

a) Regional Steering Committee

The regional component is overseen and guided by the multi-stakeholder Regional Steering Committee, which is closely aligned to existing regional structures. The United Nations Resident Coordinator, together with the Ambassador of the European Union Delegation for the Pacific and the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIFS) Secretary General, engaged in consultations with Pacific intergovernmental agencies prior to determining the final composition of the group. These meetings helped to ensure coherence with existing governance mechanisms for ending Violence Against Women and Girls in the Pacific. The Regional Steering Committee is chaired by the Resident Coordinator together with the Head of Cooperation of the European Union Delegation, and includes membership of Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), The Pacific Community (SPC), Civil Society representative (in an interim basis until regular members are selected), UNWOMEN, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDP, and IOM. At least 20% of the composition of multi-stakeholder Regional Programme Steering Committees will be from civil society as full voting members.

The Regional Steering Committee has overarching responsibilities in terms of decision making, accountability, and oversight. While in principle the Regional Steering committee will meet at minimum on a biannual basis, the frequency of meetings will be as required by the Steering Committee members. The first Steering Committee meeting was originally planned following the high level launch event which took place in October 2020, but had to be pushed back due to Tropical Cyclone Yasa preparations and emergency response efforts which required attention by the United Nations Resident Coordinator and Heads of Agency based in Fiji. The first Steering Committee was therefore re-scheduled and held in the month of January 2021. All the background documents and related presentations were prepared in 2020 to allow for a productive and efficient Steering Committee meeting in 2021. During the reporting period, consultation and discussions were continued with key regional stakeholders and strategic



partners with the purpose of opportunities to strengthen synergy with existing coordination structures and programmes. Moving forward, the Regional Steering Committee will play a critical role as a space to convene regional actors to oversee the programmes development and strategic progress.

b) Civil Society Regional Reference Group (CSRRG)

While civil society is prioritized across all pillars of the Regional Programme, and this is further reflected both in the established partnerships that reinforce meaningful engagement approaches and ongoing efforts to resource and support small grassroots organizations, challenges were experienced in the establishment of a formal Civil Society Regional Reference Group (CSRRG). Challenges date back to a fast paced programme design phase which could have been more participatory with co-design and co-creation planning approaches. These measures could have facilitated the development of a joint understanding of how Spotlight Initiative would complement existing leadership and work underway in the Pacific's EVAWG ecosystem undertaken by governments, service providers and civil society. This was also particularly important in relation to existing programmes that were already ongoing at the time of the programme design phase of the Spotlight Initiative Pacific Regional Programme, such as the Pacific Partnership to End Violence Against Women and Girls, a multi-year regional programme funded by the EU, New Zealand and Australia and led by UN Women, PIFS and SPC.

Challenges were compounded by contextual shifts, such as Tropical Cyclone Harold and the effects of COVID-19 in the context of work, which contributed to significant delays in the overall programme set up and establishment of governance arrangements in 2020, and resulted in important gaps in communication for appropriate engagement. The unprecedented contextual shifts of 2020 also directly affected civil society organizations and their work in the Pacific region. The nature of civil society engagement and organizing in the Pacific region has also fundamentally changed due to COVID-19, including the need for new modalities for engagement through technology and online connectivity which poses access barriers.

Given this context, efforts to convene meetings and establish a selection committee to advance next steps for the establishment of a formal Civil Society Reference Group for the Spotlight Initiative Regional Programme through an open call were not successful and required more time, trust building and concerted efforts for strategic engagement on the side of the UN. The support for these processes were mixed and generated a call to attention to the need for a more tailored approach for the Pacific regional context, which ensures foundations for a more strategic



engagement by the United Nations with Civil Society on EVAWG, and is not limited to specific programmes. As next steps, the UN will invite nominations among Civil Society for the establishment of a Civil Society Regional Reference Group (CSRRG). Once established, in addition to advising the UN in the Pacific on current eliminating VAWG issues where advocacy and leadership support is needed, and providing advice on overall strategic direction of Pacific regional EVAWG programmes, the CS RRG will have a close working relationship with the UN in the Pacific through the Resident Coordinator in the Pacific and existing technical working groups like the Gender Coordination Group co-chaired by SPC and UNWomen, in which different the UNRCO and RUNOs also engage.

Despite these setbacks and challenges, it is important to highlight that the engagement of civil society was crucial in determining the final design of the Pacific Regional Programme, with special attention on support to civil society and movement building under Pillar six. During the design phases of the programme, an interim Civil Society Reference Group was nominated by Civil Society representatives at the Virtual Dialogue. As a direct follow up action to the recommendations of the interim Civil Society Reference Group, revisions to the Spotlight Regional Programme Document were made to include Pillar six. In moving forward, there are important lessons learned and recommendations for a more meaningful engagement of civil society partners during the programme design stages, in programme set up and implementation.

To ensure Spotlight Initiative updates and information are proactively shared with relevant stakeholders and partners in the region before the CSRRG is formed, the Spotlight Coordinator and Technical Coherence lead are also engaging in existent coordination groups, such as the existing Gender Coordination Group which includes diverse representatives from civil society and is co-chaired by the Pacific Community (SPC) and UNWomen.

Concerted efforts to strengthen UN partnership and strategic engagement with civil society in the Pacific regional context are necessary, and will be advanced further in 2021, building on feedback and recommendations provided by different civil society actors for the Pacific Regional context, and nurturing further trust building. These discussions are being further discussed under the umbrella of the UN system in the Pacific, within the context of the coordination mechanism for gender equality and existing coordination spaces.

c) Inter-agency coordination, technical committees and other governance mechanisms
During the reporting period, a formalized Technical Working Group with relevant RUNO focal points has been established and convened by the Technical Coherence Lead UN Agency.



UNWomen, in the spirit of UN Reform. This working group meets monthly with additional ad hoc or thematic “deep dive” sessions as required to advance technical coherence and coordination within and between pillars as well as with regional and national existing EVAWG efforts. Thematic “deep dive” sessions have also taken place, and a standing sub-working group with other key partners and regional initiatives has been established. Outputs from the technical working group include stronger coordination between RUNOs in overlapping areas of work, especially the prevention pillar; contributions to holistic country-level coordination as indicated below; and establishment of ongoing working groups. A further reference group to support best practices on administrative data processes inclusive of UN agencies, SPC and University of Melbourne, across Spotlight Initiative, kNOwVAWdata Initiative and the Pacific Partnership to End Violence Against Women and Girls has also been established

Integration into existing regional mechanisms specific to gender equality and women’s rights. The Spotlight Initiative is integrated into the existing Gender Coordination Group, co-chaired by SPC, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and UNWomen, in which the UNRCO and other RUNOs also actively engage as participants. Within the context of the UN Pacific Strategy, Spotlight is also integrated into the existing Outcome Group Two Working Group on Gender Equality, co-chaired by UNWomen and UNFPA. In these coordination spaces, Spotlight Initiative provides broad updates, also sharing areas for further discussion among the multi-stakeholder groups. Both coordination bodies are composed of UN agencies, inter-governmental institutions and robust participation from civil society. There has been consistent participation and mutual updates provided on initiatives with focus on Gender Equality, Women’s Empowerment and Violence Against Women and Girls, including Spotlight Initiative.

The Spotlight Initiative amplifies and complements existing leadership and work underway in the Pacific’s EVAWG ecosystem undertaken by governments, service providers and civil society. In particular, the Pacific Regional Programme is synergistic with other Spotlight programmes in the region, namely the Samoa and Vanuatu country programmes, the kNOwVAWdata Initiative, and the Pacific Partnership to End Violence Against Women and Girls, a multi-year regional programme funded by the EU, New Zealand and Australia and led by UN Women, PIFS and SPC. In 2020, strengthened efforts have facilitated a number of joint areas of work between the Spotlight Initiative’s Regional Programme and Pacific Partnership. For the costing of violence research and gender-responsive budgeting workstream under Pillar one and two, the research funded by Spotlight will be used as concrete evidence to inform broader regional and national dialogues on the importance of GRB utilizing violence against women and girls as a wedge issue. The evidence coupled with gender analysis facilitated by UNDP’s parliamentary work will give a broader landscape as to the need for gender-responsive budgets



and appropriations. PIFS' regional convenings and the Regional Working Group on Domestic Violence legislation are two high level regional forums to amplify the findings of the research and seek buy-in at the regional, political level. For Pillar five with focus on Administrative Data, a technical reference group has been convened across Spotlight, kNOwVAWdata Initiative and Pacific Partnership including UN agencies, SPC and University of Melbourne as core partners to support and enable best practices for multi-sector GBV Administrative Data in the region. National roll outs of Administrative Data systems are being facilitated by all programmes and multiple partners with governments and service providers. The regional framework will allow for best practices to be shared and a community of practice to develop. Samoa and Vanuatu GBV Administrative Data roll outs funded by Spotlight country programmes will feed into this broader structure and framework to provide cohesion for the region. Furthermore, all of the GBV Administrative Data roll outs hinge on existing multi-sector service delivery protocols and referrals in country which are being resourced in many of the focus countries (Samoa, Vanuatu, Tonga, Fiji, Solomon Islands and Kiribati) by Pacific Partnership. Under Pillar three for prevention, the Pacific Conference of Churches, a partner of Spotlight and a partner of Pacific Partnership is strategically utilizing resources to develop institutional commitment across regional and national churches to develop a Safe Church Policy to protect against violence against women and children. This effort got off the ground in 2020 and will be a long-term stream of work. Lastly, efforts to resource smaller, community-based civil society organizations for EVAWG/gender equality advocacy is being facilitated through SPC's granting mechanism, Pacific People Advancing Change, and Spotlight Initiative small grants to civil society. As a first step, these resourcing efforts, coupled with a capacity-building and civil society movement building support structure, were mapped with existing regional small granting mechanisms including the PIFS Non-State Actors programme facilitated by the Pacific Partnership. This mapping is evolving as each granting mechanism prepares for its next call and will be updated in early 2021 after respective selections. The first Pacific Partnership Technical Working Group meeting of 2021 will integrate the technical coherence updates from the Spotlight Initiative in order to bring to light additional mechanisms and ways in which EVAWG efforts across the region can be strengthened.

Country-level coordination: The Regional Programme's multi-country focus in Fiji, Solomon Islands and the Republic of Marshall Islands merits integration into national level structures. Similar to the regional approach, country-level coordination aims to integrate into national EVAWG ecosystems and existing coordination spaces, such as in the case of the Republic of Marshall Islands.



Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI): The coordination of Spotlight Initiative's Pacific Regional programme in the Republic of the Marshall Islands has been conducted through the GBV Working Group for the north Pacific which is a pre-existing coordination mechanisms under the Pacific GBV Sub Cluster. Agreement was made to expand the scope of the working group from humanitarian coordination to gender GBV programming, including Spotlight Initiative and a range of other key programmes in the region, precipitated this model for coordination. Membership includes all the Recipient United Nations Organizations (RUNOs) of the Spotlight Initiative as well as Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the Pacific Community (SPC). Furthermore, as a result of the Spotlight Initiative, smaller working groups will be engaged for specific work streams. First, the aforementioned regional administrative data reference group will center holistic and standardized country approaches, including in efforts for Marshall Islands. This formation of coordination is helping to ensure that the range of programmes contributing to ending violence against women are cohesive across the RMI development partners across the humanitarian and development continuum. Further the coordination across the GBV data group ensures that the Pacific region can share success and learnings in confronting the myriad of challenges associated with administrative data collection. Second, referral strengthening efforts in Pillar two will liaise closely with the Gender and Protection Cluster to contribute to existing standard operating procedures and referral mechanisms. The Gender and Protection cluster will provide overall guidance and institutional knowledge on existing referral mechanisms and provide gaps for Spotlight Initiative to focus on for referrals development and training. Lastly, a Cookhouse Confidential working group is in place at local level to advance menstrual hygiene management programming that is further supported by Spotlight Initiative funds. The relevant UN entity will coordinate this group to ensure that the programme activities are clear and responsive to Cookhouse Confidential needs and recommendations. A sub award for Cookhouse Confidential members to apply to as a continuation of the groups' objectives related to Spotlight Initiative goals will also be designed.

Programme Partnerships

a) Government and Inter-Governmental Bodies

The Pacific Community (SPC) is the leading technical and scientific inter-governmental organization in the Pacific, supporting its members, Pacific Island governments, along the sustainable development path. The SPC have clear and strong partnerships with Government across the region and can ensure engagement with the highest level of Government to support programme implementation. The SPC is also a regional leader in advancing a human rights approach in the region. Their role is critical to ensuring the sustainability of interventions with



Government. The SPC have been strongly engaged in violence against women for over a decade, supporting regional work on domestic violence, prevalence data collection and analysis (including standardization of capacity building materials to ensure safe and ethical collection of prevalence data), and advancing resources and capacity strengthening support to civil society grassroots organizations in the area of human rights, including EVAWG. The partnership with SPC is strategic to advance objectives and outcomes directly under Pillar one on policies and legislation, advancing regional dialogue as the Secretariat for the Regional Working Group on Domestic Violence legislation, and connecting the costing of violence research findings to these forums. The partnership is also central to advance objectives and outcomes under Pillar five on data, providing ongoing technical assistance and support, including the standardization of capacity strengthening materials, to ensure safe and ethical collection of prevalence data and multi sectoral administrative data. In addition, the partnership contributes significantly to Pillar six with focus on support to civil society and movement building, through their existing grants mechanism in order to reach smaller civil society organizations that face barriers in accessing donor funds.

The United Nations Recipient Organizations have **strategic partnerships with governments**, but no contractual partnership agreements under the Regional Programme. Strategic partnerships include the following lead Ministries: Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs in Solomon Islands; Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs in Republic of Marshall Islands; Human Rights Commission in Republic of Marshall Islands; Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation in Fiji; and Speakers of parliament. In all countries, the strategic partnerships aim to increase the budget for EVAWG in alignment with a priority policy, such as the Family Protection Act and the National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls, contributing directly to objectives and outcomes under Pillar two on institutions. The partnerships will also facilitate evidence-informed advocacy on EVAWG across government, civil society and other key sectors through data generated under Pillar five in alignment with the kNOwVAWdata Initiative. Capacity strengthening of Government stakeholders is central to understanding and using the evidence and data to influence policy. The strategic partnerships and the objectives outlined above are particularly important in relation to COVID-19 budgeting process, to ensure evidence-based decision making and well-resourced action plans that ensure the principle of leaving no one behind. Some of the above partnerships are intended to advance implementation of the Costing of Violence Research in each of the three countries and utilize the findings to inform policy, decision-making and budget appropriations for EVAWG. The research will assess costs of intimate partner violence on women and girls in all their diversity, including those in rural or outer areas, persons living with disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics. Parliamentary committees hold a strategic role



in policy and legislative processes and oversight functions for accountability to gender equality and ending violence against women and girls' commitments. The work with parliamentary committees therefore aims to strengthen efforts for gender mainstreaming and gender budget analysis, with focus in Fiji and Solomon Islands.

b) Civil Society

Spotlight Initiative Pacific Regional Programme activities have been designed with the understanding that Civil Society engagement must be a key and central component in its implementation. All the regional events planned under the Regional programme will ensure participation and engagement of Civil Society actors, including those representing marginalized groups such as people with disabilities. During the reporting period, COVID-19 led to substantive delays in advancing the Spotlight Regional Programme set up and implementation. All partners, including CSOs, were all prioritizing COVID-19 response, and some were also engaged in emergency response efforts related to Tropical Cyclone Harold and Yasa. Despite these challenges, Spotlight Initiative has been able to partner with a total of twelve civil society and service providers/technical agencies.

Building close, strong, and equal relationships with our civil society partners is the bedrock of this programme, and Spotlight Initiative therefore invests more time in regular communication and interaction with partners not for the purpose of monitoring, but for equal partnership and exchange of ideas, knowledge, and learnings. Partnership selection for the Spotlight Initiative has been supported by open calls and broader competitive processes for RUNOs to implement their respective sub regional programme documents for Pacific Island countries and territories. In addition to the small grants mechanism, a partnership agreement was signed with the Pacific Community (SPC) to undertake Secretariat functions for the Regional Working Group on Domestic Violence and implement the EVAWG portfolio of their civil society granting programme, Pacific People Advancing Change to increase resources to grassroots organizations.

During the reporting period, through the establishment of partnerships and ongoing collaborative work, significant headway has been made to create space and amplify voice for feminist movements and civil society in the Pacific, recognizing that Spotlight funds contribute to a broader feminist strategy three decades in the making for the region. Partners engaged through the small grants mechanism for civil society represent groups unreached by EVAWG funding, and they were chosen because of the intersectional nature of their work, which already exhibited the principle of "Leaving No One Behind". In the interest of reaching the furthest behind first, the small grants for COVID-19 response and advocacy were made available only to Cook Islands,



Republic of Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Nauru, Niue, Tokelau, Tonga, and Tuvalu, which are small Pacific Island Countries that do not usually have access to EVAWG funding in the region. In the spirit of new way of working with civil society, the application process was also simplified, with the requirements limited to an Expression of Interest form and the organization's registration certificate. Other supporting documents were required only from shortlisted candidates.

Spotlight has also partnered with the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), engaged as an implementing partner on Comprehensive Sexuality Education (known as Family Life Education across the Pacific), with particular focus on the roll out and adaptation of international best practices and standards for national out of school CSE curriculums in the Pacific. The Initiative has also facilitated the engagement of a broad range of Faith Based Organization (FBO) stakeholders through the design and presentation of a proposal for meaningful consultation and engagement in the programme via the Pacific Church Leaders' Meeting (PCLM), and annual gathering of Church leadership to strategize, discuss and endorse proposals for church partnerships and programmes. In December 2020, the Church Engagement in Child Protection Framework was endorsed by the 2020 PCLM.

Type of civil society organizations partnered with: **Women United Together Marshall Islands (WUTMI)** is a registered non-government organization in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, established in 1984 with a mandate to improve the lives of Marshallese women. The **Alofi South Women's Council** engages with all women of the village of Alofi South to promote the continuance of their cultural practices and sharing of knowledge, particularly through traditional weaving, arts and crafts. The **Belau Wellness Center** is a local NGO in Palau that targets vulnerable populations in its provision of health and wellness services. Its approaches are community-based, with programs and interventions designed to promote health protection and wellness practices to prevent diseases, abuses, and other social circumstances that widen health disparities amongst the most vulnerable people. The **National Rugby League (NRL) Tonga** was established in 2015 and has been running programs using the sport of rugby league to engage and help in the development of communities, with a focus on health and wellbeing; gender equality, with a particular focus on the prevention of gender-based violence; social cohesion; and participation opportunities for people with disabilities. **Island PRIDE** is a women and youth led grassroots organization based in Chuuk (FSM), working at the intersection of climate change and gender. Its work puts emphasis on the disproportionate impact the climate crisis is having on women and girls, which is now compounded by COVID-19. **Te Ipukarea Society** is a proactive non-government environmental organization formed in Cook Islands to help look after their heritage. Part of their work involves promoting sustainable essential



feminine services, in the form of providing and increasing awareness of reusable menstrual hygiene products. **Tonga Leitis Association** was established in 1992 with a focus of improving the rights and celebrating the contribution of Leitis (LGBTQI+) in Tonga. **Tonga National Centre for Women & Children (TNCWC)** is a service provider for survivors of gender-based violence. **Kolomotu'a Women's Council**, a grassroots women's organization in Tonga. The group will be awarded \$13,834 in 2021 to empower rural women to better prepare for the impacts of COVID-19 by helping them be self-sufficient, thereby mitigating the GBV risk that has increased during the global pandemic. **Youth to Youth Health** is a National Grassroots NGO that has been in existence for over 25 years in the Republic of Marshall Islands, with a focus on youth peer to peer health outreach throughout the country. Youth to Youth Health trains volunteer educators to present Family planning messages using traditional Marshallese language, via visual presentation and song to provide confidential counselling and to involve themselves in general community devolvement and empower activities. **Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC)** is a regional faith-based organisation representing a broad range of churches, church and faith-based organisations of the Christian faith, and Pasifika communities of faith. PCC has a women's rights mandate. The PCC was selected as a key implementing partner for the engagement of Christian faith-based organisations in prevention of violence against women and girls through a spiritual framework for church engagement in safe churches and communities for vulnerable populations. PCC is a Christian regional ecumenical organisation comprising 34 member churches and 9 national councils of churches, with an unparalleled reach (approximately 80%) to the population of the Pacific region. PCC's partnership will contribute significantly to the promotion of social and behaviour change towards gender-equitable, child-friendly and violence-free norms, within and through the Church. The Church plays a central role in the life of many Pacific Islanders and is engaging with the Spotlight Initiative as a key partner for changing these social norms. **The International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)** is a network of member associations which are based in different countries across the Pacific region. This not only means that IPPF, as a CSO, has a high level of outreach into Pacific countries, but also that the local member associations have access to technical and operational support provided by the IPPF. The partnership with IPPF also ensures a high level of quality, and contextualization of the global guidance tools. IPPF provides a wide range of support to local member associations with a high level of ongoing and sustainable technical support in the implementation of the Spotlight Initiative programme activities. This is critical to provide in a safe and comprehensive manner to mitigate the risk of harm. Through the provision of out of school comprehensive sexuality education, IPPF will be working to provide the opportunity for young people to re-evaluate their behaviors and attitudes to shift gender inequitable social norms. This process of learning provides young people with the opportunity to enter respectful and violence free relationships and partnerships. Additional national/local CSO engagement will be



conducted in partnership with the IPPF, through their member associations, which are local organisations based in Pacific countries.

Engagement with local or grassroots organizations: Nine of these partners listed are local organizations, two of which identify as grassroots organizations. In addition, a total of eight small grants were awarded to local organizations that carry out their work at grassroots level in Tonga, FSM (Chuuk), Palau, Niue, and Cook Islands to strengthen their organizational capacity, knowledge, and learning to facilitate effective advocacy or response for women and girls in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. The member associations of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) are also provided with support to mobilize and network with other grassroots organizations and CSOs to establish comprehensive sexuality education committees, providing the most vulnerable young people with access to information and support to reach their potential. As faith plays a central role in the lives of a broad cross-section of Pacific island populations, with the majority of community members engaging with Churches and faith-based organisations, the partnership with the Pacific Council of Churches ensures that a variety of vulnerable individuals are reached through respected and trusted community and faith leaders.

c) EU

The EU is a strategic and key partner for the Regional Spotlight Initiative and has been involved in the design of the Regional Programme Strategy through dialogue with the RC and has also been updated on progress. Contributing to the foundations of programme setup in 2020, the EU Delegation attended the validation consultation on 4 July 2019 and the virtual consultation on 10 July 2019. The EU Delegation for the Pacific provided comments on the Zero Draft September 2019, and on V1 in October 2019. The RC works closely with the EU Delegation for the Pacific throughout implementation of the programme, particularly on joint events and key communications. Consistent updates are provided to the EU Delegation for the Pacific on the progress of the Spotlight Regional Pacific Programme when requested, however there have also been meetings that have been organized specifically by the Resident Coordinator to provide updates to the EU Delegation for the Pacific as well as a consultation on the governance arrangements with a Pacific Regional body.

A Regional Programme launch event and the first steering committee meeting were planned jointly with the EU Delegation for the Pacific, with the launch event taking place in October 2020 and the first steering committee meeting planned in 2020 but re-scheduled due to Tropical Cyclone Yasa. The Head of Cooperation of the EU Delegation for the Pacific co-chairs the Pacific Regional Programme Steering Committee. The EU Delegation for the Pacific is also



involved in decision making panels for the selection of civil society partners supported by Spotlight Initiative through small grants. In addition to this, the 2020 Annual Work Plan and COVID19 response plan developed by the Spotlight Initiative partners and discussed with the EU Delegation for the Pacific. To facilitate coordination, the RC will regularly convene meetings with the EU Delegation, Regional government entities, strategic partners involved in the action, the Technical Coherence Lead and RUNOs. Throughout the implementation, the Spotlight Initiative coordination team and the technical coherence specialist engage with the EU Delegation, jointly sharing information, discussing challenges and opportunities to strengthen the implementation of the programme. This close partnership with the EU Delegation for the Pacific allows for higher-quality programming, as the EU Delegation for the Pacific shares technical inputs and collaborates with the Spotlight team on strategic partnerships, and serves as a critical symbol of renewed multilateralism in the region.

d) Cooperation with other UN agencies (if applicable)

Although no formal legal agreements were made with other UN agencies beyond the RUNOs in Spotlight, there is strong collaboration and technical coherence with other UN agencies achieved through active engagement in existing inter-agency coordination working groups and technical committees. Cooperation is mainly on the basis of technical areas of work and common strategic partnerships, exploring opportunities for collaboration and technical coherence across different regional programmes and initiatives. Existing mechanisms for coordination, such as the Gender Working Group and Outcome Group 2 are platforms to work with other UN agencies who are not engaged in Spotlight to maximize impact at a regional level..

e) Other Partners

The partnership with **University of Melbourne**, including the Nossal Institute for Global Health, is important to accelerate objectives and outcomes under Pillar five on data, ensuring a high level of quality in capacity strengthening and systems building. The activities between SPC and the University of Melbourne has also been engineered to ensure that the academic rigor applied quality of the of training products and systems will be used to ensure strengthening the internal capacity of the SPC to continue to work towards strengthened national statistics offices and systems across the Pacific after the Spotlight Initiative investment in the region. Activities under Pillar five are in partnership with University of Melbourne as a well-established partner globally in supporting the kNOwVAWdata Initiative with UNFPA. This programme has strong visibility across the Pacific region, and the Spotlight Initiative is capitalizing upon this visibility to support increased efforts to strengthen statistics institutions and policy makers across the Pacific.



Results

Capturing Broader Transformations Across Outcomes

While 2020 was a foundational year for the Pacific's implementation of the Spotlight Initiative, it is encouraging to see three major shifts and indications of broader transformations across the initiative in the areas of increased galvanizing of political will in the region to address violence against women and girls; increased focus and bolstering of support to small, grassroots organizations who are facilitating critical work at local and national level; and contribution to substantive social norm shifts with influential sectors, namely faith.

In coordination with other regional efforts, the Spotlight Initiative was able to elevate the importance of gender equality and prioritization of women and girls in all their diversity at key moments throughout the year. This series of moments increased the visibility of ending VAWG efforts across the region, which keeps the issue on the table and on the agenda. For example, adolescent girls both in and out of school and the importance of engaging youth was highlighted in a high-level event on the launch of the Comprehensive Sexuality Education Guidelines for the region. Various national leaders and influential personnel participated in this symbolic launch to signal action towards already articulated commitments to addressing gender inequalities. A further example, in Solomon Islands and Fiji, discussions with government and civil society partners on planning and preparation to cost policies linked to addressing violence in the coming year gave a spur of momentum to a regional discussion on gender-responsive budgeting that has been lagging for a couple of years. These discussions helped to elevate the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat's regional gender-responsive budgeting priority area as well as add increased validation to plans in Fiji to develop a National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls with resourcing from the Pacific Partnership to End Violence Against Women and Girls. These innovative policy endeavors and string of high-level engagements set examples for the region and help to give credibility to a regional dialogue on what could work in the Pacific based on national experiences.

Across outcome areas, civil society, including NGO service providers of health and social services, were further supported in 2020. Despite the set-back of COVID-19 and the more recent approval of Pillar six in July 2020, a diversity of new civil society partners were brought onboard in 2020 across outcome areas. Other civil society organizations were supported through direct procurement modalities in small and large ways from resourcing of Fiji's Transgender Day of Remembrance event to supporting civil society organizations in their efforts to alleviate food insecurity as a risk factor for increased experiences of violence against women and girls.



Resourcing civil society, especially smaller civil society organizations in Pacific Island Countries that receive less funding opportunities and investment, encourages their engagement in advocacy at national and regional levels. While 2020 was largely a procedural year getting partners onboard and navigating a slew of unanticipated setbacks and delays, civil society partners show promise and ambition. The partnerships that the programme has initiated have the potential for long-term sustainability.

By targeting countries that have little to no access to EVAWG funding, the programme was able to break the mold on feminist partnerships and support groups with a more intersectional focus, reaching the most marginalized groups like the LGBTQI community in Tonga and homebound patients and their caregivers (who are predominantly women) in Palau. The programme has taken full advantage of the rise in digital communication during this global pandemic and has maximized available tools to frequently interact with partners not only to monitor activities or provide technical support, but to exchange ideas, knowledge, and learnings.

Finally, the programme is contributing to a broad movement of faith-based organisations through the Pacific Conference of Churches and its network in the region by acknowledging and taking ownership of the spiritual and moral imperative for ending violence both within the structures and in the congregations and communities they operate in. This contribution and its success to address prevention at a structural level speaks volumes of the partners knowledge, interpretation and use of theological texts and Christian scripture for Pacific Islanders. Pacific Conference of Church's commitment to addressing violence against women, girls and boys is holistic and strategic with PCC utilizing resources from the Spotlight Initiative and other initiatives to put forward a holistic approach for faith-based norms shifts. The partnership for faith-based intervention in EVAWG has contributed significantly to change at the grassroots level, by creating space for dialogues on accepted norms relating violence, through the Churches' ability to influence change through the deep faith of Pacific peoples.

The cascading impact of COVID-19 in the Pacific, namely social, economic and health implications, has hampered a cross-cutting approach in the programme which is regional dialogue, regional advocacy and regional engagement. This includes the ability of civil society to network and advocate in regional and global accountability spaces; strategic political forums for the region with government stakeholders in which high-level gender equality advocacy is part and parcel; and opportunities to spur momentum at the technical level through regional workshops and dialogues. Digital or virtual engagement is new to the world, but it is uniquely new and disorienting for the Pacific region where many boundaries present themselves including a gender technology divide, national-level bandwidth and connectivity issues, the



navigation of virtual engagement in a culture that centers around in-person relationship building tied with cultural values, and many more barriers. Civil society, political/government partners/entities and others in the region grappled with how to adjust and pivot in this environment including needing to take the time to absorb the impact of events and what this means for advocacy and action. This has impacted the gender and EVAWG space but is also a larger topic of discussion for the region.

Capturing Change at Outcome Level

Outcome 1: Legal and Policy Framework

Over the course of 2020, significant efforts have been undertaken to elevate and seek political buy-in for gender-responsive budgeting (GRB), with a focus on ending violence against women and girls-related budgeting as a wedge to broaden GRB more generally. GRB policy efforts resourced by the Spotlight Initiative, namely supporting the Secretariat for the Regional Working Group on Domestic Violence Legislation, the costing of violence multi-country research and gender budget analysis for parliaments, weave with regional efforts to build civil society capacity for GRB led by PIFS and national initiatives to mainstream gender in budgets led by Ministries of Women, Ministry of Economy and other government departments. While COVID-19 delayed discussions on GRB, key dialogues and foundational relationship-building processes with stakeholders which took place in the second half of 2020 will spur forward actions and priorities for the region over the coming years.

The costing of violence research for Fiji, Solomon Islands and the Republic of Marshall Islands was facilitated through an inception phase that dialogued with key informants and mapped the objectives of PIFS' GRB initiatives for the region with the research timeline. Key actors engaged in the GRB space, including PIFS, UN, SPC, Fiji Women's Rights Movement, Fiji's Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, and Fiji's Ministry of Economy convened in November to better discuss and link PIFS' civil society capacity building plan with PIFS' vision for high-level political engagement on GRB at the annual Forum Economic Ministers Meeting and how the findings of the costing of violence research could facilitate needed advocacy on resourcing. Follow up dialogues on the unique country-specific needs of Fiji, Solomon Islands and the Republic of Marshall Islands built off this discussion in December 2020 noting the need to tailor the research to the unique needs of each country. In Fiji, for the 2020 – 2021 budget cycle, a gender analysis of the public expenditure budget at parliamentary level was facilitated which provides updated information to triangulate and bring to the table when reflecting on how to

operationalize GRB at a national level. For the 2020 – 2021 budget cycle, the analyzed budget was used to support members of Parliament in their budget debates.

While decisions on the costing of violence research will be made at national level collectively with key stakeholders in 2021, a preliminary analysis from inception phase has identified the following:

- Fiji to (1) cost the impact of intimate partner violence on productivity and Gross Domestic Product and (2) cost to implement primary prevention across two to three sectors in alignment with the Fiji National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls currently in development.
 - A high-level meeting with the Gender Advisor of the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation was secured for January 2021. Indication to have the costing of violence research align with the Fiji Country Gender Assessment, the National Action Plan to Prevention Violence Against Women and Girls and the Institutional Capacity-building Initiative with Fiji Women’s Rights Movement on Gender Mainstreaming.
- Solomon Islands to (1) assess the direct and indirect costs of intimate partner violence on households and survivors and (2) cost the Family Protection Act and other relevant response legislation required to fully address gender-based violence.
 - A high-level meeting with the Ministry for Women, Youth and Family Affairs took place to ensure institutional buy in and participation in the research. The political interest in the research is extremely high with the Minister’s support to advance GRB through this research.
- Republic of Marshall Islands to (1) assess the direct and indirect costs of intimate partner violence on households and survivors and (2) cost the Domestic Violence and Prevention Act.
 - A high-level meeting with the Human Rights Committee Chief Secretary was secured for January 2021.

One key shift in the reporting period is the declining of PIFS to be a formal partner in the Spotlight Initiative. In the original Programme Document, PIFS was slated to be the inter-governmental organization that would engage on GRB advocacy at a regional level as well as small granting via its Non-State Actors (NSA) mechanism. At a technical level, however, PIFS is engaged in technical coherence efforts and ongoing collaboration to shepherd and align workplans on GRB.

COVID-19 has significantly impacted regional convening efforts envisioned under this outcome area including convening of the Regional Working Group on Domestic Violence Legislation, costing of violence research regional convenings and the first PIFS regional gender-responsive budgeting workshop. The Regional Working Group convening with the Secretariat based in SPC has been postponed to 2021, the first PIFS regional GRB workshop was cancelled with funds re-programmed to bolster the costing of violence research and the research team for the costing of violence research had to undergo revision to take into account the travel restrictions.

Outcome 2: Institutions

Institutional work in 2020 focused on securing resources and partnerships for referral strengthening of multi-sector response services in the North Pacific; bolstering the costing of violence research to include a capacity-building components for governments and civil society; and resourcing civil society partners to undertake policy and legislative advocacy in parallel to the research.

Referral strengthening efforts in the North Pacific have primarily focused on the Republic of Marshall Islands in the health and social services sector. COVID-19 has significantly delayed the referral strengthening process due to competing priorities of government and service provider partners. Furthermore, there has been a turnover of personnel in the Gender Unit of the Ministry of Internal Affairs which also turned over the institutional knowledge on existing EVAWG standard operating procedures, agreements, policy plans and procedures. Despite these setbacks, coordination has been underway with actors on ground and those that provide technical assistance to the sub-region, namely Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development, to better understand the service delivery landscape of the North Pacific. Efforts have been made to gather any relevant documentation, liaise with the Ministry of Health and Human Services to set up objectives for referral strengthening and onboard a technical specialist consultant to revive and work with the EVAWG Task Force in 2021. Furthermore, a partnership with Women United Together in Marshall Islands was finalized in December 2020 covering a two year period to allow them to strengthen referrals with police and health, expand their counselling services to four outer islands and engage in policy advocacy linked to the costing of violence research. During 16 days of activism events were supported to elevate the critical issue of violence against women and girls.

Linked to Outcome 1, the costing of violence research has built in a flexible capacity-building, mentoring and technical assistance component to ensure that the research is as participatory and holistic in each country as possible. Further developments will take place in 2021, however



initial discussions in 2020 set the foundations for a capacity-building approach that will work hand in hand with government colleagues (across ministries) to increase their knowledge and familiarity on their role as implementers of GRB and with civil society on how to monitor budgets related to EVAWG and how to utilize the information for advocacy.

Foundational processes and relationship-building dialogues were required for approximately six months with civil society partners to support their policy advocacy partnership agreements. The process in the Pacific is as important as the outcome. Key advancements and their outcomes include:

- Fiji: broad discussion of how the costing of violence research integrates with the Ministry of Women's top priorities, namely the Institutional Capacity Building Initiative done in partnership between the Ministry and Fiji Women's Rights Movement. Due to this existing partnership, additional resources may not be required for civil society advocacy but would be able to be utilized for increased convenings between stakeholders to get consensus on next steps once the results of the research are released.
- Solomon Islands: Discussions with National Council of Women, Family Services Center and Women's Rights Action Movement were required over the course of two quarters to dialogue on the role of each agency in policy advocacy and the objectives of the advocacy related to EVAWG. These three civil society organizations are the only three with the capacity and presence to facilitate advocacy on EVAWG. Ultimately, Family Services Center was identified as the partner to work in coalition with National Council of Women and WRAM to implement advocacy. Efforts will begin in 2021.
- Republic of Marshall Islands: Coordination efforts among UN agencies and other key stakeholders, Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development, was required to discuss and identify a strategy for support for the North Pacific. Women United Together for Marshall Islands proved to be the only women's rights organization with the capacity and the track record to engage in advocacy; it is in effect the only women's rights civil society organization in the country.

Institutional strengthening on gender analyzed budgets was provided in the form of capacity-building in Solomon Islands and Fiji with expert support of the Floating Budget Office.

COVID-19 response and related travel restrictions in the region greatly impacted the ability to have foundational and in person inception meetings in Solomon Islands and Republic of Marshall Islands in person. Republic of Marshall Islands only has personnel from one of the RUNOs who are engaged in the North Pacific through the Spotlight Initiative. This proved

challenging for agencies to engage at such a distance. Discussions took place in quarter four instead of quarter two as anticipated. Furthermore, planning and partnership with civil society organizations were impacted due to lack of ability to travel and build relationships/co-create advocacy strategies with partners who are adjusting to a COVID-19/virtual reality and may face technology challenges or lack of access to strong bandwidth. Civil society partners were also focused on adjusting to the reality of COVID-19, especially for organizations that provide response/crisis services to survivors which took priority over development of a partnership agreement.

Outcome 3: Prevention and Norm Change

In the policy landscape, the programme broke political and social barriers on sexual and reproductive health and rights, via the launch of the International Technical and Programmatic Guidance on Out-of-School Comprehensive Sexuality Education. With an eleven country launch (Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, PNG, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Tuvalu, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, and Vanuatu) engaging seven hundred participants via livestreamed social media and Fiji TV, the launch of these guidelines brought to the fore the importance of Comprehensive Sexuality Education to young people's SRH & Rights, addressing gender and power dynamics and intimate partner violence. The event was presided over by the Prime Minister of Samoa, Hon. Tuilaepa Dr Sailele Malielegaoi, flanked Hon. Kausea Natano the Prime Minister of Tuvalu, Lord Fakafanua the Hon. Speaker of the Tonga legislative Assembly and Eminence Cardinal Soane Patita Mafi from Tonga. Also in attendance were senior Government Ministers, officials, members of Diplomatic corps, donors, regional and international agencies, civil society organizations including heads of religious institutions and youth representatives. With the participation of key political and vital decision makers, the event was successful in revitalizing country commitments on comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) and popularizing efforts on elimination violence against women and girls with the Pacific Island Governments, civil society organizations and various stakeholders. More specifically, this activity was successful in increasing awareness on the need for CSE for young people and informing national strategies to implement CSE for marginalised and largely out-of-school youth. In practical terms, the Republic of Marshall Islands, one of the multi-country focuses for the programme, initiated its in and out of school CSE analysis. RMI has one of the highest adolescent birth rates across the Pacific. The work of supporting and rolling out comprehensive sexuality education across the RMI will be a transformational intervention in providing young people with the information and skills to successfully navigate their own decisions and relationships.



COVID-19 created a challenge to the facilitation of regional events in person but also the opportunity to increase participation as well as national ownership. The modality was adjusted to support national gatherings which were then networked virtually. With over 700 participants and the high-level engagement across the region, it is clear that the adaptation to COVID19 contexts has been well managed.

In the regional faith-based prevention space, consultations have taken place with a broad range of stakeholders on faith-based engagement in EVAWG, which has contributed to opening a space within highly traditional and structured communities to talk more openly about EVAWG and the moral imperative of faith-based organizations and faith-based leaders to influence change within and outside of the Church. A framework for Church Engagement in Child Protection has been developed through these consultations, which clearly outlines the movement for visible unity and collaboration among Pacific churches in acknowledging past failures and committing to lead the change. Endorsed by the regional collective at the Pacific Church Leaders' Meeting (PCLM), the Framework guides churches and FBOs on their roles and responsibilities in contributing to safe churches for women and children and in guiding their congregations in help-seeking behaviours. The in-depth consultations and partnership in developing the framework to guide this engagement in the Pacific has set a strong foundation for the implementation of the pilot activities in 2021. Relations with the Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI) Church leadership were strengthened after a ten-year hiatus from the Pacific Conference of Churches. The renewed partnership came about through the consultations on the Spotlight Initiative engagement; through the new way of partnering and working the member churches from the RMI have been actively participating in the design and foundation of the pilot programme. Results achieved during the reporting period apply predominantly to the church network leadership and key activists.

The timeline for the piloting of the community-based work has been delayed due to the restrictions on movement between countries due to border closures. However, remote consultations have facilitated the engagement of regional partners, and this is expected to be addressed in 2021.

Additionally, Resources for prevention have been re-programmed to support emergent, immediate needs related to the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 and compounding effects of Tropical Cyclone Yasa (Category 5) in rural areas of Fiji. In the region, Fiji has experienced increased economic impact with increased poverty outcomes for women, female/child-headed households and households that are not supported in existing social protection schemes. Food and shelter insecurity along with job loss, especially for women in the informal sector, has



increased the risk of violence. As a prevention mechanism and to address this imminent need, resources have been redirected to supporting 500 families with food aid and referrals to alternative livelihood options, school supplies for girls and boys for the 2021 school year and 20 wheelchairs for women who are disabled and living in rural areas. These economic and food related interventions, undertaken by The Foundation for Rural Integrated Enterprises and Development (FRIEND), reduce the risk of gender-based violence, and further ensure an integrated response to emergent needs due to COVID-19 and Tropical Cyclone Yasa. This support integrates with FRIEND's strategic approach and orientation to spark gender transformative and social norm change under the banner of livelihoods, food security, nutrition and small business entrepreneurship. This approach is more acceptable, and as a result impactful, to communities recognizing the steep patriarchy and high rates of violence in Fiji.

Outcome 5: Data

Holistic data efforts to tackle prevalence, multi-sector administrative data and capacity-building on data for the Pacific was underway in 2020. The objectives of the data pillar are to build capacities on data, harness and disseminate learning across the region and define the scope of GBV Multi-Sector Administrative Data in collaboration with a diversity of initiatives in the region. A knowledge management website is in its pilot phase to support accessibility for Pacific stakeholders to access information and materials relating to prevalence and administrative data specific to the Pacific region.

As a part of the global roll out, the kNOwVAWdata Initiative launched an Expression of Interest for the region's comprehensive training course; twelve participant slots are resourced by the Spotlight Initiative to support a diversity of partners and colleagues to engage. Priority has been given to Samoa and Vanuatu where there are a range of candidates who have been engaging in the data space, such as health, police and members of the Civil Society National Reference Groups. In parallel to preparation for the course, the initiative is recruiting and setting up a system of peers and mentors to create a community of practice and sense of ownership and sustainability for years to come. The data training will equip a cadre of personnel with skills on safe and ethical data collection, use and analysis prevalence and administrative data related to violence against women.

In the GBV Multi-Sector Administrative Data space, a regional technical working group has been coordinated between UN agencies in partnership with the Pacific Community (SPC) and University of Melbourne. The regional technical working group brings together leading agencies as well as two regional initiatives to end VAWG, the Spotlight Initiative and the Pacific



Partnership to End Violence Against Women and Girls. A programmatic and coordination timeline and roadmap for roll out for the GBV Administrative data systems has been developed including roll outs in Samoa and Vanuatu (covered through Spotlight Initiative) and Fiji, Tonga, Kiribati and Solomon Islands (covered through Pacific Partnership). Countries in the region are at various stages of roll out with some starting from scratch and other well into their discussions and systems development. The multi sectoral administrative data system will utilize global best practice including the GBV Information Management System used in humanitarian settings and data system best practices from other regions such as the ASEAN Regional Guidelines on VAWG Data Collection and Use. This adaptation process and tools developed will form the foundations to support global best practices. This collaboration across UN agencies involved in VAWG Data collection and use also support collaboration between the Spotlight Initiative and other pre-existing programmes and Initiatives, such as the kNOwVAWGdata Initiative and the Pacific Partnership in Ending Violence Against Women, which are key programmes supporting ending violence against women and girls in the Pacific region. The UN agencies, in recognition of the similar work across the two programmes, have come together to collaborate and ensure best practices in programme interventions and leverage opportunities, in the spirit of UN Reform. Under the Spotlight Initiative, for example, a number of regional events will be held through which the work of both UN Women under the Pacific Partnership in Ending Violence Against Women and the Spotlight Initiative will be brought together.

The unprecedented obstacles inflicted on programme planning by COVID19 have demanded unconventional adaptation and innovation. The commitment at the regional level to factor COVID-19 into Pillar five deliverables has enabled for truly comprehensive data collection, befitting for the modern context, which will provide an insight into the cross-cutting considerations of GBV and Health in the Pacific. For example, COVID-19 has required adaptation to a localization of the kNOwVAWGdata initiative for the Pacific creating a hub for knowledge management and capacity building for prevalence and administrative data across the Pacific region. The entire training curriculum for the kNOwVAWGdata training initiative had to pivot to support virtual and in country training. This has traditionally been a programme where at least thirty participants come together across the region to two different locations over a four-week period. This intense training has enabled the creation of a strong community of practice across Asia as well as the Pacific. With the onset of travel restrictions as a result of COVID-19, the course was shifted to support an online programme which also had to take account of the need for the smaller island nations of the Pacific to have consistent access to the course as well as a community around them to provide the necessary support in completing the course. Given the length and nature of the course, the in-person support is a key component. As such, small technical pods have started to be created in each Pacific country where there is more than one

registered participant in the course. The technical pods will have a lead facilitator, who has already participated in the kNOwVAWdata initiative course. This facilitator is receiving now or will receive a high level of technical mentoring from the University of Melbourne to lead the facilitation and gathering of the participants of the course in country. This modality will ensure that participants receive the online training as well as having access to an in country and accessible group of participants who can work through the course together. This will also form the foundations for a national community of practice providing stakeholders across the country with access to knowledge and information to understand and analysis data relating to violence against women.

Outcome 6: Women's Movement

After the consultations with civil society, and as a direct follow up action to the recommendations of the interim Civil Society Reference Group, revisions to the Regional Programme Document were made to include Pillar six with focus on supporting civil society and women's movement building. The timing of these decisions, however, generated challenges for the implementation of Pillar six given the more recent approval of Pillar Six in July 2020.. This was compounded by the reality of COVID-19 on civil society, especially in the movement building space, and the absence of an established civil society reference group for clear mutual communications and consistent engagement with civil society through Spotlight Initiative.

Despite these hurdles, significant headway has been made to create space and create voice for feminist movements and civil society in the Pacific recognizing that Spotlight funds build on and contribute to an existing and broad feminist strategy three decades in the making for the region. In 2020, the key outcomes achieved have been to resource small, grassroots organizations (directly or via granting mechanisms) that are often left out of mainstream funding for EVAWG or Gender Equality and to strengthen relationships with feminist movements and change makers so we can collectively engage as partners for the next two years of the Spotlight Initiative.

In particular, a COVID-19 Response for Small Grants was released and supports eight grantees in four countries. Noting again that the process and trust building is as important as the outcome, a call for Small Grants was released in August for a period of six weeks inclusive of information sessions and intentional reach-outs to networks and organizations to provide information and support on the open call. The call was circulated to countries often left out of mainstream funding opportunities. The process aimed to reduce access barriers to funding due to bureaucratic requirements, access to technology to apply online, in accessible language of funding



calls/applications and so on. The scope of the call was to generate and support grassroots momentum for the response to the socio-economic impact of COVID-19. The aim of the call was to engage "non-traditional" civil society organizations engaged in gender equality and EVAWG work, but who are not currently as connected with regional feminist movement spaces. With a review process, with participation from the EU Delegation in the Pacific, and co-development of work plans for awarded partners, implementation began in the year November 2020. Awarded grantees include eight local or national civil society organizations across four countries. Two of the small grant partners (National Rugby League Tonga and Tonga National Centre for Women and Children)) were able to increase awareness on preventing GBV and the available services to survivors during the 16 Days of Activism of 2020 (24 November to 10 December 2020). Both NRL Tonga and TNCWC traveled to outer islands to reach rural populations with their messages, which expanded the reach of their advocacy, changing attitudes of men and boys, challenging traditional beliefs that disadvantage women, and giving hope to those experiencing or are at risk of experiencing gender-based violence. Other partners have undergone planning and preparatory actions to implement activities in early 2021.

A significant foundational activity for 2020 was establishing a partnership agreement with the Pacific Community (SPC) to support their granting of small funds to grassroots organizations through their existing granting mechanism, Pacific People Advancing Change (PPAC). Spotlight funds are utilized to support a holistic approach to building grassroots civil society capacity for EVAWG/Gender Equality-related advocacy in countries across the Pacific region. This partnership agreement was approved and contracted in December 2020. At present, SPC supports thirteen EVAWG/gender-quality focused organizations and, with Spotlight funding, plans to increase to twenty-one organizations in the next cycle.

The onset of COVID-19 shifted the regional movement building and civil society engagement landscape. As civil society organizations across the regions responded and adapted to these new realities, Outcome six activities related to granting, regional organizing and digital organizing reassessed their configuration and ability to support civil society organizations in this new landscape. After multiple consultations, dialogues and talanoas with civil society organizations, an adaptive approach has been taken to deliver small granting on intersectional, feminist issues that impact VAWG, but receive less funding/attention in the region. This was coupled with a substantive capacity-building plan that is well resourced for grassroots organizations and integration of a digital organizing approach that reacts to immediate technology needs to engage at national, regional and global levels. This approach also aims to address longer term digital organizing needs for the Pacific's feminist movement. This adapted

concept to the realities of COVID-19 was pressure tested with stakeholders in quarter 4 of 2020 and will be implemented in 2021.

Some COVID-19 response grantees, such as TNCWC has already surpassed its target of reaching one hundred and twenty more people (70 women and 50 men) through their awareness workshops for 16 days of activism. In two months, TNCWC were able to reach one hundred and ninety-six people (119 women and 77 men). TNCWC had proposed that three workshops will be held in the outer islands of Vava'u, but realized that two workshops on Falevai and Matamaka Islands were enough to reach people from eight different small islands in that area. Further analysis of their results along with other grantees will be conducted at the mid-term reporting period in quarter 1 of 2021.

Travel restrictions due to COVID-19 have significantly impacted the achievement of results under Outcome 6, which was supposed to support civil society participation and engagement in regional and global policy dialogues, networking, and advocacy.

Furthermore, the nature of civil society engagement and organizing in the Pacific region has fundamentally changed due to COVID-19. Regional movement building and organizing in the Pacific region, including and beyond the feminist movement, has relied on frequent regional and sub-regional convenings, workshops and meetings to build relationships, dialogue and come to consensus on key issues. Engagement through technology, including how to engage through technology and access barriers to technology/internet, have severely stifled the ability of the feminist movement to engage in the Pacific region. This has also led to civil society reviewing and assessing how they engage with new modalities or different modalities which has been a substantial shift with unique impacts on small island states. This adjustment within civil society has significant impacts on how civil society wants to utilize funding opportunities, including Spotlight funds, and a hesitation to accept funds while the landscape is uncertain/up in the air out of concern of being unable to spend.

Rights Holders (“Beneficiaries”)

Indicative numbers	Direct for 2020	Indirect for 2020	Comments/Justifications
Women (18 yrs. and above)	164	771,960	Under Pillar 1; The Fiji National Action plan consultations that happened in Fiji had 58 women participants. This was the launch



			<p>and the first awareness session on the National Action Plan and was attended by high level delegation. Attended by the Prime Minister of Fiji and the Minister of Women, heads of Diplomatic Missions, and UN Agencies as well as CSO members, government, and other members of the public. Spotlight Initiative is supporting the (1) increase in the budget for EVAWG in alignment with a priority policy. The indirect beneficiaries of this launch and National Action Plan are the females in the Central division. Under Pillar 2; national budgets were allocated in Fiji and Solomon Islands were allocated to the prevention and elimination of all forms of VAWG/HP therefore the indirect beneficiaries include the female population of Fiji (minus the central division) and the Solomons. Under Pillar 3; There was also a Faith Based Organization awareness session that was carried out to members of the congregation and the indirect beneficiaries are the approximate numbers of this congregation. However at the point of reporting this is unknown Under Pillar 2, 8 female parliamentarians have</p>
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			strengthened knowledge and capacities to hold relevant stakeholders accountable to fund and implement multi-sectoral programmes to address VAWG through Conducting budget analysis from a gender perspective for MPs. They are the direct beneficiaries while the female populations are the indirect beneficiaries however is only counted once
Girls (5-17)	21		Under Pillar 3; There was also a Faith Based Organization awareness session that was carried out to members of the congregation and the indirect beneficiaries are the approximate numbers of this congregation. However at the point of reporting this is unknown
Men (18 yrs. and above)	227	807,897	Under Pillar 1; The Fiji National Action plan consultations that happened in Fiji had 58 women participants. This was the launch and the first awareness session on the National Action Plan and was attended by high level delegation. Attended by the Prime Minister of Fiji and the Minister of Women, heads of Diplomatic Missions, and UN Agencies as well as CSO members, government, and other members of the public. Spotlight Initiative is supporting the (1) increase in the



			<p>budget for EVAWG in alignment with a priority policy. The indirect beneficiaries of this launch and National Action Plan are the males in the Central division. Under Pillar 2; national budgets were allocated in Fiji and Solomon Islands were allocated to the prevention and elimination of all forms of VAWG/HP therefore the indirect beneficiaries include the male population of Fiji (minus the central division) and the Solomons.</p> <p>Under Pillar 3; There was also a Faith Based Organization awareness session that was carried out to members of the congregation and the indirect beneficiaries are the approximate numbers of this congregation. However, at the point of reporting this is unknown</p> <p>Under Pillar 2, 95 male parliamentarians have strengthened knowledge and capacities to hold relevant stakeholders accountable to fund and implement multi-sectoral programmes to address VAWG through Conducting budget analysis from a gender perspective for MPs. They are the direct beneficiaries while the male population is the indirect beneficiaries however is only</p>
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			counted once
Boys (5-17 yrs.)	14		
TOTAL	426	1,579,857	

Challenges and Mitigating Measures

The impacts of COVID 19 in the world cannot be understated, and although the numbers of affected people and deaths in the Pacific Island countries have been of a much less proportion than that of other regions; the economic and social impacts of the pandemic have been astronomical. Some of these impacts have also been filtered down into programmatic work, including; the Spotlight Initiative Pacific Regional Programme. Some of these challenges have included: delays with recruitments and programme set up, as well as delays in workplans with implementing partners as a result of organizational shifting in priorities to support the immediate needs presented by the COVID19 response, containment and prevention measures. Under the regional programme COVID19 response plan, activities did not change in nature, but the modality of implementation required reconfiguration to ensure that the same outcomes of activities could be met without in country and face to face meetings and convenings. Furthermore, curriculums and systems design work under Pillar five was pivoted to ensure that outcomes would include an understanding of the impact of COVID19 on the incidence of violence against women. In addition, efforts to pivot programmes and support to prevent escalation of violence against women provided key opportunities to increase accessibility to quality and safe services.

Pillar six was approved in Q3 of 2020, which led to various challenges in getting funding to civil society partners (COVID-19 response Small Grants) in time for them to carry out any activities in 2020 (while awards were granted in November, most of them did not receive their first tranche of funding until late December 2020 or early 2021). Operational and administrative issues including the challenges of wiring funds to many small island states, especially in the North Pacific, further exacerbated these delays. Mitigating measures include constant communication and relationship building with partners, which included discussing options on how to deal with the disbursement delays, constant follow ups with financial mechanisms responsible for disbursement within the UN and financial institutions, and ensuring maximum flexibility to partners with regards to their implementation timeline. Communicating with partners while they

wait (as opposed to letting them wait in silence) and assuring them that we were doing our best to move things forward helped build trust amidst the delays.

The ongoing discussions on establishing a Civil Society Regional Reference Group has had a unique impact on Outcome six. Many of the civil society organizations who are engaged in the Pacific feminist movement are also the organizations who have been engaged in the interim CS-RRG process or who are supported by the Spotlight Initiative in the Pacific's EVAWG/Gender Equality movement space. Civil society has shared feedback on their concerns with a lack of adequate engagement in the design process or lapse in communications especially at the start of the program. As in all contexts, movement building efforts in the region require time, trust and consistent engagement. The feminist movement is also not one movement; it is diverse with a range of issues and points of agreement as well as healthy discourse on areas of growth. As such, seeking consensus and agreement on the utilization of Outcome six funds with a diversity of feminist movement leaders and organizations has been critical in mitigating this challenge and ensuring meaningful engagement of civil society before the permanent CSRRG is established.. This relationship-building work undertaken through Spotlight has required constant nurturing and care in order to facilitate granting agreements and overall strategic development of this outcome area. Though the absence of a permanent CSRRG has not significantly delayed delivery on programme objectives, the continued efforts to establish CS-RRG has been a topic to dialogue on and overcome with civil society.

Lessons Learned and New Opportunities

a) Lessons Learned

It has been critical for implementation of the programme to ensure technical coherence and coordination with other RUNOs. During planning of activities under the Spotlight Initiative, key partnerships and coordination mechanisms have emerged. The regular meetings between RUNOs has ensured, for example, coordination between UN agencies and across two regional programmes to ensure quality support for establishing multi sectoral GBV administrative data systems, including coordination of capacity building activities. Innovation and flexibility in implementation have been a key lesson learnt over the reporting period. Despite the restrictions of COVID-19 travel, regional events were held through virtual modalities. The launch of the 2020 International Technical and Programmatic Guidance on Out-of-School Comprehensive Sexuality Education across the region with high level representation, including the opening by the Prime Minister of Samoa, is indicative that that with innovative thinking and flexibility in implementation, activities can be achieved.



During COVID-19 legislative and oversight roles of parliament are more critical than ever before given the need to ensure citizen centered policy and legislative processes and ensuring transparency and accountability in COVID-19 responses by all branches of the state. Parliaments remain the key representative institution and for ensuring that no-one is left behind in recovery processes. Robust gender equality analysis and women's rights perspective critical for this key institution to inform appropriate responses and budgeting

One of the operational lessons learned is also that there should be room in the budget for emergent needs that may not be in the Annual Work Plans but contribute to the Initiative's outcomes. These emergent needs have been widely supported for COVID-19 across the Spotlight Initiative globally, which has proved useful and valuable. Emergent needs unique to the Pacific region also include the layered impact of COVID-19 with cyclone season and the reality of climate change. This unique emerging dynamic requires flexibility in the coming two years to achieve desired impacts.

b) New Opportunities

The travel restrictions imposed by COVID19 required a pivoting of programmes delivery modality, particularly regional events including capacity strengthening activities. While this required increased flexibility and innovation, it has meant that there is an increased level of national ownership over the outcomes of the interventions. This will also contribute to increased sustainability. For example, the creation of technical pods in Pacific countries led by a mentee of the University of Melbourne kNOwVAWdata initiative team will support a localized and sustainable community of practice. This opportunity of supporting a more localized community of practice, as opposed to a regional community of practice as initially planned, would not have emerged so rapidly had it not been for the restrictions on travel linked to COVID19.

The Costing of Violence research has always been conceptualized as a tool that national stakeholders own and develop to achieve key priorities and areas of interest for budgeting and EVAWG related advocacy. As the inception process has gone underway there is a new opportunity in the increased recognition from national stakeholders as to the strategic value of the research, which has increased their ownership. The impact of this recognition will come to fruition in 2021, however the signs are positive and hopeful for impactful research for national governments and with lessons learned for the region.

Another emerging opportunity is the new Safe Church Policy which national councils of churches can adopt and contextualize for their member churches to pass at annual assemblies. This



policy draft would be made available for church leaders to deliberate on the theological and biblical content while ensuring the technical and legal requirements are covered. At national level, a child protection and safeguarding policy draft can be accessed by a larger number of churches allowing the work to proliferate more widely. The PCC mission around child protection and safeguarding is to transform Pacific churches into the safest institution for children by advocating against forms of violence that impact children's lives and the future of Pacific countries. It is thereby crucial that while policy work on structuring safeguarding measures around children is important, what needs to go hand in hand is the awareness and education on children's needs and experiences at community level. The piloting programme around the Training of Trainers and community engagement is a way of building knowledge on the abuses prevalent around children and violence in the Pacific. Although the pandemic delayed or halted much of the work that was planned during the reporting period, opportunity was taken by developing a robust and comprehensive framework for church engagement in EVAWG, as well as giving the PCC Child Protection Coordinator time to learn more about child protection as well as build on individual working relationships with the church leaders in all three pilot countries, resulting in a much closer partnership with RMI than had been seen in previous years.

COVID-19 programming and policy development led by Government and CSOs across the region provided a key opportunity to advocate for the inclusion and scale up of response, mitigation, and prevention measures to gender based violence. Leadership of regional bodies, including the Gender Based Violence in Emergencies Sub Cluster and the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) cell under the regional Joint Incident Management Team provided a key opportunity to develop a range of advocacy notes and guidelines which could then be utilized by countries in their national policies and plans. Such policies, tip sheets and advocacy notes are being adapted and used by countries across the region. Even though this work is not funded directly by the Spotlight Initiative, the political space that emerged has generated a new opportunity to ensure mitigation of GBV during COVID19 response and containment efforts. Furthermore, efforts under Spotlight Initiative on administrative data collection and capacity strengthening efforts under Pillar five will serve to will be inclusive of COVID-19 and other humanitarian disasters to determine the impact of disaster, including COVID19, on the incidence of violence against women and girls. Training and capacity strengthening efforts to support policy makers in understanding data on violence against women and girls in order to support evidence based policies and safe, effective and accurate reporting is also a key component of the Spotlight Initiative which will serve to improve the prioritization of women and girl's well-being in disasters.

Innovative, Promising or Good Practices

Innovative Practice 1

In line with programmatic implementation, the Pacific Regional Programme seeks to support civil society by facilitating small grants, and through a comprehensive capacity strengthening and mentoring modality for engagement. During the reporting period, Spotlight Initiative was able to capitalize on the Small Grants mechanisms of RUNOs, building on existing corporate policies, facilitating funding to grassroots organizations in small island states, in addition to providing support to strengthen and adapt their capacities in response to COVID-19. The first open call for proposals was launched in August 2020 and the first agreements began in November 2020, to be completed in the first half of 2021.

Under Pillar six, Spotlight Initiative brought onboard the Pacific Community (SPC), the Pacific's inter-governmental organization for technical sectors to strengthen the EVAWG/gender equality envelope of its human rights small granting mechanism called Pacific People Advancing Change (PPAC). The PPAC program, in its third cycle of funding, supports a diversity of small, advocacy focused civil society organizations and networks build their advocacy and organizational capacity to achieve campaign goals. In 2021, PPAC seeks to fund up to twenty-one EVAWG/gender-focused organizations. Each of the small granting modalities involves a substantive support structure around the granting itself to include mentoring, dedicated in-country and remote capacity building, one-on-one technical assistance and resources to facilitate movement building through networking, peer learning and strategic planning.

The nature of granting and resourcing feminist movements that are participatory, support organizational development, reduce hierarchies and bureaucratic processes is a well-known approach to successful social movement building across the world. Research reports resourced by global feminist organizations such as AWID (*Toward a Feminist Funding Ecosystem*), FRIDA Feminist Fund and Urgent Action Fund have developed their entire models based on such principles. This is a good practice globally. In the Pacific region, this approach is being modelled by feminist funds such as Urgent Action Fund – Asia Pacific and the Fiji Women's Fund. More efforts are needed to support these small granting opportunities from development partners especially the UN, bilateral donors and large organizations like inter-governmental organizations.

Innovative Practice 2

There is growing recognition that for the Pacific context, churches have a critical role of being key influencers and agents of transformation for communities and the family unit. The church



plays a central role in the life of Pacific Islanders and can transform social norms that perpetuate acts of violence against women and children. The launch of the CSE guidelines presented a unique opportunity to fostering the relationship with religious institutions where the highest representation of the Catholic church in the region sided with governments, civil society and young people on the importance of CSE to transform the lives of young people.

In recent years there has been a paradigm shift, where church leaders and theologians have made the conscious effort to decolonize harmful theology to pastorally and prophetically engage on issues that affect Pacific societies. As a result, there is more engagement on social justice issues which impact our homes and families, meaning that churches have begun to address the need to end violence against women and children.

In line with the technical area of work focused on prevention under Pillar three, Spotlight Initiative is partnering with the Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC) to promote prevention of violence against women and children through a spiritual framework for church engagement in safe churches and communities for vulnerable populations. The partnership and expansion of the church engagement in child protection is planned to extend beyond the period of the Spotlight programme.

This will be actioned by meaningful engagement with communities through the church to incorporate theology-based child protection messaging in regular Church activities with men's groups, women's groups, youth groups and children and adolescents attending Sunday School.

This partnership is also leveraging the work that PCC is undertaking through the Pacific Partnership to EVAWG on the new 'Just and Safe Pacific Communities of Women and Men' programme, advancing a faith-based approach tailored to Pacific faith culture and context to address violence against women and girls at regional and national levels through the same Member Churches and nine council of Churches. This new programme is also part of the PCC's Strategic Plan of 2020 to 2024, which recognizes high rates of gender-based violence and abuse in Christian homes and communities, and for the first time included clear outcomes for religious leaders and faith communities to urgently address high rates of violence against women and girls in the Pacific, using the power of faith and innovative collaborative approaches to address this issue.

Communications and Visibility

a) Overview

A key highlight for 2020 was the launching of the Spotlight Initiative Regional Programme in Suva, Fiji on October 13th of 2020. The Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations and Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group, Ms. Amina J. Mohammed launched the Initiative via video link from New York. Ambassador of the European Union for the Pacific, Sujiro Seam and the United Nations Resident Coordinator, Sanaka Samarasinha also gave remarks at the opening which was attended by about sixty partners and invited guests from civil society and the diplomatic corps. An interactive panel discussion followed the keynote remarks, moderated by the Director for the Human Rights & Social Development Division at the Pacific Community (SPC), Miles Young. Diverse perspectives were shared by panel speakers, including a civil society representative from the Pacific, a representative of faith-based organizations in the Pacific, a youth advocate and a disability advocate connecting from Palau.

The launch was also attended virtually by about one hundred people, connecting from New York to Solomon Islands. Substantial Media coverage was received from across the Pacific region, from Solomon Islands, Tonga, Fiji and New Zealand.

Media coverage from the event is as follows:

Date	Media	Link/ Article
Oct 13, 2020	Mai TV (Fiji)	https://maitvfiji.com/regional-initiative-to-boost-efforts-to-end-violence-against-children-and-women/
Oct 14, 2020	Solomon Times	https://www.solomontimes.com/news/un-and-eu-launch-spotlight-initiative-regional-pacific-programme/10323
	Scoop NZ	https://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/WO2010/S00100/un-and-eu-launch-spotlight-initiative-regional-pacific-programme.htm
	Pacific Scoop	http://pacific.scoop.co.nz/2020/10/un-and-eu-launch-spotlight-initiative-regional-pacific-programme/
	PACNEWS (Pacific Islands Media Association)	Bulletin #1
	Fiji Sun	https://www.pressreader.com/fiji/fiji-sun/20201014/281668257448597



	Sista Vanuatu	https://www.sista.com.vu/un-and-eu-launch-spotlight-initiative-regional-pacific-programme/
	Tonga Broadcasting Commission	http://www.tonga-broadcasting.net/?p=19591
Oct 15, 2020	Fiji Sun	https://fijisun.com.fj/2020/10/15/un-eu-launch-spotlight-initiative-regional-pacific-programme/
	The World News	https://theworldnews.net/fj-news/un-eu-launch-spotlight-initiative-regional-pacific-programme

Another milestone event was the regional launch of the 2020 International Technical and Programmatic Guidance on Out-of-School Comprehensive Sexuality Education (Guidelines) on the 3rd of December 2020. The virtual launch organized by the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) had an estimated seven hundred participants at physical locations across eleven countries (Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, PNG, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Tuvalu, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, and Vanuatu) and was livestreamed on television and social media platforms of the UN and IPPF. With the participation of key political and vital decision makers from across the Pacific, the event was successful in reviving country commitments on comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) and promoting efforts on elimination of violence against women and girls. More specifically, this activity was successful in increasing awareness on the need for CSE for young people and informing national strategies to implement CSE for marginalised and largely out-of-school youth.

Media and Social media coverage:

- https://dailypost.vu/news/technical-guidance-on-out-of-school-education-booklet-launched/article_f3bc8520-38de-11eb-845d-1b64f07c2686.html
- <https://www.facebook.com/427599067359937/videos/406765197193629>
- <https://twitter.com/UNFPAPacific/status/1333950932506185728>
- <https://www.facebook.com/427599067359937/photos/a.427601310693046/3399852240134590/>
- Fiji Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) Alliance ran a post on their facebook account: <https://www.facebook.com/fysrhra/posts/today-celebrated-the-pacific-launch-of-the-international-technical-and-programma/704800237127529/>

b) Messages

The Spotlight Initiative amplifies and complements existing leadership and work underway in the Pacific's EVAWG ecosystem undertaken by governments, service providers and civil society. Noting that there are other EU funded programmes and initiatives in the region focusing on ending violence against women and girls, select messages were identified for effective communication with the intended audiences across the Pacific region. These messages were adopted bringing attention to the issue of Violence Against Women and Girls in the context of the Pacific region and providing further clarity on Spotlight Initiative. The messages were jointly agreed among Pacific RUNOs, and were used in all media and communications outputs:

- The Spotlight Initiative in the Pacific will focus its work on Domestic Violence and Intimate Partner Violence through five key pillars (i) policy and legislation (ii) institutions (iii) prevention (iv) data and (v) Civil Society and Movement Building
- The Spotlight Initiative brings together several UN agencies and all partners working to end violence against women and girls in the Pacific.
- The Spotlight Initiative complements work already underway by our partners to end violence against women and girls
- The Pacific region has some of the highest recorded rates of violence against women and girls globally, with almost 2 out of 3 women who have been subjected to physical or sexual violence in their lifetime, almost double the global average.⁴

⁴<https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/stories/2020/07/pacific-conference-of-churches-and-pacific-partnership-strengthen-efforts-to-address-vawg>



c) Media and visibility events

- The Spotlight Pacific Regional Initiative was launched in Suva, Fiji on the 13th of October 2020 by the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations and Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group, Ms. Amina J. Mohammed via video link from New York. The event was attended by about sixty partners and invited guests from civil society and the diplomatic corps and was also attended virtually by about one hundred people, connecting from New York to Solomon Islands.
- For the first time in the Pacific, high level government and faith-based communities came together to commit to ensuring young people have the knowledge and information to protect their health, well-being and dignity. On the 3rd of December 2020, a virtual launch of the International Technical and Programmatic Guidance on Out-of-School Comprehensive Sexuality Education (Guidelines) took place in Samoa with livestream coverage on television and social media platforms to an estimated seven hundred participants at physical locations across eleven countries (Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, PNG, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Tuvalu, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, and Vanuatu). The event was presided over by the Prime Minister of Samoa, Hon. Tuilaepa Dr Sailele Malielegaoi, flanked by Hon. Kausea Natano, Prime Minister of Tuvalu, Lord Fakafanua, Hon. Speaker of the Tonga legislative Assembly and Eminence Cardinal Soane Patita Mafi from Tonga. The curriculum is being drafted and revised to suit each pilot country i.e Samoa and Vanuatu and is planned for roll out in 2021.

d) Campaigns

Working with the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) a regional launch of the 2020 International Technical and Programmatic Guidance on Out-of-School Comprehensive Sexuality Education (Guidelines) took place on the 3rd of December 2020. An estimated seven hundred participants at physical locations across eleven countries (Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, PNG, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Tuvalu, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, and Vanuatu) witnessed the virtual event which was livestreamed on TV and social media platforms. Launching the Guidelines was the Prime Minister of Samoa, Hon. Tuilaepa Dr Sailele Malielegaoi, and in attendance from Tuvalu was the Prime Minister of Tuvalu, Hon. Kausea Natano as well as the Hon. Speaker of the Tonga legislative Assembly, Lord Fakafanua and Eminence Cardinal, Soane Patita Mafi from Tonga.

e) Human interest stories:

- Out of school CSE commitment from high level government and faith based organisations in the Pacific (Samoa and Vanuatu). [Stories | United Nations in Pacific](#)



- Faith based organisations commit to ending violence against women and girls (RMI, Fiji and Solomon Islands). [Stories | United Nations in Pacific](#)

f) Testimonials:

- “Pacific Island governments and leaders need to understand that the violence against women and girl’s agenda is everybody’s business. They need to make violence against women and girls a priority agenda so by 2030 we should have eradication of all forms of violence against women and girls. We should invite new voices and new actors into the circle and by this I mean traditional leaders, church leaders, chiefs, women leaders, youth. They should be the new voices and new actors into the circle of eliminating violence against women and girls.” Anne Pakoa, Chief Executive Officer of Vanuatu Human Rights coalition
- “Violence against women and girls is not normal and is unacceptable. The government of Vanuatu is committed to preventing and eliminating all forms of violence and discrimination against women, children and vulnerable groups under the National Sustainable Development Plan. We look forward to working closely with all stakeholders to end violence against women and girls.” Prime Minister of Vanuatu, Hon. Bob Loughman Weibur
- “In its 11th General Assembly in 2018 the member churches and national councils of churches which make up the Pacific Conference of Churches reaffirmed their condemnation all forms of violence against women and children as a sin and called on the Christian community in the Pacific to ensure that the dignity of our women and children is protected at all times.” General Secretary of Pacific Council of Churches, Reverend James Bhagwan.
- “We have been working with the UN to increase scale up of positive practices to End Violence Against Women and Girls. It is important to note that these have been co-creative or co-design processes, which we hope will be part of the Spotlight Initiative - Co-design, Co-responsibility, Co-accountability as true partnerships for long-term change. We look forward to Spotlight engaging with FBOs for lasting change.” General Secretary of Pacific Council of Churches, Reverend James Bhagwan.



g) Photos:

Photos from the Pacific and Vanuatu launch, the Out of School CSE Guideline launch and from the faith based organisations discussions on the child protection framework are included on this platform. [PHOTO SUBMISSION PLATFORM](#).

h) Videos:

There are two videos that were produced for the Pacific and Vanuatu Spotlight launches and have been included in this platform. [VIDEO SUBMISSION PLATFORM](#)

Next Steps**Key areas of programming planned work:****Outcome 1:**

- Completion and strategic utilization of the Costing of Violence research in three countries coupled with support for legislative/policy advocacy to apply the findings to real-time policy issues.
- Continue support to members of parliament to improve gender analysis, with special attention on the period of May to June 2021 in line with the budget cycle, building on foundation of work carried out in 2020 and related lessons learnt.

Outcome 2:

- Continue to align a referral strengthening strategy for the North Pacific including better understanding gaps, collaboration, and coordination with other RUNOs and where possible supporting COVID-19 related EVAWG referral needs through the Gender and Protection Cluster.
- Advance efforts to support a functioning EVAWG Task Force in 2021 in Republic of Marshall Islands, ensuring necessary capacity is in place with the onboarding of a technical specialist consultant, and continuing close liaising with Ministry of Health and Human services for referral strengthening.

Outcome 3:

- Capitalize on the 2020 launch of the International Technical and Programmatic Guidance on Out-of-School Comprehensive Sexuality Education, and support countries in the roll out. A second regional event will be conducted to determine best practices and lessons learned during the roll out. Ongoing regional events and training on the safe and ethical collection and reporting of prevalence and administrative data on violence against women and girls.



These events and training curriculums will also be supporting national and regional communities of practice to ensure longer term sustainability of the interventions.

- Continue to support efforts on faith-based engagement on prevention of Violence Against Women and Girls. The framework for Church engagement in Child Protection will focus on the Training of Trainers (ToTs) and community engagement, contributing to safe churches for women and children and in guiding their congregations in help-seeking behaviors. The TOTs will work at community level through knowledge sessions, training tools, and group discussions for the youth, Sunday schoolteachers, church leaders, and women's and men's ministries to reflect on the issue of children and violence. The aim of these trainings would not only test out the training tools and knowledge sessions for impact and relevancy, but to also learn how the programme can integrate child protection and safeguarding as a priority that requires the attention of churches and communities.
- Finalize Youth to Youth in Health (YTYIH) partner agreement to implement the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Social Norms component. This agreement will allow YTYIH to collect information on existing curriculums and programmes, hold focus groups to identify gaps and hold outreach sessions with youth. In carrying out this work, measures will be in place to ensure coordination and technical coherence in line with the International Technical and Programmatic Guidance on Out-Of- School Comprehensive Sexual Education.
- Award the Cookhouse Confidential small grants, supporting members to further the work and raise awareness on social norms and menstrual health management. The Cookhouse Confidential involves private sector, CSOs, government, UN, academia, other development and regional partners. Due to its informal nature it is a new way of working in Republic of Marshall Islands to address important, yet taboo, topics of menstrual health management and thus SRH more broadly. An exciting next step for the programme will be to continue to implement the Cookhouse Confidential activities taking COVID-19 as an opportunity to directly apply lessons learned to ongoing menstrual hygiene needs.
- Continued support through re-programmed funds to support prevention of violence in the face of COVID-19 and natural disasters by addressing the contributing factors of food security and loss of livelihoods. Continued technical support will be provided to FRIEND in their distribution of items and engagement with communities to link to existing response services at the local level.

Outcome 5:

- Support national stakeholders in evidence-based decision making and advocacy efforts, ensuring safe and ethical collection and analysis of both prevalence and administrative.



- Present on GBV admin data systems during the Pacific Triennial in 2021.
- Planned work will entail continued technical coherence efforts and coordination via the Regional Working Group on GBV Administrative Data with existing regional programmes like the Partnership to End Violence Against Women and Girls, to streamline approaches to establishing and maintaining systems as well as ensuring collective work with government and CSO (service provider) partners.
- In particular, the regional Spotlight programme will serve to support a range of accessible tools to support analysis and decision making to ensure that those furthest behind have a voice. Further, the capacity building provided through the in depth kNOwVAWdata initiative will be inclusive of people with disabilities.
- The Initiative will leverage from emerging opportunities linked to the virtual modality of the curriculum, which has the potential to increase the level of participation in the programme across the Pacific region.
- In addition, the creation of technical pods in country, supported with close mentoring from a country lead, will enable the creation of a small and effective community of practice in each participating Pacific island country. This will serve to ensure a high level of accessibility of technical knowledge and understanding at a national level.

Outcome 6:

- Significant efforts have already been undertaken to advance and fast track support to civil society through a first open call for small grants. In line with planned work, efforts will continue to increase capacity and confidence of smaller, grassroots organizations who receive small grants.
- Value and ensure strategic and cutting edge approaches to regional movement building in the wake of COVID-19 including developments in the digital organizing space; resourcing to support advocacy of intersectional, feminist issues that are less funded or receive less attention; and collaboration and resourcing to support civil society engagement in regional and global spaces in the wake of COVID-19, such as the Pacific Feminist Forum, United Nations Commission on Status of Women and Triennial.

Reinforcing the new way of working, next steps will include:

- Looking ahead to the year 2021, efforts will continue to normalize new ways of working between RUNOs at the technical, strategic and coordination levels through Spotlight-specific structures set up in 2020 (e.g. Technical Working Group, joint monthly coordination meeting, thematic “deep dive” sessions, development of M&E, Communication & Visibility,



Knowledge management Plan). In addition, it will entail continued efforts to strengthen cohesion with the existing EVAWG ecosystem including regional programmes like the Pacific Partnership to End Violence Against Women and Girls programme, and other key initiatives. Integrating Spotlight Initiative's programming into existing EVAWG mechanisms at country-level will also remain crucial, particularly for the multi-country component, to ensure sustainability and recognized leadership of existing EVAWG coordination structures.

- Next steps are also expected in line with governance arrangements, noting that the Steering Committee meeting was postponed to January 2021 due to cyclone warnings in December 2020 and taking into account that further dialogue and action is necessary to ensure a more strategic engagement with civil society.
- Throughout implementation of Spotlight Initiative, regular engagement in existent coordination groups will be ensured, such as the existing Gender Coordination Group chaired by SPC and UNWomen, which includes diverse representatives from civil society, relevant stakeholders and partners in the region.
- With programme set up arrangements in place and implementation ongoing, the EU and UN/Spotlight Initiative partnership for the Pacific will be strengthened, facilitated by regular meetings, reporting on updates, mutual communications and joint planning.
- To ensure meaningful results while also taking action to accelerate implementation in line with COVID-19 considerations, the UN RCO together with RUNOs will finalize 2021 Annual Work Plans (AWPs) and related Budget or AWP revisions. Some RUNOs have developed agency specific acceleration plans, applying a fast track procedure approach to minimize operational and bureaucratic challenges, while at the same time prioritizing relationships with civil society and centering the priorities of national governments in achieving strategic policy change.
- Although some of the key results attained during the reporting period has been the establishment of key partnerships, there are ongoing discussions to expand and establish additional partnerships with civil society organizations. This includes ongoing discussions with a civil society organization in Fiji (Outcome 6) and one in Solomon Islands (Outcome 2) and finalizing partnership agreement with Youth to Youth in Health (YTYIH) in Marshall Islands (Outcome 3). Further to this, the next round of small grants for intersectional, feminist issues will also aim to support between seven to ten small grantees from civil society. Spotlight will also continue its partnership with a civil society organization, engaged through a vendor modality, to deliver technical assistance as service readily available for grantees on intersectional, feminist issues.

From a substantive technical standpoint, next steps will include:

- Building on the work carried out in 2020, increased dialogue and technical collaboration will take place in the area of faith-based prevention (Outcome 3) and development of GBV Administrative Data Systems (Outcome 5). Both areas of collaboration are significant and exciting. They require engagement and collaboration across agencies within the UN, partners across the region and other EVAWG regional investments namely the Pacific Partnership to End Violence Against Women and Girls.
- To support best practices in systems and capacity strengthening on GBV administrative data, the technical reference group formed between UN agencies working across regional programmes will be an ongoing feature of the partnership between agencies and programmes (i.e. Spotlight and Pacific Partnership to End Violence Against Women and Girls). The partnership between the SPC and University of Melbourne will be sustained during the implementation of Spotlight Initiative to support implementation of Pillar five.
- A Gender and COVID-19 budgeting guide will be developed for members of parliament in the period before start of budgeting cycle.

ANNEXES

[Annex A: Results Framework](#)

[Annex B: Risk Matrix](#)

[Annex C: CSO Engagement Report](#)

[Annex D: Promising or Good Practices Reporting Template](#)

[Annex E: Annual Work Plan](#)

ⁱ "Ensuring Continuity of Essential Services for Gender-Based Violence during COVID-19 Response in PICs" developed by UNFPA, UNWOMEN, UNICEF, WHO, IFRC, and SPC.

ⁱⁱ Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, highlighting the particular impact of COVID-19 on the incidence of GBV.

