1. BACKGROUND

In April 2020, the United Nations Secretary-General urged all governments ¹ to make the prevention and redress of violence against women and girls a key part of their national response plans for the COVID-19 pandemic. The appeal was answered in a statement by 146 Member States and Observers who expressed strong support.

As a follow up to the Secretary-General’s call, the Secretary-General’s Executive Committee also adopted a “Political Engagement Strategy” for the entire UN system to mobilize commitments and action to end gender-based violence (GBV) in the context of COVID-19. The efforts aim to:

✓ Accelerate concrete policy response to gender-based violence in the context of COVID-19; and
✓ Promote zero tolerance of gender-based violence across all spheres of society everywhere.

All Governments are called to make commitments and undertake policy actions around 4 key action areas²:

❖ FUND
❖ PREVENT
❖ RESPOND
❖ COLLECT

¹ UN Policy Brief “The Impact of COVID-19 on Women” – 9 April 2020
² This call to action was developed from the ‘UN Inter-Agency Statement on Violence Against Women and Girls in the context of COVID-19’.
During **August and September 2021**, the UNiTE Campaign will be focusing its advocacy on the fourth action area of the “Political Engagement Strategy”, **COLLECT**:

- **Collect data for improvement of GBV services and programs (always ensuring survivor-centered and ethical safety standards).**

**Importance of data collection**

“The Violence Against Women Prevalence Estimates, 2018” report, launched on 9th March 2021 (by WHO, in close collaboration with UN Women, on behalf of the United Nations Inter-Agency Working Group on Violence Against Women Estimation and Data), is the largest ever study on the prevalence of violence against women and includes data from 161 countries and areas for intimate partner violence and 137 for non-partner sexual violence.

Since the former prevalence estimates published in 2013, countries have made concrete investments in data collection and more data is available than ever before. According to the report:

- An estimated 736 million women - almost 1 in 3 - have been subjected to intimate partner violence, non-partner sexual violence or both at least once in their life (30% of women aged 15 and older).
- Most of the violence against women is perpetrated by current or former husbands or intimate partners.
- More than 640 million women aged 15 and older have been subjected to intimate partner violence (26% of women aged 15 and older).

The data in the report was obtained through a systematic and comprehensive review of available population-based prevalence data for women aged 15 years and older from the period 2000–2018. The results presented in the report are the first available estimates for intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) reporting period 2015 – 2030; and new estimates supersede all previously published WHO/UN estimates for years that fall within the same period.

Ending violence against women is possible. Timely and reliable estimates on violence against women continue to improve our understanding of the prevalence and extent of the problem and will help track progress. Importantly, we also have growing evidence on what works to prevent violence against women and girls. For this reason, the release of these estimates is a critical milestone to enhance the availability of data globally, drive political and public awareness, inform a more comprehensive and sustained response to ending violence against women globally, and monitor progress towards achieving the SDG target 5.2 on elimination of violence against women and girls during and after the pandemic.

2. **MAIN PRINCIPLES OF UNiTE CAMPAIGN ADVOCACY**

- **Honour and acknowledge women’s movements** and their leadership in preventing and ending violence against women and girls.
- **‘Leave No One Behind’**: Apply a human rights-based approach and focus attention on the most underserved and disadvantaged groups of women and girls in efforts to prevent and end violence against women and girls.
- **Survivor-centred**: Take a respectful and ‘do no harm’ approach to the telling and retelling of survivor stories, only with their informed consent and under conditions in which they have agreed. This and the empowerment principles are vital for the engagement of survivor advocates/activists on their own terms. All UNiTE partners must ensure that survivor advocates’ rights, safety, dignity and confidentiality are prioritized and upheld.

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4. **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

5. **SDG Goal 5 “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”** – Target 5.2 “Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation”.
• **Multi-sectoral:** Everyone in society has an important role to play in ending violence against women and girls and we all must work together across sectors to address the various aspects of violence against women and girls.

• **Transformative:** Fostering critical examination of gender roles, regimes and practices, while seeking to create or strengthen equitable gender norms and dynamics for fundamental, lasting changes for women and girls.

• **Elevate the voices of young feminists:** While the world’s reviewing progress made over the past 25 years since the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action, it is time to create platforms to elevate voices of the next generation feminists who are shaping their future now.

• The **colour orange continues to be a key tool unifying all activities** to bring global attention to the initiative.

### 3. RELEVANT UN FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES

• **UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (UN Trust Fund)**

As the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (UN Trust Fund) marks its 25th anniversary this year, its [Annual Report for 2020](https://www.untrustfund.org/en/annual-report) highlights the transformative role of civil society and women’s rights organizations (WROs) in efforts to prevent and end violence against women and girls (VAW/G) in every region of the world with innovative and demand-driven initiatives.

During 2020, violence against women and girls surged alarmingly as COVID-19 spread and governments introduced lockdown measures to contain it. This was the initial assessment of the UN Trust Fund based on the responses of its grantees operating in 71 countries and territories worldwide. Published six months into the crisis, the UN Trust Fund’s second assessment showed that the continued economic insecurity and movement restrictions are still driving increased violence against women and girls.

The COVID-19 pandemic, however, also highlighted the vital role played by civil society organizations and women’s rights organizations (CSOs/WROs) in preventing and addressing VAW/G as first responders in crises. The Annual Report reflects on the work of the UN Trust Fund and its grantees since its inception in 1996 and looks in greater detail at the achievements of grantees during the last Strategic Plan (2016-2020) and specifically during 2020.

In the past five years, UN Trust Fund’s grant giving has focused primarily on funding CSOs/WROs and specifically WROs. During this time the grantees reported reaching at least 54,615,105 people and at least 1,604,305 women and girls benefited directly through services, empowerment activities and protection from violence, including more than 149,958 survivors of violence.

Despite the challenges caused by the pandemic and the dramatic increase in VAW/G globally in 2020, UN Trust Fund grantees reached over 31,071,058 people through various initiatives and ensured that more than 242,569 women and girls directly benefited from support that led to transformative changes.

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6 All beneficiary data in the Annual report is self-reported data from grantees’ own project monitoring records.
changes in their lives, to prevent and respond to violence including services for at least 26,519 women/girl survivors of violence.

For example, the UN Trust Fund grantee Corporación Con-Vivamos works in Medellín, Colombia with diverse groups of women and girls to transform social attitudes that normalize gender inequality and violence against women. Their project aims to develop studies, surveys and meetings in public and educational spaces, to challenge sexist behavior and attitudes, and to help young people understand and lead transformative changes.

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, Corporación Con-Vivamos has witnessed the growing difficulties faced by local women and girls such as their increased economic vulnerability, the absence of public mechanisms for timely responses to gender-based violence, and a widening technological gap for access to information and support services. These extraordinary times have forced them to radically adapt their methods to maintain services as well as ensure safety and ethics during VAW/G data collection in the pandemic context. They continued collecting data using technology, while maintaining the “do no harm” principle in the COVID-19 context which helped to keep informing the ending violence against women field to tailor responses.

For this reason, the work of UN Trust Fund grantees such as Corporación Con-Vivamos is crucial to ensuring that women and girls, especially those in marginalized communities, are not invisible in reports of violence and continue to shape responses that meet the needs of survivors and those at risk of violence during and after the pandemic.

For more details on the work of the UN Trust Fund, follow @UNTrustFundEVAW on Facebook, @UNTrustFundEVAW on Twitter, @untrustfundevaw on Instagram and check out the social media Trello board here.

- Action Coalition on Gender-based Violence

The work of the Generation Equality Forum is only just getting started. Over the next five years, the goal is to make a tangible impact on the lives of women and girls, in all their diversity, support feminist movements to thrive, and create legal and policy environments that allow for this. To achieve these goals, actions must come with accountability.

The full framework for accountability of the Action Coalitions is under development in active consultation with Action Coalition leaders, commitment makers, and other stakeholders. However, there is broad agreement that all partners in this initiative—whether feminist and youth-led organizations, governments, international organizations, philanthropy or the private sector—have distinct roles and responsibilities and accountability modalities may need to be different as a result. They must be able to hold each other accountable for delivering on the commitments that they make, so that their individual and collective commitments add up to something more: irreversible progress towards a world that is just, equitable, and where all people in all their diversity, regardless of gender, can fully enjoy their human rights.

The accountability framework for the action coalitions will include four core elements:

- Reporting on the implementation of COMMITMENTS,
- Assessments of the progress towards the TARGETS set by each Action Coalition blueprint,
- Assessments of the extent to which Action Coalitions lead and reflect transformative PROCESS,
- Stories of IMPACT, so that we can demonstrate how the Generation Equality Forum Action Coalitions, individually and together, have advanced concrete change by the close of the Action Coalitions in 2026.

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7 UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (UN Trust Fund) Annual Report for 2020.
The principles that underpin the accountability framework are those that inform the Generation Equality Forums overall: intersectionality, feminist leadership and transformation.

These principles apply not only to the results the Action Coalitions hope to achieve; they apply equally to the processes within the Action Coalitions themselves. Our commitment to these principles means that measurement will address:

- **Intersectionality**: The impact of the Action Coalitions on women and girls who are most marginalized and who face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination to ensure that progress on gender equality also reaches their lives.

- **Feminist Leadership**: The extent to which Action Coalitions are transformative and enable diverse women, girls and young people and their organizations and other partners to lead, co-create, influence their work, and hold each other to account. How the Action Coalitions have contributed to sustainable and strong feminist, women’s rights, and youth- and girl-led movements and the extent to which they have increased the diversity and visibility of feminist leadership.

- **Transformation**: Whether and how the work has contributed to the transformation of unequal systems, structures and power relations within and between communities and countries. Action Coalition leaders will take steps to actively interrogate power relationships and dynamics within their work and address imbalances. To realize these principles, we will foster spaces that encourage intergenerational dialogue, joint decision making and agenda setting, and co-leadership.

The Young Feminist Manifesto will be an important guide in this transformative work. Accountability for the Action Coalitions must also model a new, multi-stakeholder movement and agenda for gender equality, focused on solidarity with the leadership of young people and through a re-imagined global contract for gender equality. In this way, the Action Coalitions can inspire and reflect the ambitions outlined in the UN Secretary-General’s ‘Our Common Agenda’ for new multilateralism.

There are many existing frameworks and opportunities that can be leveraged for accountability, like international and regional human rights systems, the Commission on the Status of Women, High Level Political Forum, and, of course, parliaments.

There is also already robust and independent monitoring from civil society of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Beijing Platform for Action, and funding flows to women’s movements, among other things. The accountability framework will seek to build on and strengthen these efforts, rather than duplicate them.

Improving the production, availability, accessibility and use of quality data and statistics on gender-based violence, disaggregated by sex, disability, age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, migrant status, geographic location, and other socio-economic dimensions to support development, adoption, reform and implementation of legislation and policies to address violence against women and girls in all their diversity is a key tactic of the Action Coalition on GBV. This core strategy of Action Coalition on GBV is central to the measurement of progress and impact and to ensuring accountability more broadly.
Women Peace and Humanitarian Fund

Supporting Local Women’s Organizations’ Data Collection to Counter SGBV in Conflict and Crisis

The Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) is a global partnership mobilizing critical financing for local women-led and women’s rights organizations to respond to crises and emergencies, prevent conflict and sexual and gender-based violence, and seize key peacebuilding opportunities in fragile settings around the world. Since its launch in 2016, WPHF has invested over 36 Million USD through three funding windows and supported over 400 civil society organizations in 25 countries around the world: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Burundi, Colombia, D.R.C., Haiti, Iraq, Jordan, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Myanmar, Nigeria, Palestine, Papua New Guinea, South Sudan, Sudan, the Pacific (Fiji, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu), Uganda and Yemen.

Strengthening the Capacity of CSOs Fighting SGBV to Promote the Application of Do No Harm and Ethical Principles in Data Collection

In fulfillment of its mandate to serve as a global knowledge center for local civil society organizations working on the front lines of conflict and crises, the WPHF Secretariat in 2020 led the design and launch of the WPHF Global Community of Practice (CoP), fostering a dynamic, innovative, and collaborative online space for its CSO grantee partners to connect with each other, strengthen their networks, share information and best practices, exchange experiences and deepen their skills and capacity.

Through its various CoP and M&E channels at the global level, WPHF actively promotes the application of do no harm and ethical principles in data collection processes of its grantees on projects related to SGBV. This is achieved through the execution of various capacity building initiatives, including virtual webinars and tip sheets, which highlight the need for anonymity and confidentiality; informed consent and assent of minors; proxy indicators and secondary data for obtaining prevalence of violence to ensure minimizing emotional distress of beneficiaries; female data collectors to ensure comfort and privacy; instruction on how to frame questions in more generalized manner to reduce stress and risks; as well as the promotion of qualitative information as an important methodology to understand experiences and perceptions of those working on the prevention and response of SGBV programming. In addition, adaptation strategies such as reduced scope, frequency of data collection and sometimes a ‘good enough approach’ to ensure protection of women and girls is encouraged. WPHF has developed a series of sample data collection tools for its CSO partners to adapt and contextualize, helping them to effectively integrate these approaches and assess risk throughout the monitoring and evaluation continuum.
Spotlighting WPHF-supported Data Collection Efforts of Civil Society Partners in Liberia

The COVID-19 global pandemic has presented grave new threats to the critical work and very existence of women civil society organizations working on the front lines of crises, making the mandate of WPHF to mobilize support and advocate for their efforts to respond to crises and build peace more urgent than ever before. Through its COVID-19 Emergency Response Window launched in April 2020, WPHF has provided a flexible combination of programmatic and institutional financing for over 42 projects implemented by 62 local organizations in 18 countries across the globe.

In Liberia, WPHF is supporting the Disabled Children and Females Empowerment Network (DCFeNetwork) — a women’s rights and community-based organization — to strengthen its institutional capacities and sustain its activities to appropriately respond to the alarming rise in violence against women and girls in Liberia. Supported with financing through the WPHF COVID-19 Emergency Response Window, DCFeNetwork was able to sustain its operations and build its capacities to strengthen SGBV case management by developing a mobile application that has empowered and assisted visually impaired/blind women and girl survivors of violence to report SGBV cases. Not only has the new tool enhanced DCFeNetwork’s knowledge of the extent and frequency of SGBV cases against women and girls with disabilities via the instant collection and tracking of data, but it has also played a significant role in the strengthening of the organization’s response and case management mechanisms. Furthermore, this WPHF-supported project has enabled DCFeNetwork to increase access to justice for women survivors with disabilities through transcribing Liberia’s 2019 Domestic Violence Act intro braille, further enhancing visually impaired/blind women’s knowledge of their fundamental rights.

- United Nations-European Union Spotlight Initiative

The Spotlight Initiative is a global, multi-year partnership between the European Union and the United Nations to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls by 2030. As the largest global investment to eliminate violence against women and girls, the Initiative is incorporating a focus on COVID-19 into its programming.

Through a partnership that fosters collaborative, innovative and participatory approaches, over the past two years, the Spotlight Initiative has focused on policy and law reform; the strengthening of institutions; prevention through transformative change of social norms, attitudes and behaviours; access to high-quality, comprehensive and multisectoral services; the strengthening of data collection; and support for women’s rights organizations.

Through the Spotlight Initiative, UN Women has supported efforts in data collection and analysis.
Highlights from the field:

- Under Spotlight’s Safe and Fair programme in Southeast Asia, there was analysis of big data generated across social media platforms and search engines. In particular, big data on people’s search behaviour on VAWG-related topics (both before the onset of the pandemic and since) were considered.

- In Mexico, UN Women promoted extensive dialogues with producers and users of statistics on violence against women at the state and the municipal level to deepen the statistical process’s relevant local aspects to understand better and prevent VAWG. More than 30 interviews with public officials were held from state and municipal agencies in different states to identify good practices in the generation of statistics on VAWG.

- In Liberia, UN Women collaborated with UNFPA on a mapping of non-traditional service providers/center at community level in order to ensure that survivors get quick access and support when faced with SGBV. This was also incorporated into National SGBV referral pathway and directory for response to SGBV cases.

UN Joint Programmes and Initiatives

JOINT PROGRAMME ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN DATA

Over the past decade, there has been growing recognition of the need for high quality and reliable data on violence against women (VAW) in order to effectively address it. This has put the measurement of VAW high on the international agenda. Comparable prevalence of VAW data and guidelines for producing standardized statistics on VAW are of the utmost relevance.

In response to the global need for VAW data, UN Women and the World Health Organization (WHO) are implementing the five-year (2018-2022) global Joint Programme on Violence against Women Data with funding from the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) of the United Kingdom. The programme seeks to ensure that quality, comparable data on different forms of violence against women are collected over time to address national data gaps and meet policy and reporting commitments under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Beijing Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The programme focuses on three articulate areas: 1. Strengthening methodologies for measuring VAW; 2. Strengthening regional and national capacities on VAW data collection and use, initially in the Arab States and East and Southern Africa regions; and 3. Enhancing data use to influence policies and programmes.

The Joint Programme has created strong synergies with sister agencies particularly UNFPA, UNSD, UNODC and UNICEF as well with other partners and stakeholders all through its three areas of work. Main accomplishments are notable on globally agreed SDG reporting, estimation methods, methodological work, guidelines, including considerations during COVID-19 crisis, administrative data and capacity-building in collection, use and advocacy for responsible and gender sensitive policy making. The Joint Programme on VAW data is a unique collaborative platform among UN Agencies to ensure quality methodological work in line with global standards on VAW data collection, particularly when facing unprecedented global crisis.

COVID-19 Response

Responding to the extraordinary demand in guidance and production of VAW data in the context of COVID-19 pandemic, the Joint Programme VAW data produced a tailored guidance on VAW data collection and a decision-tree on the safety and ethics of data collection on VAW in the context of COVID-19 crisis, given it is associated with lock downs and mobility restrictions. The aim of these resources is to ensure that internationally established safety and ethics guidelines and recommendations are not being compromised and women’s and girls’ safety
were always prioritized over data collection exercises. As prevalence data collection is not advised in the context of the pandemic, to measure its impact on women and girls lives, the Joint Programme VAW data conducted a **rapid assessment on Impact of COVID-19 on VAWG and service provision** as a way to approach data collection during the pandemic. The Joint Programme VAW data has also been providing input on rapid gender assessment surveys that include indirect measures that may reflect VAW (e.g. perceptions of safety).

**Highlights of the Joint Programme on VAW data**

**Methodological developments**
- A strong, country informed and validated, new database created with updated national, regional, and global estimates of intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence prevalence. The database includes data for 158 countries and 3 areas across all geographical regions for surveys conducted between 2000 and 2018.
- Measurements enhanced on psychological/emotional intimate partner violence, resulting in a revision of the WHO multi-country study instrument and of the Demographic and Health Survey module on domestic violence, on intimate partner violence among older women undertaken to draft a set of globally agreed core questions and on violence faced by women with disabilities.
- **Background paper on the collection and use of VAW administrative data** was issued. It is currently informing the development of a global guidance targeting National Statistical Offices (NSOs), policymakers and programme managers responsible for providing services to survivors of VAW and interacting with perpetrators. This global guidance note aims to lead the designing, planning and implementing of the collection, management, analysis, reporting and communication of administrative data on VAW.
- Inter-agency collaborations advanced towards a global statistical framework on femicide measurement.
- UN system-wide mobilization and the SG’s political engagement strategy Advantageously informed.

**Capacity Building**
- Strengthened capacities of officers of women’s machineries and National Statistical Offices in 21 countries in the Arab States (AS) and the Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) Regions through four regional workshops on measurement and collection of VAW data, organized jointly with UNESCWA and UNFPA.
- Engagement in two strategic partnerships with research institutions consortia launched to lead the regional capacity development initiatives that strengthen in-country resources on VAW measurement: with the Arab Institute for Women at the Lebanese American University with the Global Women’s Institute at the George Washington University in the Arab States Region, and with the African Population and Health Research Center in a consortium with the Department of Population, Family and Reproductive Health at the University of Ghana for the East and Southern Africa Region.

**Data Use**
- 14 countries were supported through technical assistance to the implementation of VAW prevalence surveys, including Caribbean States, Morocco, Tanzania, Uganda, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and Suriname and policy dialogues for VAW data use in Jamaica, Georgia and Albania influencing policy changes.
- **Rapid assessment on the impact of COVID-19 on service provision** to women survivors of violence was designed and implemented at the beginning of the pandemic in 49 countries of 5 regions. In addition to data collection, it also helps to the engagement of data.
- **OHCHR**

OHCHR is continuing its data collection work, including on the impact of COVID-19 on human rights, and women's right to live free from violence. Tools developed and used include innovative approaches such as the use of crowdfunding to identify and evaluate the effectiveness of policies on the ground, as well as human rights monitoring and surveys to inform programmes.
Global efforts

OHCHR, ILO and several other partners jointly conducted a global survey on the impacts of COVID-19 on young people. This survey found that the impacts of the pandemic on young people, particularly among young women, younger youth and youth in lower income countries, are systematic, deep, and disproportionate. The results of this survey are meant to guide the efforts to place young women and people’s voices at the centre of the recovery from COVID-19 impacts.

Highlights from the field

Cameroon, Central African Republic, Niger, and Tunisia (conducting quantitative surveys)

Developed quantitative survey results on the impact of COVID-19 on women. The quantitative surveys enable the collection of disaggregated data on the socio-economic impact of COVID-19, with a particular focus on women. Collaboration involves UNICEF, UN Women and national authorities (in particular the National Statistical Offices and Ministries in eight countries in the region) of the following countries: Senegal, Côte d’Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Togo and the Central African Republic.

Mexico (Census and COVID)

Through an initiative that started in 2020 with the support of OHCHR on measuring the impact of COVID-19 pandemic, Mexico’s National Statistics Institute presented its second census on cemeteries in July 2021. After the first census round in 2020, OHCHR Mexico organized an exchange between the National Statistics Institute, National Search Commission and the ICRC to identify how to use the data in order to improve search programs for disappeared persons. These suggestions were incorporated into the 2021 Census and the National Search Commission will be able to use the data to propose public policies for the identification of human remains in mass graves.

Kosovo (monitoring the impact of COVID)


Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean (crowdsourcing to improve data collection on COVID-19 impact)

- An unprecedented crowdsourcing project to collect data and improve services and programmes, including GBV related, while ensuring a survivor-centered approach, was conducted in India and in 23 other countries from Asia. The project reached out to people living in remote areas. It aimed to enable people to share their views and improve, through social accountability, policies for better respect of human rights, including the right to health, food, education, and protection against violence. The outcome information was provided to Indian government actors and Parliament in its first two phases. In its third phase, a partnership with the University of Tokyo ensured data collection and assessment of policies in 23 other Asian countries. A link to the seminar can be found here.

Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean. The report reflects key insights emerging from the crowdsourcing project to examine legal and policy responses to COVID-19 in 14 countries. These countries include Cambodia, Bangladesh, India (including a separate study focusing on the Indian state of Kerala), Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali, Cameroon, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Uruguay, and Barbados. The ultimate objective is to use country-level insights to inform international and domestic actors committed to a rights-based response to and recovery from COVID-19, and to building forward better with enhanced pandemic preparedness and response frameworks.

**UNDP**

UNDP Senegal is currently working on two projects pertaining to data collection and gender-based violence. In tandem with partners at the National Agency for Statistics and Demographics (ANSD), UNFPA and UN Women, UNDP Senegal is carrying out a nationwide survey on gender-based violence in order to gain an oversight on the situational analysis in the country. The survey will be carried out on two levels: firstly, at the structural level, targeting those institutions tasked with managing cases of GBV (i.e. hospitals, the judicial system, security forces), and secondly, within individual households. The main objectives of the survey are, firstly, to provide GBV monitoring indicators that meet SDGs 5 and 16, as well as a monitoring and evaluation plan, in order to measure them periodically. The survey will also serve as a point of reference for the monitoring of the aforementioned SDGs. Finally, it will seek to provide recommendations to prevention programmes and GBV management systems.

The second project is related to the COVID-19 crisis, and the confinement measures that came along with it, which have resulted in a marked increase in reporting of cases of gender-based violence. Along with UN Women, UNDP Senegal thought it necessary to carry out a large-scale collection of data on the subject to better grasp the extent of the problem. However, given that the measures in place render many of the traditional methods of data collection impractical or impossible, a digital tool, “Platform WEB-SMS” was designed. The tool facilitates the use of a data collection, as well as providing an alert and prevention mechanism to be used by civil society actors. It also seeks to measure the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on GBV and the emergence of new forms of violence, as well as documenting protection measures, support measures and the resilience of victims, particularly in times of crisis. It is on the basis of these new data points that an advocacy strategy will be put in place, namely for the mobilisation of resources to establish places of refuge for women that are fleeing situations of violence. The project will also include an awareness-raising campaign on GBV.

**UNFPA**

*Strengthened institutional capacity in the use of the GBV Case Information Management Systems (GBV IMS) for routine reporting:*

- A national data tool – the GBV Case Information Management Systems - was established in Nigeria,
- A data collection tool, inspired by the GBV IMS, but adapted to the local context, was developed in Niger,
- In Malawi, UNFPA supported the upgrading of the web based GBV Information Management System for the Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare,
- In Mozambique, InfoViolência, an administrative GBV data collection and management platform was developed in the police system. InfoViolência represents the first step in the country’s ability to better manage, analyze and use data on violence cases, in almost real time, with a long-term plan to integrate other existing GBV administrative data systems such as the one used by the Ministry of Health and the administration of justice.
- In Zimbabwe, the GBV Information Management assessment was completed, including a draft framework for a harmonized GBV IMS, with actionable recommendations on various aspects of a GBV IMS.
• In Mozambique, a single file "Ficha Unica" (Integrated essential service delivery) is being used to register medical, psycho-social, police, judiciary support to GBV cases. This key achievement supports the streamlining of integrated essential service delivery, helps to prevent revictimization of survivors, and supports accurate administrative GBV data collection.

**Strengthened institutional capacity in the use and analysis of GBV data to inform programming:**

- In Mexico, UNFPA in alliance with Data Cívica developed a platform on VAWG (https://spotlight-unfpa.datacivica.org/). The platform includes GBV data at sub-national level and is disaggregated according to different sociodemographic variables. It also includes data on trends and on the relationship between different types of violence through maps and interactive graphs.
- A knowledge management website is in its pilot phase, in partnership with the kNOwVAWdata initiative, to support accessibility for Pacific stakeholders to access information and materials relating to prevalence and administrative data specific to the Pacific region.

**Research:**

- The Uganda Bureau of Statistics with support from UNFPA has conducted research on GBV/SRH to avail evidence to inform policy advocacy. The findings support monitoring and reporting on SDG 5.2, 5.3, 5.6 and related SDG targets to inform evidence-based decision-making.

**Measuring progress:**

- In Malawi, Scorecard on Reproductive Health, Maternal Neonatal Child and Adolescent Health was finalized with Gender Based Violence indicators integrated.

**Harmonization:**

- To further a One UN approach to eliminating violence against women and girls, an inter-agency technical working group on GBV multi-sectoral administrative data was established in the Pacific by UNFPA, convened with UN Women, to harmonize approaches, ensure consistency and prevent duplication in the process and quality of GBV multi sectoral administrative data,
- In Tajikistan, UNFPA supported the Agency on Statistics to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the current state of data collection on GBV in Tajikistan through a participatory review and mapping of existing administrative data, identification of data gaps and procedures in order to establish the areas of intervention and support the development of data indicators and procedures to create a unified mechanism of collection of GBV data across government agencies.

**UNODC**

Latest global estimates show that, on average, almost 1 in 3 women worldwide have been subjected to sexual and/or physical violence by any current or former husband or male intimate partner, or to sexual violence by someone who is not a current or former husband or intimate partner, or to both of these forms of violence at least once since the age of 15. Women are also more likely than men to be killed by intimate partners or other family members. UNODC supports crime and criminal justice data collection and analysis to better understand crime trends and patterns on violence against women and obstacles in reporting and prosecuting perpetrators. In particular, UNODC supports global standard-setting on justice data collection, conducts victimization surveys and collects official administrative data from Member States through the annual United Nations Surveys on Crime Trends and the Operations of Criminal Justice Systems (UN-CTS).
Country-specific crime and criminal justice data

- Official data reported to UNODC by Member States through the UN-CTS and a network of focal points from national authorities is available on the UNODC Data Portal [https://dataunodc.un.org/](https://dataunodc.un.org/). This includes data on sexual and domestic violence offences reported to the police, female victims of homicide, including by intimate partners and other family members, trafficking in persons, financial crime, property crime and other offences, as well as broader criminal justice data on the number of persons arrested, prosecuted, convicted and in prison and the number of criminal justice personnel by sex. More recent data is included in the section on crime during COVID-19, which seeks to provide evidence on how Covid-19 is impacting the global and local landscape of crime.

- UNODC supported the Saint Lucia National Crime Victimization Survey, which found that over 10% of the population 18 years and over experienced at least one type of sexual harassment in the past 12 months, while women were disproportionately affected (81% women victims, compared to 17.6% men and 1.4% intersex).

- In Mexico, UNODC monitored available data on violence against women during the COVID-19 pandemic and published a research update and infographics.

Key initiatives and publications

Global standard setting on crime and criminal justice data collection

- The International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes provides a comprehensive framework for producing statistics and improving the comparability and granularity of data on crime and criminal justice at national and international level. National implementation of the ICCS helps provide an understanding of the extent of crime and its drivers, aiming to support efforts to monitor SDG targets in the areas of public security and safety, trafficking, corruption, and access to justice. In addition to covering gender-related killings of women and girls or “femicide” as a form of intentional homicide, it allows for disaggregation that can provide information on specific forms of gender-related killings.

- Together with UN Women, UNODC launched a Global Consultation on a Common Statistical Framework on Gender-Related Killings of Women and Girls (Femicide/Feminicide), with the support of its Center of Excellence in Statistical Information on Government, Crime, Victimization and Justice. This initiative responds to the 2019 request by the UN Statistical Commission in 2019 to develop such a statistical framework (E/CN.3/2019/19), based on the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes. National institutions, civil society and academics all over the world were invited to participate in this consultation and submit the questionnaire by 30 June 2021. The results and the final reviewed framework will be presented to the Statistical Commission at its 53rd session.

Examples of relevant funds and programmes

- In Latin America and the Caribbean, UNODC strengthens the statistical capacities of Member States through the technical assistance provided by its Center of Excellence in Statistical Information on Government, Crime, Victimization and Justice. The Center promotes gender perspective mainstreaming efforts for all the statistical products developed in the region. It has incorporated sex and gender disaggregating variables in the regional methodology for crime victimization surveys, apart from developing a dedicated module on sexual harassment for countries to measure gender-biased conducts. It has also assisted countries in the review and strengthening of their criminal administrative records, emphasizing the need for comprehensive data disaggregation that not only differentiates cases by sex, but ultimately reveals inequalities and relationships between victims and perpetrators.

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8 So far, inputs from 79 different countries, as well as from UN Agencies and regional organizations have been received. Participating national institutions range from security forces, criminal justice institutions, national statistical offices, women’s empowerment and human rights institutes and civil society organizations.
Global tools: crime classifications, studies and reports

- Global Report on Trafficking in Persons (2020)
- Global Study on Homicide (2019), including Booklet 5 on gender-related killing of women and girls
- The Trial of Rape: Understanding the criminal justice system response to sexual violence in Thailand and Viet Nam English, Thai, Vietnamese
- Research brief: What crime and helpline data say about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on reported violence against women and girls
- International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (version 1.0), in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish
- Measuring violence against women and other gender issues through ICCS lenses

UN WOMEN

- Statistics that adequately reflect the lived realities of women and men, girls and boys—gender statistics for short—are indispensable tools for developing evidence-based policies and solutions to achieve gender equality and women’s empowerment. Such statistics, which include but are not limited to sex-disaggregated data, shed light on areas where progress is made, provide evidence of what works, and reveal gaps where further efforts are needed.

UN Women, through its global gender data programme, “Making Every Woman and Girl Count” (Women Count) is affecting a radical shift in the availability, accessibility and use of data and statistics on key aspects of gender equality and women’s empowerment.

Women Count is supporting Member States’ efforts to improve the production of gender statistics, including building the technical capacity of national statistical systems, strengthening policies and practices governing the production and use of gender statistics; and providing financial support for data collection to monitor the SDGs and other national and international commitments. One of several products launched by the Women Count team during COVID-19 has been the COVID-19 and gender monitor. The dashboard is a compilation of indicators that informs gender-responsive policy action on COVID-19 and is an UN inter-agency collaboration. Read more here.

- The Global COVID-19 Gender Response Tracker which is coordinated by UNDP, with substantive technical leadership of UN Women, was first launched in September 2020. As victims of domestic violence locked down with their abusers during the pandemic, violence response services have reported increases in demand of up to 500%. Intended to spur action, the tracker was launched to provide insights on what governments have done to support women and mitigate these negative impacts.

The March 2021 update adds a new module, and the tracker now covers 3,112 measures across 219 countries and territories (up from 2,517 measures / 206 countries in September 2020).

Some 64% of all gender-sensitive measures in the tracker focus on preventing and/or responding to VAW/G (832 across 149 countries). This is a heartening response to the UN Secretary General’s call to action and the demands of women’s movements. For more information on the data, please visit here.

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**Highlights from the field**

**Europe and Central Asia Region**

- **In Central Asia**, UN Women, under the Spotlight Initiative Regional Programme for Central Asia and Afghanistan, supported the first edition of the series of the publications “Calling in” within a feminist initiative designed by the youth-led FemAgora NGO. The first edition of the publications highlights the self-organized work of crises centres and services in Central Asia in the context of COVID-19 pandemic. 14 experts from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan shared their approaches to domestic violence response and the experiences of the crisis centres, as well as recommendations on support of the crisis centres’ work and other services. As first contact with survivors, crisis centres document cases and gather valuable evidence and data on violence against women and girls. This issue also includes recommendations from the civil society and health sector partners on the support needed for effective work of the crises centres.

- **Rapid gender assessment** in Albania shines light on gender-based violence COVID-19 has been disproportionately affecting women compared to men, and it threatens to deepen gender inequalities, a rapid gender assessment by UN Women Albania shows. The survey was conducted from 17 – 26 April 2020, in partnership with IDRA Research & Consulting. It measured the socio-economic impact of the pandemic and how it affected the livelihoods of women and men. 1300 persons from different age groups, family status, and location participated in the survey, answering questions about access to information on COVID-19, health, work and income, time use and support needs. [Find out more](#).

- In the framework of the EU-funded regional programme on ending violence against women and girls in the Western Balkans and Turkey “Implementing Norms, Changing Minds,” UN Women partner organization “Observatory for Children’s Rights” has collected baseline, mid-term and end line data on peoples’ perceptions on gender equality, gender roles and violence against women and girls in Albania. Responses received from those surveyed, informed the design of a nationwide campaign that targets one specific behavior: lack of reporting of cases of violence, not only by survivors themselves but also bystanders. More than 53 thousand people were reached during the one-year campaign mostly through text messages, face by face meetings and social media. Four different text messages aiming to increase gender-based violence reporting, were sent to over 48 thousand people. [Read more](#).

- **Purple Map aims to make the city safer for women**

  UN Women worked in collaboration with Ankara Metropolitan Municipality (AMM), the Municipality of Turkey’s capital Ankara, to develop a new online tool – a social risk map – to identify and better understand the needs of women and improve provision of gender sensitive municipal services on the territory of the municipality. “My Purple Map” which is available at [morharitam.ankara.bel.tr](http://morharitam.ankara.bel.tr), was developed with the technical support of UN Women’s partner think-tank, Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation (TESEV), and with funding from Sweden through the Swedish International Development Cooperation...
Agency (SIDA). It uses innovative methodology to identify specific locations and physical spaces in the city that require improvement from the point of view of women’s various needs (for safety, care services, protection services, mobility) as well as to give women opportunity to provide feedback and make queries on the services provided by the municipality. The data collected and feedback received is then filtered and analyzed by municipal officials, who have received specific training on use and maintenance of the map by TESEV. Even though it is still in initial stages of use, the Municipality has already committed to respond to early data collected where gaps have been identified in street lighting of bus stops and streets in order to improve public safety. Furthermore, five-day care facilities and two counselling centers for women will be opened in Ankara by AMM as stated in the Local Equality Action Plan 2021-2024 and discussions have started within the Municipality’s responsible departments on identifying the location of such care facilities with the support of the map. AMM is planning to launch the mobile application of the map to reach more citizens and make the city safer for women. Read more.

4. SUGGESTIONS FOR ACTIVITIES: TAKE ACTION THIS ORANGE DAY!

All UNiTE Campaign partners, including UN agencies, civil society, private sector, sports associations, youth groups, universities, schools etc. are encouraged to:

- **Orange** their workplace, schools, communities and online spaces to raise awareness about UNiTE Campaign and its relevant theme on Orange Days: 25 August and 25 September.\(^\text{10}\)
- Organize social media campaigns and advocate for investing in civil society and women’s right organizations.
- Call for efforts by governments, donors and policymakers for allocations of resources to collect data for improvement of GBV services and programs, to inform gender-responsive policy action during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Connect with survivor advocates, civil society and activist groups** and advocate together for political commitment and leadership in investing in high quality surveys on violence against women and improving measurement of the different forms of violence experienced by women, including those that are most marginalized, across the life course to enhance evidence and knowledge and to monitor progress.
- **Connect with private sector** for fund-raising events for organizations that support survivors of violence and those who work towards ending violence against women; and use their resources and platforms to support the amplification of voices of survivors.
- **Host discussion events** for awareness raising on the importance of data collection for improvement of GBV services and programs, as the absence of adequate data can impede progress in creating informed and effective policies to eliminate violence against women and girls.
- **Promote and showcase youth-led initiatives** in schools, universities and campuses to end violence women and girls.
- **Donate** to their local shelter and/or women’s rights organization working to prevent and end violence against women and girls in their community.

5. SUGGESTED SOCIAL MEDIA MESSAGES

*To download visuals and assets, click on the image to go to the high-resolution version.*

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\(^{10}\) UN Women - [Orange the World Partners Kit](https://www.un Women.org/)

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• The #COVID19 pandemic has been hitting women hard. As victims of domestic violence locked down with their abusers, violence response services have reported increases in demand of up to 500%.\textsuperscript{11} Intended to spur action, the COVID-19 Global Gender Response Tracker, which is coordinated by UNDP, with substantive technical leadership of #UNWomen, was first launched in September 2020 to provide insights on what governments have done to support women and mitigate these negative impacts. The Tracker now covers 3,112 measures across 219 countries and territories. For more details: https://data.undp.org/gendertracker/

#ViolenceAgainstWomen #VAW #DATA #OrangeDay

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Facebook: @unwomen @UNDP @SayNO.UNiTE

• In response to the global need for VAW data, UN Women and the World Health Organization (WHO) are implementing the five-year (2018-2022) global Joint Programme on Violence against Women Data with funding from the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) of the United Kingdom. The programme seeks to ensure that quality, comparable data on different forms of violence against women are collected over time to address national data gaps and meet policy and reporting commitments under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Beijing Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The programme focuses on three articulate areas: 1. Strengthening methodologies for measuring VAW; 2. Strengthening regional and national capacities on VAW data collection and use, initially in the Arab States and East and Southern Africa regions; and 3. Enhancing data use to influence policies and programmes.


#ViolenceAgainstWomen #VAW #DATA #OrangeDay

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\textsuperscript{11} ‘COVID-19 and violence against women and girls: Addressing the shadow pandemic’, UN Women, 2020 - New York.
Almost 1 in 3 women, an estimated 736 million, have been subjected to intimate partner violence, non-partner sexual violence or both at least once in their life. Yet, only less than 40% of women seek help after experiencing violence, and less than 10% go to the police.

Several factors contribute to underreporting, including the stigma associated with #VAWG, fear of repercussions, the unavailability or prohibitive cost of services and a lack of knowledge about how and where to access support.

It’s time to ACT and STOP violence against women and girls!


During 2020, violence against women and girls surged alarmingly as COVID-19 spread, and governments introduced lockdown measures to contain it. This was the initial assessment of the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (UN Trust Fund) based on the responses of 144 civil society organizations (CSOs) operating in 69 countries and territories worldwide. Published six months into the crisis, the UN Trust Fund’s second assessment showed that the continued economic insecurity and movement restrictions are still driving increased violence against women and girls. For more details on the assessments: [https://bit.ly/UNTF-Brief2](https://bit.ly/UNTF-Brief2)

#COVID19 #ViolenceAgainstWomen #VAW #DATA #OrangeDay

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- Violence against women is a grave violation of human rights. Understanding the data is the first step to understanding how to end #ViolenceAgainstWomen. More from @WHO and @HRPresearch with @UN_Women @UNICEF, @UNFPA, @UNODC, @UNDESA https://bit.ly/2VK542d #DATA #OrangeDay

- Check out the “Global Database on Prevalence of Violence against Women” https://bit.ly/37uJilJ @HRPresearch @WHO @UNDP @UNFPA @UNICEF @WorldBank @UN_Women @SayNO_UNiTE #VAW #DATA #OrangeDay

- This 'how to' guide can help you make the most of the #ViolenceAgainstWomen estimates data visualization platform: https://vimeo.com/553901118 @HRPresearch @jpVAWdata @WHO @UN_Women @SayNO_UNiTE #VAW #DATA #OrangeDay
What do data from 159 countries tell us about “Prevalence of Violence against Women”? Find out more in this interactive data platform [https://bit.ly/37uJiJ](https://bit.ly/37uJiJ) @HRPresearch @jpVAWdata @WHO @UN_Women @SayNO_UNiTE #VAW #DATA #OrangeDay

Intimate partner violence is the most common form of violence, and it happens everywhere.

知 the facts TODAY because ending #ViolenceAgainstWomen and girls CANNOT wait!


@untrustfundevaw @sayno_unite @unwomen #undesa

#VAW #DATA #OrangeDay
• An estimated 736 million women - almost 1 in 3 - have been subjected to intimate partner violence, non-partner sexual violence or both at least once in their life (30% of women aged 15 and older).

It's time to ACT and STOP #ViolenceAgainstWomen and girls!

More in the landmark report by UN Women and World Health Organization (WHO):


@sayno_unite @untrustfundevaw @unwomen @who @unicef @unfpa #unodc #undesa

#VAW #DATA #OrangeDay

• Women need support as they face intimate partner violence while experiencing restricted movement, social isolation, and economic insecurity as a result of the #COVID19 pandemic.

Check out @unitednations Secretary General's report on intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women (2020) which provides information on measures taken by Member States and activities carried out within the #UnitedNations system to eliminate #ViolenceAgainstWomen and girls.

http://unwo.men/4CeG50Chf06 @sayno_unite @unwomen #VAW #OrangeDay
Data on violence against women and girls during the pandemic can help inform policies to respond to urgent needs of survivor and those at risk of VAW. #UNTF grantee Corporación Con-Vivamos is ensuring survivors’ voices are visible in reports of violence.


@untrustfundevaw @sayno_unite @unwomen #OrangeDay

6. USEFUL RESOURCES

ii. Statement by the UN Secretary-General António Guterres on Gender-Based Violence and COVID-19 (2020)
iii. Statement by 146 UN Member States and Observers to the appeal by United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres on Gender-Based Violence and COVID-19. (2020)
vi. UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, 2020 Annual Report – UN Trust Fund (2021)
ix. Virtual Knowledge Centre to End Violence against Women and Girls – UN Women
x. Global Database on the Prevalence of Violence Against Women and how to guide data platform (video tour and pdf) - WHO (2021)
xi. Data Portal – UNODC
xii. Global COVID-19 Gender Response Tracker – UNDP and UN Women
xiii. EVAW COVID-19 briefs – UN Women
xiv. 16 Days - Orange The World 2020 Partners kit UN Women - (2020)