



FINAL EVALUATION REPORT

COMBATTING GENDER-
BASED VIOLENCE (CGBV) IN
BANGLADESH PROJECT
(2018-2023)



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

BLAST	Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust
CAG	Community Activists Group
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
CGBV	Combatting Gender-Based Violence (project)
CCI	Chamber of Commerce and Industry
CLG	Community Leaders Group
CSO	Civil society organization
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DC	Deputy Commissioner
ERG	Evaluation Reference Group
EVAW	Ending violence against women
EQ	Evaluation Question
FPG	Family Prevention Group
GBV	Gender-based violence
GERAAS	Global Evaluation Report Assessment and Analysis System
HCD	High Court Directive
IDI	Individual in-depth interviews
KII	Key informant interview
LDC	Least developed country
MoWCA	Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
NNPC	Nari Nirjaton Protirodh Committee
NAP-VAW	National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women and Children
NGO	Non-governmental organization

OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
RP	Responsible Party
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SHPCs	Sexual Harassment Prevention and Complaint Committees
SOSJ	Shomman O Shomotar Jeebon (an adaptation of the Stepping Stone model)
TOC	Theory of change
ToR	Terms of Reference
UNEG	United Nations Evaluation Group
UGC	University Grants Commission
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
VAW	Violence against women
VAWG	Violence against women and girls



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

FINAL EVALUATION REPORT COMBATTING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (CGBV) IN BANGLADESH PROJECT (2018-2023)

Photo Credit: WE CAN/Ashraful Huda

Context

Bangladesh, a country with a population of 169 million, stands as one of the most densely populated nations. Emerging from the abyss of poverty in 1971, Bangladesh is scheduled to graduate from the classification of Least Developed Countries (LDC) in 2026.¹ Despite its remarkable economic growth and human development achievements, gender inequalities and violence against women (VAW) continue to pose significant challenges, hindering the wellbeing of women and girls, and their potential to benefit from advancements. Existing inequalities have only been further exacerbated by the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Government of Bangladesh has endeavoured to address the prevention of VAW through various interventions. However, these efforts

have largely focused on raising awareness rather than effecting substantial social norm changes. Moreover, the current laws pertaining to VAW still carry discriminatory elements and have yet to be fully implemented and interpreted with a gender lens. Despite recent reforms and new laws to prevent violence against women and girls, the complexity of the legal process, coupled with delays in investigation and case disposal and limited legal awareness and gender sensitivity among duty bearers, impede the effective implementation of these laws.²

Against this backdrop, the UN Women Bangladesh Country Office is actively engaged in supporting the government's commitments to implement the international normative standards on gender equality and women's human rights. Operating within the framework of its triple mandate—

¹ The World Bank in Bangladesh, 2023 on <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/bangladesh/overview>

² Ibid

normative support, operational activities, and the United Nations system coordination—UN Women collaborates with a range of stakeholders in Bangladesh, including the government, civil society and women’s organizations, the United Nations agencies, and development partners to promote gender equality and women’s empowerment.

COMBATTING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE PROJECT

The Combatting Gender-Based Violence in Bangladesh (CGBV), a primary prevention project which was designed under the EVAW programme portfolio and aimed to address the root causes of gender-based violence (GBV) by prompting transformative changes in policy, institutions, and all layers of society to ensure sustainable reduction in VAW. The project implemented multi-sectoral and evidence-based prevention interventions to stop violence before it occurred and strongly emphasised research, advocacy, and knowledge management on VAW prevention. Implemented from 20 March 2018 to 30 June 2023, the CGBV project was funded with a Canadian dollar (CAD) 5 million (equivalent to USD 3.8 million) by the Government of Canada.

This final evaluation of the CGBV project was commissioned by the UN Women Bangladesh Country Office. This report provided an overview of the evaluation process, methodology, evaluation findings and recommendations.

Evaluation Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of the evaluation was to serve as an accountability tool, providing a learning opportunity to inform the design of the future VAW prevention programmes undertaken by UN Women

in Bangladesh, as well as other stakeholders involved in the CGBV project. The key objective of the evaluation was to assess the contribution of the CGBV project in preventing VAW through sustained and comprehensive actions at individual, family, institutional and societal levels. The specific objectives were to assess:

- The relevance and coherence of the CGBV project design, strategies, approaches, partnerships and UN Women’s contribution to meet the needs of women in relation to the national priority.
- The effectiveness and organizational efficiency of the CGBV project in strengthening women’s legal protections from VAW and changing social norms/attitudes/behaviours to prevent VAW.
- The efficiency of the management systems, human and financial resources, as well as approaches and partnerships in meeting project outcomes.
- The impact and sustainability of the achieved outcomes of the CGBV project.
- How the human rights approach and gender equality principles were integrated into the implementation of the CGBV.

The geographic scope of the evaluation was the three districts in Bangladesh—Bogura, Cumilla, and Patuakhali, where the CGBV project was implemented.

Evaluation Methodology

The evaluation employed a theory-based gender-responsive approach. The reconstructed theory of change (TOC) served as the foundation for contribution analysis. The evaluation questions were formulated using the criteria of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD/DAC), comprising relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, gender equality and human rights. The TOC of the CGBV project was assessed with the evaluation questions.

Primary and secondary data were gathered from multiple stakeholders involved in the CGBV project. Using a participatory approach to engage relevant stakeholders in the evaluation, both rights holders and duty bearers were included and organized into four distinct categories, CGBV Project Management Team, CGBV Project Responsible Parties, CGBV Project Institutional Beneficiaries and CGBV Project Individual Beneficiaries. The evaluation consulted a total of 74 individuals (51 women and 23 men) across all four categories of stakeholders from the three project districts and Dhaka.

Certain limitations were present in the evaluation process, including a partially remote implementation mode of the evaluation management team and communication, as well as data collection challenges. Additionally, limited time and human resources allocated for data collection constricted the breadth and depth of data collection. Finally, the resignation of the International Team Leader and the onboarding of a new evaluator delayed the evaluation process.

The evaluation processes, products and ethical conduct were guided by the UN Women Evaluation Policy and the Ethical Guidelines for the United Nations evaluations.

Evaluation Findings

RELEVANCE

The evaluation respondents affirmed the relevance of the CGBV interventions, strategies, and approaches in meeting the needs of public and private institutions and communities, especially women and girls, to address GBV throughout Bangladesh. This pervasive form of human rights violation hampers women's and girls' full participation in national development endeavours. The CGBV project strategies were informed by research, fostering a system-wide approach that evoked public discourse on eradicating societal impunity around GBV while promoting systematic changes within institutions to deter it.

The evaluation highlighted the emphasis on legal reform and promotion of favourable social norms to prevent VAW which was aligned with UN Women Strategic Note 2017-2021 and Bangladesh's 7th Five-Year Plan and continued to remain relevant for the 8th Five-Year Plan and current Strategic Note (2022-2026). However, the TOC outcomes are ambitious to achieve in a short timeframe with insufficient resources.

UN Women's partnerships with national and international organizations, as well as government institutions, proved to be highly relevant in contributing to local to national initiatives to prevent GBV. However, partnerships at the national level need to be expanded, and the CGBV project could have benefitted more from an active engagement with the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs at the national and local levels.

Although crisis response was not part of the project design and TOC, the relevance of the project became evident during the COVID-19 pandemic as it shed light on the increased levels of violence against women and girls and their restricted access to essential services in those conditions. Despite numerous challenges in timely implementation, the project adapted and reprogrammed activities to respond to the critical emerging needs due to the pandemic.

EFFECTIVENESS

The CGBV project's interventions effectively contributed to its intended outcomes, including strengthening legal protection for VAW survivors, shifting social norms at the community level to prevent VAW, and expanding the knowledge base. It helped create an enabling environment to address sexual harassment by supporting the implementation of legal frameworks and enhancing duty bearers' understanding of addressing GBV at the local level. Nevertheless, varying degrees of success have been observed due to personal commitment to the cause of GBV prevention by government officials.

A range of knowledge products emerged from the CGBV project, effectively increasing the knowledge base for prevention programming. The knowledge products, including evidence-based research, and policy briefs on the drivers of VAW and consequences of violence, human interest stories, booklets, posters, and factsheets, data were developed and disseminated through various platforms. However, the evaluation evidence indicates limited systematic tracking methodology for monitoring the usage of these different knowledge products.

The project was effective in increasing the knowledge and capacity of women and girls on sexual harassment and contributed to policy advocacy to prevent VAW. Capacity-building efforts of CGBV challenged deep-rooted social norms by engaging men and boys in the community. Though male engagement served as a catalyst for social transformation, the project design did not have clear strategies outlining how their engagement would extend beyond the project interventions.

EFFICIENCY

Despite all the challenges, UN Women successfully managed and implemented the project. The project experienced initial delays as the Responsible Party (RP) was terminated within six months after inception. Moreover, contrary to the initial plan, the community approach models were tested in three districts simultaneously instead of one, making necessary adjustments to accommodate this shift. UN Women's CGBV Project Management Team managed these issues with remarkable efficiency. However, due to limited specialised skills and knowledge of prevention programming in the country, the RPs staff faced challenges in implementing multiple prevention interventions at one go. The CGBV project's RPs also faced challenges with a lesser number of staff to implement multiple prevention approaches simultaneously.

The technical project partnership with MoWCA was another factor that compromised the efficiency of the project to some extent. Although coordination efforts were made at the national and local levels,

collaboration between the field offices of the Responsible Parties and the local government for integrated services to prevent VAW was not satisfactory due to the lack of synergy between government and non-government service providers at the local level that was ultimately a barrier to efficiency.

IMPACT

The overall length of the project spanning five years was quite short to achieve long-term sustainable change. Preliminary findings confirmed promising progress for higher-level results from the accomplishments in the CGBV project. The achieved outcomes at the local level had undeniable implications for changing the social norms that had perpetuated GBV, impacting the lives of women and girls for the better. Despite limitations in scope and time, the results of the CGBV project's comprehensive approach, based on a social-ecological model of prevention, were evident in addressing VAW from policy to individual levels.

The law reform advocacy succeeded in abolishing discriminatory provisions in Section 155[4] of Evidence Act 1872, thereby improving the judicial process for rape survivors seeking justice. The support for implementing normative frameworks created an enabling environment (policy, mechanisms, capacity, and awareness) to prevent and respond to sexual harassment at the workplaces and tertiary educational institutions engaged in the project. Among the 12 intervention villages from the three districts, there were specific cases denoting an increased community awareness of VAW as a human rights violation. However, deeply entrenched unfavourable social norms and the project's limited timeframe and resources posed difficulties in creating lasting change.

COHERENCE

The CGBV project reflected coherence with the National Women's Development Policy and the National Action Plan to Prevent Violence against Women (NAP-VAW), both crucial to achieving the

Sustainable Development Goals. Furthermore, it was fully aligned with internationally recognized normative standards, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The CGBV project also complemented existing programmes by the United Nations agencies and other organizations in Bangladesh, contributing to gender equality and the prevention of VAW.

SUSTAINABILITY

Although the CGBV project lacked an explicitly articulated exit strategy and sustainability plan, it had programming elements that contributed to the sustainability of the results from its interventions at the individual, community, educational, and legislative levels. For example, the existence of a normative and policy framework was expected to sustain the gains achieved concerning preventing sexual harassment in private and public institutions. The project's collaborations with duty bearers also paved the way towards institutionalizing VAW prevention. While community mobilization had sparked individual-level change, further capacity development and institutionalization of accountability measures were needed to ensure lasting impact. Hence, scaling up initiatives is crucial for ensuring broader sustainability, which requires longer-term funding.

GENDER EQUALITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The CGBV project was designed based on a human rights framework to contribute to achieving gender equality. This approach was methodically followed in the design and implementation of all interventions of the project. It promoted the active participation of both women and men in the project, enhancing their capacities and involving them in decision-making in their communities, workplaces, and educational institutions to address the root causes of VAW. However, by restricting its definition of vulnerable groups, the project encountered limitations in capturing the experience of intersectionality.

Lessons Learned

The evaluation presented an opportunity to reflect on key lessons learned from the CGBV project for consideration in future programming. In terms of project design, a holistic approach that recognised diversity and intersectionality and engaged with men and boys in VAW prevention was instrumental in fostering transformative social change. There was a higher chance for success when both right holders and duty bearers were engaged, as this strategy directly promoted accountability to address the issue and ownership of the results. Encouraging meaningful participation from the local community ensured lasting influence and the adoption of improved attitudes. By utilizing evidence-based approaches, the CGBV project was able to captivate beneficiaries' interest and promote their involvement. The project reiterated the significance of a robust legislative framework for normative assurance in eliminating discriminatory practices against women and girls. Essential insights gleaned from the CGBV project highlighted securing commitment and action from higher authorities as a prerequisite for establishing preventive mechanisms in advance. Limited engagement with government institutions and apex bodies from the design phase might jeopardize project achievements pertaining to the duty bearer's accountability for VAW prevention and the overall sustainability of the project.

Conclusions, and Recommendations

CONCLUSION 1

Relevance, Effectiveness and Coherence

In terms of relevance, the CGBV project addressed the needs of women and girls while concurrently catering to the institutional requirements. It substantially contributed to an enabling legislative and policy environment in line with global and national standards for GBV prevention and response. Despite pandemic-related challenges to timely implementation, the project shed light

on the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on women's lives and the increase in violence against women. The CGBV project partnered with reputable civil society organizations to implement the different components of the project. While the project benefited from UN Women's strategic partnership with the University Grants Commission and high-level district-based leadership of key institutions, it needed to engage other key government stakeholders at the national level as a sustainable effort. The project effectively involved men and boys in the social norm change process; however, a follow-up plan regarding their continued engagement beyond the project intervention was lacking.

Recommendations

- 1.1 Continue with a second phase of the CGBV project using the same holistic and integrated approach and socio-ecological prevention model to allow the manifestation of long-term results by scaling the project horizontally (i.e., replication of successful strategies in an expanded geographical scope) and vertically (policy, legislative reform, and institutional scaling).
- 1.2 Enhance the effectiveness of the second phase of the CGBV project by narrowing focus on the replication of the most successful strategies (e.g., engagement of men and boys) and community-based approaches tested in this project coupled with effective planning and follow-up mechanisms based on adaptive management principles it is currently employing.

CONCLUSION 2

Efficiency

UN Women employed adaptive management strategies to address the crisis of COVID-19 by reprogramming the project activities. The flexibility of project management was acknowledged by partners as an effective response to the pandemic.

It also enabled and supported partners to learn from real-time experiences how to navigate the project in humanitarian crises. Striking a balance between limited financial and human resources and quality of outcomes was a challenge for the project. Inadequate coordination between local-level stakeholders compromised the efficiency of the CGBV project to some extent.

Recommendations

- 2.1 In the second phase of the CGBV project, address the challenges stemming from issues in communication, coordination and human resources that compromised efficiency while continuing with practices which increased the efficiency of the CGBV project, such as adaptive management and results-based monitoring.

CONCLUSION 3

Impact & Sustainability

Impact-level results through transformation in social norms require a longer timeframe. The CGBV project had triggered changes at individual, community, education, and legislative levels within the project's limited scale, but broader sustainability required replication and upscaling. The potential impact stemmed from reformed discriminatory laws, a supportive environment for survivors to report harassment, and increased awareness of violence against women (VAW) as a human rights violation. Although the programming elements largely promoted sustainability, entrenched unfavourable social norms and the limited timeframe and resources challenged the potential of impact-level change; hence, the project needed an explicitly articulated exit strategy for the project's sustainability.

Recommendations

- 3.1 Secure longer-term support to replicate and upscale the results of the CGBV project. A longer duration is more likely to establish structures and behavioural changes that can

sustain the project's results. The focus should be on institutionalizing the prevention of VAW through intensive efforts targeting apex bodies by strengthening the system and capacity.

- 3.2 Ensure the second phase of the project has a sustainability and exit plan that includes strategies to transfer the ownership of results to relevant stakeholders with milestones to assess the efficacy of the exit plan. These strategies, such as capacity development, gender-responsive budgeting, collaboration with other development partners to advance social change synergistically, etc. should be embedded within the results framework to ensure implementation.

CONCLUSION 4

Gender Equality and Human Rights

Designed with a human rights framework in mind, the CGBV project aimed to promote gender equality and prevent GBV through laws, policy changes, institutional strengthening and transforming

social norms. This objective was systematically pursued through a holistic approach to addressing VAW from policy to individual levels. The project design addressed the root causes of GBV, adopted a comprehensive system approach to prevent VAW and supported the development of the capacity of duty bearers and right holders to prevent VAW and ensure gender equality. The project actively involved both men and women, enhancing their capabilities to participate as change agents to affect a shift in perceptions and attitudes. The project focused on legal reform to protect rape plaintiffs and created an enabling environment for survivors of GBV to report sexual harassment.

Recommendations

- 4.1 Strengthen the integration of gender equality and human rights-based approach in the project strategy and enhance inclusivity with intersectional considerations in line with the “leave no one behind” commitment of the organization. When needed, address the capacity gaps of partners to apply these principles in all phases of the project.



Photo Credit: Christian Aid/ Farhana Afroz

1 INTRODUCTION

1. INTRODUCTION

A final evaluation of the Combatting Gender-Based Violence in Bangladesh (CGBV) project was commissioned by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, Bangladesh Country Office (UN Women Bangladesh). Prepared by an independent and external team of evaluators, this report provides the details of the evaluation process, methodology, comprehensive analysis of desk review data and views sought from primary stakeholders of the CGBV project.

Adhering to international best practices, the evaluation design was developed in line with the UNEG Guidance on Integrating Human Rights and Gender Equality in Evaluations, the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) Norms and Standards, Code of Conduct, and more specifically, the UN Women Global Evaluation Report Assessment and Analysis System (GERAAS) and the Ethical Guidelines for United Nations evaluations.



Photo Credit: UN Women/Rawyan Shayema

2 CONTEXT

2. CONTEXT

Bangladesh is a densely populated country with 169 million people. In 2015, Bangladesh reached lower-middle income status after being one of the poorest nations in 1971 when it was liberated. It is on track to graduate from the United Nations classification of Least Developed Countries (LDC) in 2026.³ The growth has been supported by stable macroeconomic conditions⁴ and favourable demographic dividend.⁵ In 2021-2022 Human Development Index (HDI), it is among the medium human development countries with a HDI of 0.661, ranking 129 out of 191 countries and territories.⁶ Estimated poverty rate at the international poverty line of \$2.15 per day decreased from 13.47 per cent in 2016 to 9.58 per cent in 2022,⁷ but Bangladesh also experienced inequality between urban and rural areas. Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic reversed progress in poverty reduction and disproportionately affected the poor, mainly through job losses and reduced earnings, especially among women.⁸

Bangladesh has reiterated its commitment to gender equality in its 8th Five-Year Plan for 2020-2025. The Plan recognizes the need to address discriminatory social norms to prevent VAW and strengthen social research to identify the root causes of violence. The 2023 Global Gender Gap Index shows that Bangladesh has made progress in

gender equality, with a score of 0.722 and a ranking of 59, showcasing significant progress in various sectors, such as education, health and survival, political participation and workforce participation.⁹ Bangladesh is also one of the best performers in South Asia in achieving gender parity.¹⁰ Nevertheless, there are still several key indicators of gender inequality that need to be addressed, including early marriage, violence against women, and women's empowerment. These are critical to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals for gender equality (SDG5) and impact other SDGs. Ensuring gender equality in Bangladesh poses significant challenges, particularly when addressing deep-rooted social norms underpinned by persistent patriarchal attitudes towards women, as well as stereotypical views of their roles and responsibilities, which often perpetuate disparity and violence towards women and girls.

In Bangladesh, harmful gendered social norms manifest across all aspects of women's and girls' lives in political, social, and economic spheres. Acceptance of violence against women (VAW) as a social norm not only results in high prevalence but also perpetuates intergenerational transmission of violent behaviour. As a result, prevailing inequalities are reinforced, and the country's full development potential remains untapped. The 2015 national survey by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics found that around 72.6 per cent of ever-married women have experienced one or two forms of violence by their husbands at least once in their lifetime, while 37.5 per cent of adolescent girls aged 15 to 19 experienced physical intimate partner violence.¹¹

3 The World Bank in Bangladesh (2023) available at <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/bangladesh/overview>

4 *ibid*

5 *ibid*

6 Human Development Report 2021-22: Takeaways for Bangladesh available at <https://www.undp.org/bangladesh/blog/human-development-report-2021-22-takeaways-bangladesh>

7 World Bank Group: Poverty and Equity <https://pip.worldbank.org/country-profiles/BGD>

8 *Ibid.*

9 Global Gender Gap Report 2023, the World Economic Forum (WEF)

10 *ibid*

11 Report on Violence against Women Survey 2015, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics. <https://evaw->

After the outbreak of COVID-19, different news reports and studies claimed that all forms of VAW, especially, domestic violence intensified, yet the reporting was very low.

The culture of impunity, limited accountability and inadequate legal protection are among the few main causes that have legitimized the widespread violence against women and girls (VAWG) in Bangladesh. It is a violation of their rights that undermines their well-being and limits their potential to benefit from and contribute to their own and national development. A study in Bangladesh estimates that economic losses due to domestic violence can be up to 2.1 per cent of the gross domestic production.¹² The threat of violence is a major barrier to women's full and equal participation in economic, social, and political spheres.

Though VAWG is recognized as a critical issue for human development, interventions to prevent gendered violence are fragmented in scope and scale. Prevention programming, where it exists, has tended to focus on raising awareness rather than mobilizing action, with a corresponding emphasis on personal, rather than social and institutional change.

Availability of VAW services and national legislative frameworks to address gender-based violence

To reduce the incidents of VAW and to make a coordinated effort among ministries, government departments and CSOs, the Multi-Sectoral Programme on Violence against Women (MSPVAW) under the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs

(MoWCA) initiated One-Stop Crisis Centres in 12 government medical colleges to provide essential health care, police assistance, DNA testing, social services, legal assistance, psychological counselling and shelter services to survivors of violence. Furthermore, a total of 67 One-stop Crisis Cells¹³ have been established in 47 District Sadar hospitals and 20 Upazila¹⁴ health complexes to extend support to women and children survivors of violence across the country.

Laws are yet to be fully implemented and interpreted with a gender lens. VAW-related laws are still discriminatory, especially the definition of rape, and family law. The Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), as well as the Voluntary National Review (VNR), have highlighted concerns related to legal reform, women's access to justice, tackling harmful social norms and stereotypes, and strengthening the gender-responsiveness of law enforcement and the judiciary. However, several existing laws have been reformed, and new laws have been passed to prevent violence against women and girls in Bangladesh, for example:

1. The Women and Children Repression Prevention Act (2000) defines violence against women and children, covering physical (including rape) and emotional violence, and chalks out prevention and protection measures. The Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) Act (2014) complements some aspects of this law.
2. The Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act (2010) is the first law in Bangladesh to specifically address domestic violence and allows any 'aggrieved person' to

global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/asia/bangladesh/2015/report-on-violence-against-women-vaw-survey-2015

12 Project Completion Report of Cost of Violence against Women Initiative available at covaw-final-narrative-report.pdf (careevaluations.org)

13 Multi-Sectoral Programme on Violence Against Women (mspva.gov.bd)

14 Upazilas are administrative divisions functioning as a subunit of a district. It is analogous to a county or a borough in Western countries. Rural upazilas are further divided into union parishads.

file an application, even against members of their own natal family.¹⁵

3. Under the Mobile Court Act (2009), the executive magistrate was given the power to take steps under section 509 of the Bangladesh Penal Code 1860 to prevent sexual harassment of women and girls.

The National Women Development Policy, adopted in 2011, calls for the “elimination of all forms of oppression against women.” Specifically, it identifies the need to take measures to eradicate rape, dowry, trafficking, and armed violence against women, as well as the physical, mental, and sexual harassment of women in familial and social spheres, including the workplace. In addition, it highlights the need for efforts to “change the mentality of male-dominating tendencies” (MoWCA, 2011). The National Action Plan to Prevent Violence against Women and Children (NAP-VAW) 2018 – 2030 has been undertaken to ensure accountability by developing and implementing programmes and plans for preventing violence against women and children.

In 2009, the High Court issued a landmark Directive to prevent sexual harassment in institutional settings (workplace and educational). The Directive requires institutions to take necessary measures to eliminate sexual harassment within their jurisdictions by defining sexual harassment. It requires all institutions to have a sexual harassment reporting mechanism, maintain a committee to investigate and follow up on any complaint, and undertake necessary awareness-raising and other initiatives to prevent sexual harassment.

Overall, Bangladesh has made progress in addressing the issue of gender-based violence (GBV) in the private and public spheres through legislative and normative frameworks, yet there remains significant concern regarding the implementation

15 A 2020 ILO study, “Overview of laws, policies and practices on gender-based violence and harassment in the world of work in Bangladesh”

of the laws. Lack of legal awareness, complexity of legal processes, delays in investigation, disposal of cases, limited capacity among enforcing agencies, and a lack of gender sensitivity among duty bearers are the key challenges to implementing the laws.¹⁶

Project sites

Bogura, Cumilla and Patuakhali were the three districts selected for implementing the CGBV project.

1. Bogura is reputed for cultural activism but with a conservative mindset due to a large Muslim population (94 per cent) and has an extremely high rate of child marriage¹⁷ that is fuelled by the spread of religious extremism in some of the districts of Bangladesh. This district has also seen a higher rate of overseas migration of people in the past years.¹⁸
2. Cumilla is politically vibrant, and its cross-border movement is challenged by human trafficking,¹⁹ especially young women and adolescent girls. With the highest overseas migration among the districts, Cumilla has seen steady industrialization.
3. Patuakhali is a cyclone-prone riverine district with agricultural and fishery-based small- and medium-industrial area, where 17.2 to 27.7 per cent of women marry between the ages of 15 to 19.²⁰

16 *ibid*

17 2015 Statistical Yearbook of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics

18 Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme: Comprehensive disaster map on <https://bangladesh.gov.bd/index.php>

19 *ibid*

20 Child Marriage in Bangladesh, United Nations Children’s Fund, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies and Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, 2014



Photo Credit: UN Women/ Rawyan Shayema

3

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

3. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The 2022-2026 Strategic Note, which defines the programme and engagement of UN Women in Bangladesh, focuses on

- Inclusive and sustainable economic development
- Sustainable and resilient environment in the context of climate change and disaster risk reduction
- Transformative, participatory, and inclusive governance
- Eliminating violence against women
- Humanitarian response for Rohingya Refugees in Cox's Bazar

The programme portfolio for ending violence against women (EVAW) contributes to SN Outcome 1.4, which aspires that *“By 2026, women, girls and gender diverse benefit from an environment in which they are empowered to exercise their rights, agency, and decision-making power over all aspects of their lives and are free from all forms of discrimination, violence and harmful norms and practices.”*

Under the EVAW programme, the CGBV project was funded by the Government of Canada with a total funding amount of USD 3.8 million. The project started on 20 March 2018 and ended on 30 June 2023, including a nine-month no-cost extension to adapt to the COVID-19 related implementation delay. The CGBV project was implemented in selected public and private institutions (workplace and tertiary educational institutions) of Bogura, Cumilla and Patuakhali districts including 12 villages from these three districts.

The CGBV project recognized that prevention of violence requires sustained and comprehensive action at individual, familial, organizational, and societal levels. The strategic approach adopted by

the project was primary prevention, i.e., stopping violence before it occurs. Therefore, the experiences and assessments of prior interventions concerning key drivers of VAWG informed the development of the theory of change (TOC) for this project. As a result, the ultimate focus of the TOC was transformative changes at policy, institutional and societal levels to address root causes and ensure sustainable reduction in VAWG.

During the formulation of the CGBV Prevention Framework, the TOC was reviewed and updated with new strategies (see Figure 1). The CGBV Prevention Framework was a holistic and participatory framework of integrated and mutually reinforced evidence-based prevention interventions, such as SASA! Together²¹ and Shomman O Shomotar Jeebon (SOSJ)²². The CGBV Prevention Framework addressed the underlying causes and drivers of VAWG and made duty bearers accountable for international and national commitments to address violence against women and promote their equal status in society. Simultaneously, the project has enhanced the capacity of civil society to advocate and influence policies for a violence-free society and strengthen women's voice and agency.

21 SASA! Together is a community mobilization approach to challenge power inequalities as a cause of VAW. Bringing community wide changes by transforming the imbalances of power dynamics, SASA! Together is led by women and men who live and work in the community and support dedicatedly throughout the journey of SASA! Together implementation.

22 Shomman O Shomotar Jeebon (SOSJ) is an adaptation of the workshop series of Sammanit Jeevan, an innovative, gender-equitable, family-based VAW prevention model by Voluntary Services Overseas Nepal (derived from Stepping Stones).

Figure 1: Theory of Change of CGBV Project



Key areas of intervention

As per the revised Performance Monitoring Framework, the CGBV project was expected to reach 11,000 direct beneficiaries initially, however, the project reached 20,616 direct beneficiaries by the end of the project. The main interventions to attain the outputs and progress in the outcomes outlined in Figure 1 were:

1. Technical assistance for implementation of the High Court Directive on Sexual Harassment 2009 in selected government institutions, workplaces such as factories, and educational institutions (universities and technical colleges) of the three selected districts.
2. National advocacy for Rape Law Reform, implementation of the High Court Directive and development of a law on sexual harassment in public spaces by engaging with the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs, Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, and the National Human Rights Commission.
3. Capacity-building for employees and local government officials, factory management and community leaders to advocate for safe workplaces and improvements in safety in public spaces and communities surrounding their institutions.
4. Community-based interventions to rethink and reshape the unequal power relations and discriminatory social norms in communities.
5. Family-based intervention to reduce intimate partner and domestic violence and promote positive and healthy relationships between couples and within a family network.
6. Strengthen existing national and district-level coordination and knowledge networks to expand the knowledge base and support informed policymaking for the prevention of violence against women.

Key partners

UN Women implemented the CGBV project in partnership with three civil society organization (CSO) partners referred to as Responsible Parties (RPs) to deliver the project outputs.

- **Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST)** was responsible for the national-level component related to discriminatory law reformation to prevent sexual harassment and other forms of GBV. It worked with the CSO coalitions to build their capacities to advocate for legislative policy changes in GBV-related laws and advocated for a Sexual Harassment bill by providing technical support.
- **WE CAN Alliance** implemented the whole-of-school approach²³ in educational institutions, the community mobilization approach of SASA! Together, and the family-based intervention of SOSJ.
- **Christian Aid** developed and implemented the VAW prevention manual to address sexual harassment at the workplace and worked with local government institutions for the implementation of the High Court Directive (2009) to prevent sexual harassment at the workplace, developed a human rights defender manual for improving workers' voices and rights, and mid-level managers' manual for institutional building at the factories.

Through the RPs, UN Women partnered with district-based high-level leadership of key institutions, such as Deputy Commissioner (DC) Offices, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI), and educational institutions in the three districts. The RPs were involved with DC Offices, Upazila Nirbahi Officer's²⁴ Offices, Department of Women Affairs, Nari O Shishu Nirjaton Protirodh Committee²⁵ (NNPC) at district and *upazila* (subdistrict) levels, Union Councils, selected factory workers and management, six tertiary level educational institutions, and 12 villages to prevent and address violence against women.

23 The whole-of-school approach is a system-based approach for tertiary-level educational institutions to end GBV, especially sexual harassment and sexual violence, by engaging the school leadership in policy development, gender transformative behaviour and social norms change across the institution, teachers' training, support for women's safe spaces, and male engagement as change allies.

24 Upazila Nirbahi Officer is the subdistrict executive officer.

25 Nari Nirjaton Protirodh Committee is the VAW Committee.



Photo Credit: WE CAN/ Ashraful Huda

4 **EVALUATION** **PURPOSE AND** **OBJECTIVE**

4. EVALUATION PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVE

The evaluation of the CGBV project served multiple **purposes**—ensuring accountability, promoting transparency, fostering reflection and learning, and aiding in informed decision-making to prevent VAWG. The evaluation demonstrated accountability to the development partner, project beneficiaries and partners for achieving best results through UN Women’s triple mandate. Moreover, the evaluation sought to generate knowledge and insights that could inform the design of VAW prevention programmes across UN Women’s ERAW portfolio in Bangladesh. It aimed to assess the progress towards intended results, gather lessons learned from the CGBV project, and identify promising practices for preventing VAW at the local level. Furthermore, the evaluation aimed to provide concrete recommendations to UN Women Bangladesh on how to build upon the successes of the CGBV project, identifying alternative approaches and highlighting interventions that have proved effective and should be considered for scaling—either through expansion or replication (horizontal), or through policy, political, legal, or institutional scaling (vertical).

Guided by the UN Women Evaluation Policy, the main **objective** of the evaluation was to assess the contribution of the CGBV project in the prevention of VAW through sustained and comprehensive actions at individual, family, institutional and societal levels. Being an end-of-project final evaluation, the criteria of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC), as well as the human rights and gender equality principles, were used to evaluate:

- The **relevance** of the CGBV project design, strategies, and partnerships in meeting the needs and priorities of women to live a life free from GBV.
- The **effectiveness** of the CGBV project in strengthening women’s legal protections from VAW, changing social norms/attitudes/behaviours to prevent VAW, and expanding the knowledge base in VAW prevention.
- The **efficiency** of the management systems, human and financial resources of the CGBV project, as well as approaches and partnerships, in meeting project outcomes.
- The **coherence** of the CGBV project with the National Action Plan to Prevent Violence against Women and Girls (NAPVAWC) and other interventions in the country.
- The **impact** of the CGBV project in improving the prevention of VAW and contributing to gender equality, women’s empowerment, and human rights in Bangladesh.
- The **sustainability** of the CGBV project gains and benefits as a cross-cutting inquiry for the evaluation of the CGBV.
- The **human rights approach and gender equality principles** were integrated in the implementation of the CGBV.

The evaluation covered the life cycle **period** of the CGBV project, from commencement on 20 March 2018 till its end on 30 June 2023. The evaluation was conducted between 15 March 2023 and 31

December 2023. The **geographic scope** of the evaluation was all 12 villages in the three districts in Bangladesh—Bogura, Cumilla, and Patuakhali, where the CGBV project was implemented along with the government and non-government workplaces and educational institutions. Annex I provide the Terms of Reference for the evaluation.

The **primary users** of the evaluation results are UN Women Bangladesh and the Government of Canada. UN Women at the global and regional levels will disseminate promising practices, lessons learned and findings of the evaluation to other country and regional offices. National stakeholders, including CSO partners, participating government institutions, and other local actors who were also closely involved in the evaluation process, will be able to use the evaluation to inform their future programming on VAW prevention in the country.



Photo Credit: WE CAN/ Tanvir Murad Topu

5

EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

5. EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

As per the UN Women evaluation policy, the **Evaluation Reference Group** (ERG), with members from UN Women and external stakeholders (see Annex II), guided the process of the evaluation and ensured it was of maximum value to all stakeholders. The ERG assured the overall quality of the evaluation, including its theoretical and methodological integrity, the appropriateness of the evidence selected, the accuracy of its interpretations, and the usefulness of its recommendations for stakeholders and beneficiaries. Furthermore, the ERG ensured independence, impartiality, and the absence of conflict of interest in the evaluation.

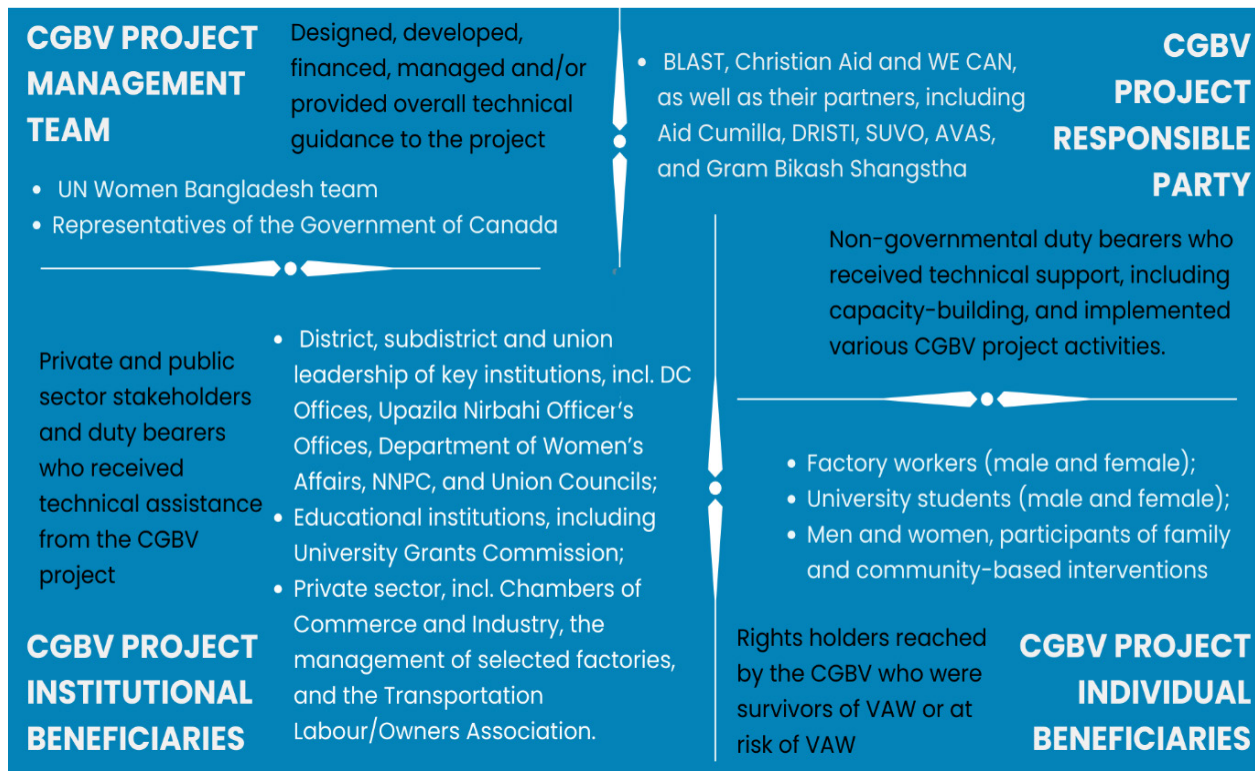
The evaluation took a theory-based **approach** to deduce whether and how the CGBV project contributed to the intended results. The evaluation team measured the progress achieved in the project lifetime based on the TOC (Figure 1) and Performance Monitoring Framework. Emphasizing a gender-responsive perspective, the evaluation revealed how the CGBV project affected women and men differently and the extent of its contributions to gender equality, human rights, and women's empowerment in Bangladesh.

Drawing from varied sources, including CGBV documents and stakeholder interviews, the evaluation utilized a mix of qualitative, primary, and secondary data gathered, both in-person and

via digital platforms. An inclusive, participatory, and equitable approach involving a broad range of partners, project participants and stakeholders was employed for better data collection and analysis to draw relevant recommendations. The evaluation process meaningfully engaged primary stakeholders to provide them space to realize the importance of their reflection and to empower them to take ownership of the change they had made through the CGBV project. Other national stakeholders, participating government institutions, and local CSOs were also closely involved in the evaluation process to increase ownership of findings, draw lessons learned and make greater use of the evaluation results.

The **stakeholder sampling strategy** was based on the types of stakeholders targeted by the CGBV project and the way they were involved in or engaged through its activities. The project documents did not expand the definition of vulnerable groups; therefore, diverse groups of community people (i.e., disability, ethnic minority, climate refugee, gender diverse population, etc.) and their experiences could not be captured, and sampling stakeholders from vulnerable groups was limited to GBV survivors only. For the purposes of this evaluation, stakeholders represent both the rights holders and duty bearers organized into four **categories** described in Figure 2.

Figure 2. The four categories of stakeholders who were consulted for the evaluation



The **sample size** was in line with recommended practices. Morse (1994) provides basic guidelines for sample size in ethnographic research and suggests that most studies are based on samples between 30-60 interviews.²⁶ Charmaz (2006:114) suggests “25 [participants] are adequate for smaller projects”; while Green and Thorogood (2009 [2004]) state “The experience of most qualitative researchers is that in interview studies little that is ‘new’ comes out of transcripts after you have interviewed 20 or so people.”²⁷ Further, the labour required to identify, recruit and analyse a larger sample for

this evaluation would have placed this evaluation beyond its scope. Other influencing factors were:

1. Changed in the international evaluation leader which resulted in limited time and human resources available to the national evaluation team for the primary data collection.
2. The need to focus on the meaning of gathered information, rather than creating statistical justification for the hypothesis.
3. Avoid repetitiveness of the collected data.

The original set of evaluation questions included in the TOR was revised to better fit the evaluation objective, data collection methods, and the targeted stakeholder groups. Annex III presents the refined set of overarching strategic **evaluation questions** (EQ1-EQ7) corresponding with the OECD evaluation criteria and UNEG criteria of gender equality and human rights. A separate set of questions was used for each category of stakeholders; hence, a

26 Morse, J.M. (1994). Designing funded qualitative research. In Denzin, N.K. & Lincoln, Y.S. (Eds.), Handbook of qualitative research (2nd ed., pp.220-35). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publishing; Charmaz, K. (2006). Constructing Grounded Theory. A practical guide through qualitative analysis. London, Thousand Oaks, New Delhi: Sage Publishing.

27 Green, J. & Thorogood, N. (2009) [2004]. Qualitative methods for health research (2nd ed.). page 120. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publishing.

total of four **data collection tools** were utilized to collect primary data. It should be noted that from the category of CGBV project’s institutional beneficiaries, the evaluation team could not reach the representatives of the DC Offices and Upazila Nirbahi Officer’s Office, especially duty bearers, due to their unavailability for the interview. The questionnaires for each stakeholder category are attached in Annex IV. These data collection tools were used in conjunction with the following four qualitative **data collection methods**:

1. **Document review** was conducted at every step of the evaluation process. It included project-related documents provided by UN Women as well as online documents and resources by the government and other sources, as listed in Annex V.
2. **Key informant interviews (KIIs)** were held in a semi-structured one-on-one interview format with stakeholders involved in and engaged through the CGBV project design, implementation, and monitoring. A total of 25

KIIs (16 women and 9 men) were conducted with individuals from the CGBV Project Management Team, CGBV Project Responsible Parties, and CGBV Project Institutional Beneficiaries.

3. **Focus-group discussions (FGDs)** were conducted with the Community Activists Group (CAG), Community Leaders Group (CLG), and Family Prevention Group (FPG) in Bogura, Cumilla and Patuakhali using open-ended questions. A total of six FGDs were conducted, two per district, with 6–8 individuals per group. A total of 42 individuals (30 women and 12 men) took part in the FGDs.
4. **In-depth interviews (IDIs)** were conducted with rights holders from the beneficiary communities in Bogura, Cumilla, and Patuakhali. A total of seven IDIs (5 women and 2 men) were conducted with individuals who benefited from the CGBV’s activities, namely, students, factory workers, and members of the Family Prevention Group.

Table 1: Stakeholder sampling and data collection method for each stakeholder category

CGBV Stakeholder Category	Data Collection Method	Proposed number of interviews	Actual number of interviews	Location/mode
Project Management Team (incl. donor)	• KIIs with original question	6	• 4	• Dhaka (in-person/online)
Project Responsible Parties and their implementing partners	• KIIs with original questions	6	• 6	• Dhaka • Bogura, Cumilla and Patuakhali (in-person)
Project Institutional stakeholders	• KIIs with original question	15	• 15	• Bogura, Cumilla and Patuakhali (in-person) • Dhaka
Project Individual Beneficiaries	• IDIs with original questions	6	• 7	• Bogura, Cumilla and Patuakhali (in-person)
	• FGDs with open-ended questions	6 ²⁸	• 6 (with 42 participants)	• Bogura, Cumilla and Patuakhali (in-person)
Total		69	74	All project implementation sites

²⁸ Approximately 6-8 individuals per group.

A total of 74 individuals (23 men and 51 women) representing all four categories of stakeholders from the three districts and Dhaka have been consulted as part of this evaluation. The list of stakeholders interviewed (Annex VI) was finalized with UN Women.

The following five data analysis methods were employed:

1) Document Review and Descriptive Statistics

Quantitative data from the CGBV project documents, as well as data collected and stored in a database, were used to describe what the project accomplished. It included findings related to inputs (e.g., capacity-building provided, trainings conducted, meetings held, codes of conduct developed, etc.) and outputs (e.g., awareness raised, confidence built to develop advocacy activities, etc.), as well as activity results, outcome data, and the end-line survey of CGBV project. Descriptive statistics was used to examine the quantitative data from the project documents, the KIIs and the IDIs.

2) Content Analysis

Content analysis was used to examine and illustrate patterns in KIIs and IDIs responses. Interview transcripts were coded, relevant themes of the evaluation questions were identified, the frequency of occurrence was recorded, and the content of the illustrative text was examined to identify the context in which the statements were made. The analysis also assessed and highlighted evidence that deviated from the common themes.

3) Sustainability Analysis

Sustainability refers to the project's potential to contribute to the prevention of VAW through sustained actions at individual, familial, institutional and societal levels.

4) Contribution Analysis

The evaluation sought to examine how effective the CGBV project was in supporting and complementing NAPVAWC and other interventions in the country, as well as in addressing gaps in GBV primary prevention. To answer these questions, the evaluation used a simple form of contribution analysis to assess what larger changes have occurred (e.g., enhanced knowledge and understanding about GBV prevention and response) and then worked backwards to look at what contributed to these changes.

5) Data Synthesis

Conclusions of this evaluation were made based on the convergence of findings from different sources of data. Where findings converged, the evaluation formulated conclusions to answer the evaluation questions based on reasonably strong evidence. Where findings diverged dramatically, the evaluation examined the strength of the evidence associated with different lines of evidence and in the absence of preponderance of credible evidence for one line, the other has been presented as the more credible finding. Data synthesis method was applied to all evaluation questions.

The **evaluation methodology matrix**, mapping the source of information, data collection method and data analysis for each evaluation question, is provided in Annex VII.

The evaluation process faced **logistical and technical limitations**. The evaluation was conducted in a partially remote mode. The evaluation team used mitigation measures like regular online meetings, email, and WhatsApp communication for debriefing and strategizing. Weekly briefings were held with UN Women, and online channels and traditional means for data collection were utilized, ensuring the evaluation's quality and reach. There were challenges in securing high-

stakeholder participation in KIIs and IDIs due to the partially remote mode of the evaluation as well as the limited time and resources allocated for data collection. Mitigation strategies for the constricted breadth and depth of data collection included using different data collection methods and data triangulation. To overcome selection bias, the evaluation team selected respondents randomly from the lists provided by UN Women and RPs. Due to the small-scale sample, data disaggregation was limited; however, when possible and relevant, the unique (or common) experiences of each target group were documented. The resignation of the International Team Leader caused delays for the national team to have limited time and resources for the primary data collection, but potential consistency gaps were minimized through communication and support from the UN Women team.

The evaluation adhered to the **ethical** requirements for obtaining consent, providing confidentiality, and anonymizing all feedback. Care was taken to ensure a safe space for interviewing respondents

and confidentiality of information. The evaluators ensured that before the beginning of each interview or discussion session with the participating beneficiaries, the interviewees were informed of the evaluation purpose, the process of discussion and further usage of their information to safeguard their confidentiality and safety throughout the process. Verbal consent was taken before each interview or discussion and the evaluator explicitly described that their participation was voluntary and that they could stop the interview or discussion at any point. All the interviews were conducted in Bangla and later transcribed in English by the evaluators. The evaluators followed the safeguarding principle of 'do no harm' when interviewing the GBV survivors. The questions were articulated in such a way which did not require individual's personal reflection and they do not relive the traumatizing incidents from their lives. Finally, the evaluation adhered to the Guidelines of the World Health Organization for researching VAW and the UNEG Ethical Norms and Standards.



Photo credit: WE CAN /Ashraful Huda

6

EVALUATION FINDINGS

6. EVALUATION FINDINGS

The evaluation findings were presented based on the criteria of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, impact, sustainability, gender equality and human rights approach.

RELEVANCE

EQ1: How relevant has the CGBV project's design, strategies and partnership been in meeting the needs and priorities of women to live a life free from gender-based violence?

Finding 1: The intervention strategies and approaches were highly relevant in meeting the needs of public and private institutions and community people, especially women and girls to address barriers that hinder their full engagement in, and benefit from, the national development.

The CGBV project addressed a pressing need and national priority as GBV is the most pervasive form of human rights violation that women and girls regularly face in Bangladesh. Although there were some laws to address GBV, they were yet to be fully implemented and interpreted with a gender lens. Information drawn from evaluation respondents and desk review^{29 30} confirmed that the CGBV project was highly relevant to addressing GBV in different settings of the social ecosystem

29 Violence against Women in Bangladesh: An Overview, Journal of Public Administration. Volume 2, Issue 1, 2020, PP 24-30 ISSN 2642-8318

30 Addressing violence against women in Bangladesh; Case study is based on lessons from the United Nations Joint Programme to address violence against women in Bangladesh

in Bangladesh. The focus of the project on primary prevention contributed to initiating the shift from protection to prevention discourse in Bangladesh, which provided the opportunity to challenge discriminatory social norms rooted in patriarchy and was a more sustainable approach to bringing changes in the lives of women and girls. The CGBV project was aligned with NAPVAWC 2018 -2030, the 7th Five-Year Plan (2014-2019) and the 8th Five-Year Plan (2020- 2025) of the Government of Bangladesh. Key informants from the project sites in the three districts noted that to address the current situation of VAW in Bangladesh, the project was much needed.

The CGBV Project is 100% relevant in our context.

Respondents from all three districts

The analysis informing the project design, including baseline analysis, security analysis, risk mapping and stakeholder mapping, identified the necessity of adopting a holistic multi-stakeholder approach, taking into account the risk mitigation measures in the project design. The following strategies proved to be highly relevant at both national and local levels:

- Policy advocacy through the partner networks,
- Evidence-building on prevention programming throughout the CGBV project,
- Enhancing capacities and participation of local government institutions to proactively prevent different forms of VAW before they occur,

- Linking Prevention with Integrated Service Provision through district-level collaborations between CSOs and the government,
- Fostering multi-sector partnerships and collaborations aimed at addressing sexual harassment in workplaces and the transport sector,
- Adopting a whole-of-school approach to address sexual harassment at educational institutions and community mobilization.

The system-wide approach adopted by the CGBV project provided a platform for the public to challenge social impunity surrounding GBV and encouraged discourse about systemic changes within the institutions to prevent and combat GBV. The globally tested community mobilization approach of SASA! Together and the family-based intervention SOSJ model were applied to bring community-wide behaviour change to prevent VAW by transforming unequal power relations. The evaluation respondents (CLG members) indicated that the project built a ‘critical mass’ that encourages dialogue about GBV and consequently ‘it had created an environment where individuals will think twice before committing acts of violence against women’. Moreover, the whole-of-school approach was implemented to strengthen educational institutions in preventing violence. However, the evaluation process revealed that implementing both SASA! Together and SOSJ model simultaneously within the same intervention sites posed a difficulty to identify the changes that happened due to which model of intervention.

Finding 2: The project’s Theory of Change was relevant; however, it was broad, and complex to implement given the project timeframe and limited human and financial resources.

The TOC illustrated in Figure 1 was thoroughly reviewed during the midterm review and enhanced with new strategies in conjunction with the

development of the CGBV Prevention Framework. The evaluation established that all components of the TOC—emphasis on legal reform, normative support, promotion of favourable social norms to prevent VAW and support to building a knowledge base for prevention programming—were relevant according to UN Women Strategic Notes 2017-2021 and 2022-2026, as well as the 7th and 8th Five-Year Plans of Bangladesh.

The CGBV project supported the CSO coalition for policy advocacy efforts to reform discriminatory laws. Specifically, Evidence Act (1872), a national law related to rape, was amended and enacted by the National Parliament of Bangladesh, i.e., Evidence (Amendment) Act 2022. This amendment abrogated the discriminatory clauses (Section 155[4]) related to the cross-examination of a rape plaintiff and now recognizes the admissibility of digital evidence. This legislative reform impacts the lives of women and girls by facilitating their access to justice.

The CGBV project offered normative support to implement the High Court Directive 2009 (HCD) in tertiary educational institutions and selected factories, CCI and DC Offices in the designated project districts. Among the public and private institutions which actively collaborated with the CGBV project to implement HCD 2009, 12 devised and launched their Zero Tolerance to Sexual Harassment (ZTSH) policies, while 15 established or revitalized Sexual Harassment Prevention and Complaint Committees (SHPCs) within their respective and associated organizations, scaling the total number of SHPCs up to 93. These measures assured adherence to HCD 2009 by adopting a system-wide approach to preventing violence against women at project sites. The project also facilitated strengthening women’s voice and agency to hold authorities accountable for implementing policies pertinent to VAW.

The CGBV project actively supported evidence-based studies and research. One such study, titled “Research on Effective Approaches to Prevent Violence against Women” identified pressing

issues in Bangladesh, which in turn shaped the prevention strategies of the CGBV project. Notably, the knowledge management strategy included national-level knowledge-sharing events and the investment in the Bangladesh/EVAW section on the UN Women Asia Pacific website as an archive for prevention related knowledge products. This served as an impressive knowledge hub on prevention programming and positioned the platform as a vital resource for GBV prevention practitioners.

The CGBV project explored family- and community-based approaches to transforming social norms to prevent VAW to identify models that suited the context of Bangladesh. Globally renowned models, such as SASA! Together and SOSJ were implemented in 12 villages, mobilizing 24 family groups as well as 480 community leaders and activists as change agents in addressing GBV issues, particularly intimate partner violence, leading dialogues with representatives of local government institutions, disseminating information among peer groups, and reaching communities with behaviour change initiatives.

The evaluation team observed certain challenges in implementing this TOC. The process of transforming attitudes to prevent VAW was complex and could not be accomplished within a brief timeframe

or with limited human and financial resources, a constraint also acknowledged by interviewed stakeholders. There was limited synergy between stakeholders and multiple components during implementation. The combination of women's economic empowerment with social norms changes intervention posed another challenge. While women's economic empowerment was vital, combining it with a project aimed at attitude change presents a dilemma. Men often engage in attitude change interventions when there is an economic incentive. Therefore, it was difficult to determine whether any shift in attitude was conditional or genuine. This concern was also raised by a few respondents from CSOs, RPs and the CGBV Project Management Team during the evaluation interviews.

Finding 3: Even though the CGBV project was not planned as a crisis response intervention, it became highly relevant in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite numerous obstacles in implementing the project on schedule, it strived to highlight the increased levels of violence and the hindered access to services experienced by women and girls.

“The COVID-19 situation has increased gender-based violence. Early marriage, rape cases, [and] many [other] indicators for GBV have increased during this situation... COVID-19 has created new challenges, and this project is more relevant now [than] it ever was, but we need to continue ...[and] we need to adjust to the new context.”

WE CAN Alliance Representative
Source: COVID-19 Assessment Report of CGBV, 2021

To adapt to the unprecedented COVID-19 situation, the CGBV project shifted its focus from solely primary prevention towards response and service provision to address VAW. As regular prevention activities were almost halted by the lockdown, the project pivoted to providing mental health services and disseminating information on health services via digital platforms. This was critical in addressing the spike in reported VAW cases during lockdown and subsequent limited access to services. By adjusting activity targets without modifying Output level goals, the project introduced response services besides prevention activities to meet the emerging needs of women during the COVID-19 crisis.

The staff of Responsible Parties regarded this adaptation as a testament to the project's agility and praised UN Women's flexibility in programme management. During the COVID-19 Assessment, cash grant support for income generation was identified as a pressing need. However, due to the nature of the project, this need could not be fulfilled, rather financial support was given to the selected GBV survivors on a need basis.

Staff of RPs and CSOs expressed feeling overwhelmed and uncertain in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. The evaluation recognized the need to strengthen the crisis response capabilities of RPs, to enable them to proactively respond to unforeseeable emergencies like the global pandemic and mitigate local-level impacts on VAW.

Finding 4: The CGBV project was relevant in addressing the gaps in the legislative and policy environment in line with global and national standards for preventing and addressing GBV in the country.

Given the absence of national legislation regarding sexual harassment in Bangladesh, the High Court Directive (2009) on sexual harassment gained

more significance. Hence, the CGBV project had a vital relevance for sensitization and knowledge enhancement for the implementation of the HCD (2009) and the adoption of a ZTSH policy. Implementation of the HCD (2009) provided a solid foundation for individuals and institutions to take steps in preventing and responding to GBV while minimizing potential backlash within institutions burdened by discriminatory social practices. Training on these topics equipped participants with the rationale to advance discussions on these critical issues effectively. Evaluation respondents from one factory recommended additional training on legislative issues by using simple language in Bangla. CGBV project also supported the Rape Law Reform Coalition to advocate with key actors in the government and contributed to the crucial amendment to promote the rights of rape survivors that was based on evidence-based research on legislation.

Finding 5: Partnerships forged for the project were highly relevant in enhancing the initiatives to prevent GBV.

Partners of the CGBV project (RPs, CSOs, and pertinent institutions) were instrumental in advancing the national agenda of the government to prevent VAW. Christian Aid worked with factories and DC Offices in three districts to support the implementation of HCD 2009; WE Can Alliance worked on two areas— transforming social norms in the communities and supporting the educational institutes in implementing HCD 2009, and BLAST was involved with legal reform advocacy at the national level. The RPs are highly reputed in the national context and have the capacity grounded in extensive previous experience in this area. The CGBV project also complemented their ongoing efforts and initiatives.

While acknowledging the RPs' experience as a positive factor, evaluation respondents

constructively noted the skill and resource gap (human and financial) in implementing the complex CGBV project, which adopted a holistic prevention approach to addressing VAW issues. Additionally, concerns were raised about RPs and local CSOs being understaffed for implementing multiple tasks and all approaches and models, potentially compromising the quality of project deliverables.

UN Women's strategic partnership with the University Grants Commission (UGC), as well as advocacy with district-based and high-level leadership of key institutions, such as DC Offices, CCIs, and educational institutions, maximized the results. The CGBV project prioritized improving governance to address VAW by establishing complaint mechanisms within the operating offices while simultaneously enhancing the capabilities of duty bearers. The DC Offices also demonstrated commitment to address VAW by reinforcing the capacity of the NNPC/VAW Committee for coordinated prevention of VAW, in compliance with national laws and policies. While local government representatives committed to allocating gender-responsive budgets for plans that cater to responding to VAW at the local level, these efforts often depend on the individual motivation of the government officials, making them unsustainable. Staff from RPs and CSOs also indicated that frequent turnover at government offices made it challenging to build relationships with them and continue collaboration. The evaluation process revealed that the UN Women and CGBV project could benefit from technical partnerships with relevant government stakeholders at a national level, such as the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs and strong coordination with local government administration.

Working with the CCI and factories was an innovative initiative that yielded positive results for the project factories which strengthened their capacities and organized to influence public services

in their favour. However, RPs also noted challenges in collaborating with private sectors at the local level at the initial stage due to limited knowledge of factory management and systems.

EFFECTIVENESS

EQ2: How effective has the CGBV been in (a) strengthening women's legal protections for VAW, (b) shifting social norms/ attitudes/behaviours to prevent VAW, and (c) expanding the knowledge base in VAW prevention?

Finding 6: The CGBV interventions had proven to be effective in substantially contributing to the desired outcomes, such as bolstering legal protection for VAW survivors, transforming social norms at the local level to prevent such incidents, and broadening the horizons of knowledge in this field.

Insights derived from interviews indicate the CGBV project had been effective in catalysing change via social mobilization, policy advocacy, law reform and support in implementing a national legal framework. Notably, the CGBV project facilitated legal reform advocacy, culminating in the amendment of the Evidence Act (1872). It fostered an enabling environment for women by strengthening and implementing legal frameworks and equipping duty bearers with an improved comprehension of addressing GBV at the local level. Demonstrating efficacy in policy advocacy (ZTSH Policy), the CGBV project ushered accountability for duty bearers and related institutions by establishing and activating structures (SHPCs) designed to address sexual harassment—consequently promoting women's and girls' rights.

Project documents and interviews indicated that the project was effective in establishing mechanisms to monitor and address workplace violence and sexual harassment. These measures included installing complaint boxes, forming complaint committees, and conducting women's safety audits in workplaces. Despite some limitations stemming from power imbalances and ingrained patriarchal norms, this approach was effective in confronting the culture of impunity surrounding GBV in these workplaces. Although the CGBV project collaborated with the leadership of DC Offices to institutionalize these preventive mechanisms, the success of these efforts varied due to the high personnel turnover of government officials, which proved counterproductive. Furthermore, institutionalization of procedures and mechanisms could not be sustained solely through an individual's motivation and commitment. Hence, a technical partnership with the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs could prove beneficial in future.

The CGBV project generated an array of 45 knowledge products, including booklets, posters, human interest stories, factsheets, briefing papers, research on VAW drivers, data, and consequences of violence. These materials served to expand the knowledge base about prevention programming and proved highly effective. For example, the research reports entitled "No justice without reparation – Why rape survivors must have a right to compensation" and "Between 'virtue' and 'immorality' – Why character evidence must be banned in rape cases" highlighted the barriers to access to justice and the need for legal reform. These research reports spearheaded the dialogue in the policy advocacy to reform rape law in Bangladesh.

Knowledge-sharing was ensured by disseminating the project knowledge products through the UN Women Bangladesh website and in hard copy during events. Webinars and dialogues, featuring discussions on gender data, GBV and new approaches to GBV prevention and response, shed

light on gender-based discrimination and emerging GBV issues in the context of COVID-19—effectively addressing the needs of policymakers, institutions and VAW survivors. Nonetheless, the evaluation indicated a strategy for systematically tracking the use of the different knowledge resources was missing. Such a structured plan would have incorporated different phases i.e., learning, reminder, audit and feedback strategies to enrich individuals' knowledge and practices concerning VAW-related matters.

Finding 7: The project was effective in increasing the knowledge and capacity of women and girls regarding sexual harassment, subsequently promoting policy advocacy to prevent VAW.

Through the capacity-development initiatives, the staff and other rights holders of the institutions gained the confidence to think differently, creating an enabling environment within educational institutions, government offices and factories to address sexual harassment in their respective workplaces. As a result, these sessions empowered GBV survivors to disclose incidents and file complaints about their experiences, ultimately strengthening their sense of agency. Evaluation respondents further stressed the need to strengthen the capacity of government officials and relevant staff of other institutions to comply with international and national priorities.

Educational institutions benefitted from the CGBV project, with students and educators lauding the efforts to raise awareness about preventing VAW. Nevertheless, some concerns were raised by the educators about the increased workloads outside of academic responsibilities, leading to difficulties in organizing events and mobilizing educators for these voluntary tasks. The evaluation team noted an information gap within the educational institutions concerning the integration of HCD (2009) implementation into the regular workplan.

“ There was no letter from UGC [or the] Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education to cooperate [with] the project, which was a big challenge in doing this work. There was no remuneration for teachers participating in the project. As a result, in the end, many teachers expressed their reluctance to participate in the work. ”

Source: KII respondent from an educational institution

Finding 8: Capacity-building efforts of CGBV were effective in challenging deep-rooted social norms by engaging men and boys in the community.

Respondents among CAG and CLG members acknowledged that even though social norm interventions necessitate an extended timeframe to result in lasting ingrained changes, the CGBV project promoted favourable social norms and attitudes to reduce VAW and discrimination at the grass-roots level through its community interventions. The project effectively involved men and boys in the process of changing discriminatory social norms that perpetuate GBV. Employing proven tools of models such as SASA! Together and SOSJ had facilitated changes in discriminatory attitudes across all levels of the social-ecological model of prevention. However, the usage of both models simultaneously in the same intervention areas resulted in an overlap. SASA! Together has been proven effective in reducing VAW across society as a whole. Male engagement provided the impetus for social transformation; however, the project design did not explicitly outline how continued involvement would be maintained or

structured beyond the project interventions. Hence, there is a limited measure for reinforcing change within their personal and public lives.

UN Women organized two out of five recommended training on SASA! Together by the technical partner, Raising Voices, for the staff of RPs, utilizing a virtual platform during the COVID-19 pandemic. Members of RPs acknowledged the usefulness of these training sessions but expressed concern about the language barriers and training delivery methods. Some training participants struggled with English proficiency or unreliable internet services, while others cited disruptions from organizational demands competing for their attention during trainings. These challenges were further compounded for participants accustomed to residential trainings who would have benefitted more from an in-person training method with local co-facilitators. However, in person refresher trainings was organised at a later stage to mitigate these challenges.

Box 1. Male Engagement Case Study

“...I realized that my earlier thoughts were amiss.”

Abul Bashar, 36, a respected Imam from Cumilla District, has become a vocal advocate and taken a stand opposing violence against women in his religious sermons, working tirelessly to raise awareness on the issue among local villagers.

Bashar's experiences growing up involved witnessing his father mistreating his mother, culminating in her eviction from their home. He shared, " In the course of my madrasa education and career, and even within my family, I learned that women are born to serve men as slaves." As a result, Bashar initially harboured archaic beliefs about women's subservience and that they should avoid interacting with men. He was convinced women existed solely for the purpose of reproduction and service. Consequently, he would convey this patriarchal ideology in various gatherings and deliver sermons aimed at perpetuating the subjugation of women. Bashar reminisced, “I opposed the CGBV project myself when it started in our village because I thought that they had come to spoil the villagers. I used to monitor their activities for the sake of opposing them.” Yet, over time, he unexpectedly found himself intrigued as he listened to a neighbour discussing efforts to address violence against women.

Gradually embracing this new perspective, Bashar undertook training from DRISTI and WE CAN (locally known as Amraj Pari) to address violence against women as an Imam. “From then onwards, I came to know more about violence against women in our society. I became a member of the Community Activist Group and joined the capacity-building training of SASA! Together. I realized that my earlier thoughts were amiss.” Bashar reflected. Through this journey of self-discovery, Bashar came to understand the toxic power dynamics leading to the mistreatment of women and recognized his complicity in perpetuating this harmful mindset within his village. Now a committed advocate for change, he works tirelessly to dismantle the damaging beliefs that once governed his own actions.

The project was effective in developing new ways of working through digital communication mode where feasible. During COVID-19, RPs delivered some of their activities through online platforms in terms of meetings, suggestions, virtual consultations and follow-ups, and counselling when possible. Technology-based services had limitations due to variations in users' skills and the availability of connectivity services. Nevertheless, the project was effective for RPs in increasing their skills and knowledge of digital technology. These technology-based services also saved costs and time for the partners³¹.

Although the evaluation can only provide limited information on whether the CGBV project has led to the prevention of VAW, nevertheless it was

evident, if only anecdotally in some aspects, that a change process started and was likely to last. The achievements related to the outcomes had undeniable implications for changing the social norms that had provided impunity to GBV at the local level. The impact of the CGBV project's comprehensive approach (social-ecological model) was clearly visible as it intervened from the policy level to the individual level to address VAW, even if the scope and time were very limited for some of the components.

The project had the potential for impact-level change in two areas:

- 1) Policy and law environment: The CGBV project supported the CSO-led coalition on policy advocacy efforts for the reform of discriminatory laws. Specifically, Evidence Act (1872), a national law related to rape, was amended and enacted by the National Parliament of Bangladesh, i.e., Evidence

31 Field implementation challenges and strategies to deliver the Combatting Gender Based Violence Project in the context of COVID-19, 2021, UN Women

(Amendment) Act 2022. This amendment abrogated the discriminatory clauses (Section 155[4]) related to the cross-examination of a rape plaintiff and now it prohibits subjecting rape plaintiffs to cross-examination about their character and sexual history. Protection of the plaintiff's dignity will make justice more accessible to the survivors of rape. This legislative reform impacts the lives of women and girls by facilitating their access to justice. Furthermore, an enabling environment has been created in the target institutions where more survivors felt confident to report incidents of sexual harassment; and

- 2) Change in perception: In the social norms intervention sites, there was a positive shift in community perceptions and responses towards addressing VAW. People in the community began to realise that VAW was a violation of human rights which impedes gender equality. This was overwhelmingly recognized by a large number of evaluation respondents.

The project design and beneficiary selection did not apply intersectionality and only gender was the primary focus. Subsequently, there was no monitoring or reporting data to evaluate the extent of inclusion of different vulnerable groups (e.g., disability inclusion) and the impact of the project on these groups.

The main barrier to impact was the extent unfavourable gender biases were entrenched in the social norms and the timeframe needed to transform such biased perceptions and discriminatory attitudes, which was well beyond a five-year project. Sustained and structured advocacy and awareness-raising need to be maintained for the future. The CGBV project took some measures to overcome this barrier, such as creating a national cohort of prevention actors and practitioners trained on SASA! Together and capacitating change makers (members of CLGs, CAGS, and similarly student leaders' groups and activists' groups) who

would have a key role in sustaining and permeating transformative change in future. For example, tertiary educational institutions could benefit from awareness-raising events and more visibility for the ZTSH policy and SHPC mechanism of enforcing the policy by engaging students and educators along with the duty bearers.

The interest of UGC in the CGBV project was one of the underscored results achieved. UGC sought technical support from UN Women to improve the monitoring of the implementation of HCD 2009, which will ensure accountability of duty bearers and SHPCs of educational institutions to uphold the ZTSH Policy. Also, UGC will have a critical influence in replicating the results achieved across tertiary educational institutions nationwide.

Another enabling factor was the sense of ownership that the CGBV project tried to establish. Despite the challenges to engaging with the nodal ministry (MoWCA) as a technical partner, the CGBV project engaged duty bearers to ensure the institutionalization of VAW prevention mechanisms and policies that hold them accountable and internalization of the knowledge generated through the project to enable informed decision-making and planning of prevention programmes.

EFFICIENCY

EQ3: How efficient has the CGBV been concerning cost, timeliness, management and approaches in meeting its outcomes?

Finding 9: Technical and project management support provided by UN Women was evaluated positively.

UN Women demonstrated its ability to manage and implement the project smoothly while adhering to the international framework of VAW.

The project experienced delays from the beginning and was launched with a lower budget, (USD 3.8 million for five years, including nine months no-cost extension) than originally committed. Besides that, one of the RPs, Naripokkho, resigned after six months of field implementation and onboarding of new RPs (WE CAN and Christian Aid) causing delays in implementation amid COVID-19 onset. Nevertheless, UN Women implemented the project with maximum efficiency. The project documents and reports showed that UN Women led the RPs with technical support and close monitoring. Employing an adaptive management approach, UN Women addressed the programmatic challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic by reprogramming to keep the project relevant and effective. Regular communication, technical support and the flexibility of the UN Women Project Management Team delivered results, which was positively recognized by the RPs.

The project management system of UN Women and its partners is guided by their respective management policies and guidelines. To coordinate the different teams, regular meetings and workshops were held by UN Women with the RPs and similarly, the RPs held regular meetings with their CSOs working at the local level in the field. However, some staff of RPs and CSOs indicated there was room for improvement in project-related communication and information-sharing by UN Women. While this issue could be due to staff turnover, the UN Women project management team could review the efficiency of the project communication workflows. On the other hand, the RPs highly appreciated the rigorous result-based monitoring system of UN Women.

Finding 10.: Limited engagement with key national-level stakeholders and limited resources (human and financial) challenged the implementation of the CGBV project.

The initial project plan of CGBV focused on relevant government ministry, UGC and civil society organisation involvement. As noted in an interview, there was limited liaison with the government at the national level, which can be attributed to the absence of the Technical Assistance Project Proposal to the government due to the delays it was causing for implementation. Later during the course of implementation, MoWCA was consulted and supported to contribute to the national priority of prevention of VAW.

At the district level, staff of RPs and CSOs experienced challenges in building a relationship with DC Offices at the initial stage. District-level collaboration between the CSOs and government for integrated services to prevent VAW was not satisfactory due to limited structural coordination mechanisms between government and non-government service providers. Therefore, evaluation respondents from CSOs felt they were working in silo and not getting the proper expected support from duty bearers of the government institutions to prevent VAW. The lack of coordination between stakeholders at the local level was a barrier to implementing the project. This kind of fragmentation in GO-NGO collaboration affected the efficiency of the project to some extent. Furthermore, another factor contributing to this challenge was the lack of technical partnership with the government at the national level. This issue would have been eased if the project had established a relationship with the nodal ministry from the beginning of the implementation. The project would have gained more efficiency if it had worked closely with the different ministries from the beginning to understand their needs.

Evaluation respondents expressed concern about the duration of the project, as five years is not a sufficient timeframe to achieve significant changes in social norms. They also suggested more activities and frequent training, including refresher training, to improve the understanding of GBV and sexual harassment prevention in this type of project.

The RPs acknowledged that the CGBV project was understaffed to cover multiple activities simultaneously with limited time. The project used several prevention approaches (SASA! Together, SOSJ, and the whole-of-school approach), requiring different technical skill sets and knowledge that cannot be implemented with few staff. According to a senior RP staff, this affected the efficiency of the project to some extent because while focusing on achieving the objectives, they could not concentrate on building their own capacity. Due to the frequent turnover of government officials, collaboration with government agencies required more effort and time, which was a challenge for the limited human resources.

IMPACT

EQ4: What is the impact of the CGBV on (a) advancing VAW prevention; (b) furthering gender equality, women's empowerment and human rights in Bangladesh, and (c) shifting gender inequitable norms that drive GBV?

Finding 11: Anecdotal data confirmed that progress had been initiated towards the impact of the CGBV project.

Although the evaluation can only provide limited information on whether the CGBV project has led to the prevention of VAW, nevertheless it was evident, if only anecdotally in some aspects, that a change process started and was likely to last. The achievements related to the outcomes had undeniable implications for changing the social norms that had provided impunity to GBV at the local level. The impact of the CGBV project's comprehensive approach (social-ecological model) was clearly visible as it intervened from the policy level to the individual level to address VAW, even if the scope and time were very limited for some of the components.

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the future. The CGBV project took some measures to overcome this barrier, such as creating a national cohort of prevention actors and practitioners trained on SASA! Together and capacitating change makers (members of CLGs, CAGS, and similarly student leaders' groups and activists' groups) who would have a key role in sustaining and permeating transformative change in future. For example, tertiary educational institutions could benefit from awareness-raising events and more visibility for the ZTSH policy and SHPC mechanism of enforcing the policy by engaging students and educators along with the duty bearers.

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COHERENCE

EQ5: How coherent has the CGBV project been concerning other national-level efforts to prevent VAW in Bangladesh?

Finding 12: The CGBV project was in line with national and international priorities.

The CGBV project reflected coherence with the National Women's Development Policy and NAP-VAW, which helped to remove the major obstacles to human development and achieve the SDGs. It was fully aligned with international normative standards, such as CEDAW. The CGBV project was also in line with existing programmes of other United Nations agencies and national and international organizations in Bangladesh that contribute to the prevention of VAW and gender equality. It strengthened the national efforts set out in the 7th and 8th Five-Year Plans of the Government of Bangladesh. In making the geographical site selection the project design ensured there was no duplication of efforts. Rather, it complemented other projects by working with various stakeholders to promote favourable social norms to prevent VAW and ensure gender equality. Furthermore, the sites were not only among those with high VAW prevalence but also prioritized by the government for future investment in women's economic engagement. Capacity development of institutions under the CGBV project is consistent with the SDG 16 objective to build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels to promote a peaceful and inclusive society for sustainable development.

SUSTAINABILITY

EQ6: To what extent has the CGBV achieved each of its intended targets (outcomes and outputs), and which of the achieved targets are likely to be sustainable?

Finding 13: The CGBV project accomplished a number of results that were likely to be sustained beyond the project.

The sustainability of the project varied in the different outcome areas. The results accomplished in terms of legislative changes and policy development were particularly sustainable. UN

Women, through the CGBV project, influenced and supported the institutionalization of the High Court Directive (2009) on Sexual Harassment and subsequently developed and launched 12 Zero-Tolerance to Sexual Harassment policies to prevent GBV in the workplace. The existence of normative and policy frameworks would help sustain the results achieved by the CGBV project. Since gender-related issues are cross-cutting, therefore prevention of sexual harassment and VAW should be permeated in all public sector institutions as this is a prerequisite for achieving the SDGs. However, what had been achieved was still on a limited project-level scale. Hence, the project should be scaled up to include other ministries as well to arrive at an impact-level change.

While it is time-consuming and requires high human resource capacity, working with the apex bodies, such as the UGC or other relevant ministries like MoWCA, institutionalizes the result and thereby ensures the sustainability of the change in addressing sexual harassment. UGC introduced a system of biannual reporting and shared the results with the SHPCs, which was a sustainable approach to systemically institutionalizing zero tolerance to sexual harassment.

The community mobilization approaches of the project had initiated change at the individual levels, which among some had secured sustainability beyond the project timeline to a certain extent. This was influenced by the individual's level of engagement with the project and the degree of transformation of perception. Furthermore, the reasons and incentives that attracted and sustained the individual's continued interest to participate in the project activities could not be discounted and will influence the sustainability of the result.

Finding 14: Lack of long-term funding hindered the sustainability of the CGBV project.

The main intention of this project was to advance gender equality through laws, policy changes and institutional strengthening while also promoting favourable social norms to prevent VAW. The precursive stage of positive perception and attitude change started in project intervention sites with an enhanced understanding of VAW and its root causes, as well as its impact on women and girls. This was acknowledged by primary beneficiaries and other stakeholders, even though the change had been uneven in different working areas. The crux of a social norms change project lies in the duration of a strong plan and the capacity development of all stakeholders. The CGBV project successfully developed capacity but needed improvement in planning to achieve more specific changes and to make a substantial contribution to preventing VAW. This could be achieved by scaling up activities with strong monitoring. Strengthening the capacity of project beneficiaries and adopting a decentralized approach to empower local authorities were sustainable approaches for this project.

The lack of long-term funding for GBV prevention made the sustainability of fundamental shifts in social norms uncertain. Replication and upscaling would contribute to the sustainability of the results, but it was not done during the project period due to a lack of resources. Budget constraints faced by RPs resulted in a heavier workload with the limited staff and compromised the frequency of events at the community level, as noted by the staff of RPs and CSOs. To make the prevention programme sustainable, individuals and communities need to be supported to complete the full cycle of behavioural change interventions which was not the case for RP - WE CAN, because the programme ended before completing the full cycle of SASA! Together.

The CGBV project did not explicitly articulate an exit strategy and plan, which should have been developed and followed during the project inception and implementation phase. Although

an exit workshop was organized at the end of the project, it did not indicate how the results will be maintained and carried out in future.

GENDER EQUALITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

EQ7: How human rights approach and gender equality principles were integrated in the implementation of the CGBV project?

Finding 15: The CGBV project was developed based on the human rights approach and gender equality; however, it limited its beneficiary focus and potential for impacting the lives of the most marginalized women and girls by not applying an intersectionality lens.

It was evident from the project documents that the CGBV project was designed based on a human rights framework to contribute to achieving gender equality. This approach was methodically followed by promoting the active participation of both women and men in the project, enhancing their capacities and involving them in decision-making at the community level. There was also an emphasis on raising awareness about sexual harassment

and empowering women to contribute to gender equality.

The project design adopted a comprehensive system approach and supported the development of the capacity of duty bearers and right holders to prevent VAW and ensure gender equality. The implementation of this approach proved to be challenging and required sensitivity, despite the benefits of incorporating it as a project strategy. However, the evaluation process indicated a limited understanding of the human rights framework and approach among the staff of CSOs and other institutions. Consequently, the interventions appeared isolated activities for them, and the staff had difficulty establishing a link between human rights and addressing GBV and struggled to identify challenges in preventing VAW.

The CGBV project design was limited in its definition of vulnerable groups and did not apply an intersectionality lens. For example, the project only focused on females and males who experienced GBV, but it did not consider the experience of gender-diverse people with GBV. The intersection of other vulnerability factors such as disability, age, ethnic minority, etc. was not explicitly considered in the project design and hence, this aspect was not monitored either. Due to this limitation, the CGBV project missed the opportunity to target the most marginalized groups as primary beneficiaries.



Photo Credit: UN Women/ Rawyan Shayema

7

LESSONS
LEARNED

7. LESSONS LEARNED

1. Developing a robust legislative framework was essential in achieving the desired outcomes, as it provided a solid foundation for normative assurance. By prioritizing legislative advocacy and the monitoring of law enforcement and implementation, the project design ensured sustained results and gave impetus to CSO partners to collaborate with the government and relevant stakeholders to reform laws and eliminate discriminatory practices against women and girls.
2. Encouraging the meaningful participation of the local community fostered ownership of the project results. It supported programme participants to gain confidence about the results of the project, and if not all, at least some individuals will continue to adopt improved attitudes and practice what they had learned through the CGBV project beyond its timeline.
3. Securing commitment and action from higher authorities significantly impacted the sustainability of project results. Early engagement with government Institutions and their apex bodies during the design phase was crucial for establishing accountability of duty bearers, as it facilitated a streamlined approach to preventing VAW and ensured the sustainability of results. Although understanding their requirements might be time-consuming, working with them induced long-term institutionalized changes.
4. Utilizing innovative, evidence-based approaches enhanced project efficiency. The CGBV project introduced techniques and approaches, such as women’s safety audit and whole-of-school approach, which were unexplored at the local level. The novelty captivated the beneficiaries’ interest and promoted their enthusiastic involvement in the interventions.
5. Implementing a holistic approach to the CGBV project might have increased complexity but proved instrumental in addressing gender equality and fostering transformative social change. This approach equipped RPs with valuable skills and experience to navigate complexity efficiently.
6. Recognizing diversity and intersectionality allowed for better identification of marginalized groups, widening the range of vulnerable populations as targeted beneficiaries. This also upholds the principle of “Leaving No One Behind” while promoting inclusivity.
7. Engaging with men and boys in VAW prevention was both relevant and effective. This strategy fostered favourable social norms by encouraging healthy expressions of masculinity while challenging cultural impunity and traditional practices that contribute to VAW.
8. An extended project duration was essential for cultivating lasting social change. The CGBV project’s timeframe was insufficient for building a foundation for permanent attitudinal shifts, risking aggressive responses in VAW prevention that could backfire if not continued further. Implementing an explicit exit strategy during project implementation could bolster sustainability prospects.



Photo Credit: DRISTI/Shyamal Barua Boby

8

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

8. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The evaluation concluded that the CGBV Project was designed and implemented to address the critical needs of women and girls and to address national priority. The project performance had both achievements and limitations. The pandemic made the context more difficult as it magnified the deep-seated inequalities in society. The main conclusions and recommendations are presented below.

RELEVANCE, EFFECTIVENESS & COHERENCE (Findings 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12)

CONCLUSION 1

The CGBV project was highly relevant in terms of project interventions and in meeting the needs of women and girls, as well as institutions. The project substantially contributed to enabling a legislative and policy environment in line with global and national standards for preventing and addressing GBV. The TOC of this project emphasized legal reform, implementation of normative frameworks, promotion of favourable social norms for gender equality, and support of evidence-based research for prevention programming. However, the scope was too broad for the designated timeframe and constrained to the allocated human and financial resources. CGBV project addressed impediments to exercising women's rights and achieving gender equality by strengthening the capacity of stakeholders. It complemented previous and parallel efforts to reduce GBV at the local and national levels in Bangladesh.

Even though the CGBV project was not designed for crisis response and faced several implementation challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic, it made an immense effort to shed light on the increased violence in women's lives during the shadow pandemic. Adaptive management allowed the project to pivot and reprogramme some activities to maintain the relevance and effectiveness of the interventions during the crisis.

The CGBV project forged relevant partnerships with CSOs, local government, educational institutions, and private sector institutions at the local level in the three project districts. At the national level, UN Women's strategic partnership with UGC was critical for the project. However, the national-level partnership strategy missed opportunities for the engagement of other key government stakeholders, such as the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA) which could have addressed the coordination challenges of stakeholders at the local level.

The project's capacity-development strategy was very effective in building confidence and creating an enabling environment within duty bearers' offices and the community.

Nevertheless, there was a continued need for further efforts to strengthen the capacity of government officials, relevant staff in other institutions, as well as community members to prevent VAW. The project actively involved men and boys in the process of transforming discriminatory social norms that perpetuate GBV. However, to engrain the desired social transformation into the social fabric, there was a need to ensure that this change was followed through and their engagement continued beyond the project intervention.

RECOMMENDATION 1.1

Continue with a second phase of CGBV using the same holistic and integrated approach and socio-ecological model to allow the manifestation of long-term results by scaling the programme horizontally (i.e., replication in an expanded geographical scope) and vertically (policy, legislative reform and institutional scaling).

Suggested key actions:

1. From the design stage, engage strategic partners at different levels of their institutions, from the related apex bodies and ministries to local level offices, to achieve vertical scaling for the normative policy support interventions (e.g., implementation of HCD 2009 and institutionalization of prevention mechanisms).
2. Articulate the TOC more specifically and according to the size and duration of the financial resources. Carry out a multi-stakeholder consultation for the articulation of the TOC.
3. Design a separate project for economic interventions with thorough market analysis and gendered value chain analysis to strengthen women's economic leadership which contributes to the reduction of VAW.
4. Reframe and develop a partnership strategy that includes sustainable relationships with all levels of the stakeholder institutions key for preventing VAW, i.e., national to local level.

Priority: High | **Timeframe:** Immediate

Relevant to Senior management of UN Women Country Office, UN Women Programme team

RECOMMENDATION 1.2

Enhance the effectiveness of the second phase of the CGBV project by narrowing focus on the replication of the most successful strategies (e.g., engagement of men and boys) and community-based approaches tested in this programme coupled with effective planning and follow-up mechanisms based on adaptive management principles.

Suggested key actions:

1. Increase the engagement of men and boys in the social norms change interventions and implement initiatives that incorporate strategies for sustaining the shift in attitudes.
2. Capacity development strategies should consider the following lessons from this project to ensure effectiveness:
 - a. Design further comprehensive training for all stakeholders, particularly the staff of RPs implementing activities at the field level. Include refreshers and various relevant topics that deepen their understanding of the approaches, principles and models that are being implemented, as well as foundational topics such as GBV, sexual harassment, human rights framework, intersectionality, etc.
 - b. Design the training in the local language with contextual examples considering the level of participants.
 - c. Design the timing and mode in consultation with the intended beneficiaries of the training.

Priority: Medium | **Timeframe:** Immediate

Relevant to UN Women Programme team

EFFICIENCY (*Findings 9,10*)

CONCLUSION 2

UN Women demonstrated its ability to manage and implement the project efficiently even during the COVID-19 crisis by reprogramming project activities. UN Women's adaptive management and flexibility to pivot and respond to crisis were well recognized by RPs. This shift was a real-time experience for the RPs to act in a humanitarian crisis. The coordination and cross-sharing between the teams working on different components in different locations would have benefited from a review of the communication workflow.

The RPs were understaffed, particularly considering the number of models and prevention approaches that were adopted. The project had to balance between limited financial and human resources and the quality of outcomes. The CGBV project initially lacked sufficient government liaison and coordination at various levels, impacting its efficiency; hence, district-level collaborations were limited, causing CSOs to feel not supported by the government in preventing VAW. Additionally, the challenges straining the project's duration (e.g., COVID-19, inception delays, etc.) and frequent turnover of government officials further affected its efficiency.

RECOMMENDATION 2.1

In the second phase of the CGBV project, address the challenges stemming from issues in communication, coordination and human resources that compromised efficiency while continuing with practices which increased the efficiency of the CGBV project, such as adaptive management and results-based monitoring.

Suggested key actions:

1. Design a workflow for smooth communication and enhanced transparency to ensure the multitude of teams working on different components and locations are all receiving timely information, and cross-sharing between different interventions enhances coordination and synergies.
2. Engage the related apex bodies and ministries at the national level to enhance coordination and collaboration between the local offices and the RPs' staff in the field.
3. Look into the institutional arrangement of Programme Partners (RPs) and assist them in developing Standard Operating Procedures to monitor workload and other rights issues of RPs and CSO staff working in the field for the project.

Priority: High | **Timeframe:** Immediate

Relevant to UN Women Programme and Monitoring team and relevant RPs

IMPACT & SUSTAINABILITY (*Findings 11,13, 14*)

CONCLUSION 3

Contribution to impact-level results through change in social norms can only be measured in the long term. However, the potential for impact-level change existed as demonstrated by the emerging results at the individual level within the community, education institutes, and the legislative level within the limitations of the project scale. Broader sustainability had not been achieved, requiring upscaling of interventions to include other related ministries, further capacity development efforts at individual and institutional levels, and institutionalizing the accountability to prevent VAW.

The main impacts of the project include reform of discriminatory law, the creation of an enabling environment for survivors to report harassment and increased community awareness of VAW as a human rights violation. Deeply entrenched unfavourable social norms, the project's limited timeframe, budget constraints and lack of long-term funding threaten the project's sustainability. An explicit articulation of the exit strategy for the project was currently absent.

RECOMMENDATION 3.1

Secure longer-term support to replicate and upscale the results of the CGBV project. A longer duration is more likely to establish structures and behavioural changes that can sustain the project's results. The focus should be on institutionalizing the prevention of VAW through intensive efforts targeting apex bodies by strengthening the system and capacity.

Suggested key actions:

1. Formulate the proposal for mobilizing the necessary resources in consideration of the longer duration and expanded scale as part of the Country Office's resource mobilization target.

Priority: High | **Timeframe:** Long term

Relevant to Senior management of UN Women Country Office, Programme team and the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

RECOMMENDATION 3.2

Ensure the second phase of the CGBV project articulates a sustainability and exit plan that includes strategies to transfer the ownership of results to relevant stakeholders with milestones to assess the efficacy of the exit plan. These strategies, such as capacity-development, gender-responsive budgeting, collaboration with other development partners to advance social change synergistically, etc., should be embedded within the results framework to ensure implementation.

Suggested key actions:

1. Develop a sustainability and exit plan that identifies the entity/group who would be responsible for sustaining the result beyond the project lifecycle. Articulate the measures that should be taken as part of this plan to ensure the entity/group has the capacity, resources and inclination to undertake this role.
2. Identify strategies and milestones for the sustainability and exit plan of the project from the start of the second phase and incorporate them in the results framework to ensure annual planning and implementation of related activities.

Priority: High | **Timeframe:** Long term

Relevant to Senior management of UN Women Country Office, and UN Women Programme team and the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

HUMAN RIGHTS APPROACH & GENDER EQUALITY PRINCIPLES (Findings 15)

CONCLUSION 4

The CGBV project was developed based on the principles of gender equality and the human rights approach. The project aimed to advance gender equality and prevent GBV through laws, policy changes, institutional strengthening and transforming social norms. The project design adopted a comprehensive system approach to prevent VAW and supported the development of the capacity of duty bearers and right holders to ensure gender equality. The project's holistic approach addressed VAW from policy to individual levels. The legal reform supported by the project protected rape plaintiffs to access justice with dignity. It created an enabling environment for survivors of GBV to report harassment in the workplace or a tertiary educational institution and increased community awareness of VAW as a human rights violation.

The CGBV project design was limited in its definition of vulnerable groups, and thus, intersectional experiences were overlooked. The evaluation process also identified there was a limited understanding of the human rights framework and approach among the implementing staff of CSOs and other institutions.

RECOMMENDATION 4.1

Strengthen the integration of gender equality and human rights-based approach in the programme strategy and enhance inclusivity with intersectional considerations in line with the “leave no one behind” commitment of the organization. When needed address capacity gaps of partners to apply these principles in all phases of the programme.

Suggested key actions:

1. Dedicate a section of the project document to explicitly outline the adoption of an intersectional approach in the planning, design, and implementation of the next prevention programme and/or project. The application of intersectionality in interventions should be backed by analysis, smart indicators, dedicated resources, and capacity development of RPs and CSOs.
2. Develop and implement a capacity development strategy for current and future RPs on the application and integration of human rights approach, gender equality and intersectionality principles in the planning, design and implementation of interventions.

Priority: High | **Timeframe:** Immediate

Relevant to UN Women Programme team

ANNEXES

ANNEX I: EVALUATION TEAM LEADER TERMS OF REFERENCE

Title	International Consultant – Evaluation of Combatting Gender-Based Violence in Bangladesh (CGBV) project
Duration of assignment	40 days spread between 15 February 2023- 30 June 2023
Location	Home Based
Type of contract	Special Service Agreement (SSA)
Supervision	Planning, Monitoring and Reporting Analyst, UN Women Bangladesh

I. Background

UN Women, grounded in the vision of equality enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, works for the elimination of discrimination against women and girls; the empowerment of women; and the achievement of equality between women and men as partners and beneficiaries of development, human rights, humanitarian action and peace and security. Placing women’s rights at the centre of all its efforts, UN Women will lead and coordinate United Nations system’s efforts to ensure that commitments on gender equality and gender mainstreaming translate into action throughout the world. It will provide strong and coherent leadership in support of Member States’ priorities and efforts, building effective partnerships with civil society and other relevant actors. Bangladesh has a significant history of women organizing movements to claim their rights. Over the years, women’s groups have mobilized themselves and made sure their voices are heard in various issues, starting from violence against women, gender equality in securing economic opportunities and participation, equal representation in politics, reproductive rights, family law reforms and gender mainstreaming in public policies.

Against this backdrop, UN Women in Bangladesh supports the government to implement their commitments to international normative standards on gender equality and women’s human rights. The UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for 2022-2026 was launched in 2021 and the corresponding UN Women Bangladesh Strategy Note (2022-2026) defining UN Women’s strategic engagement in Bangladesh has also been finalized. The country strategy focuses on strengthening the national structures and mechanisms for gender mainstreaming in policies, plans and budgets; supporting efforts to prevent and eliminate violence against women; promoting women’s access to decent and safe work; promoting policies and government investment in women’s empowerment and resilience building in the context of climate change, humanitarian crisis as well as other threats to peace and security. With the triple mandates- normative, implementation and coordination, UN Women works with a range of stakeholders in Bangladesh including the government, civil society and women’s organisations, youth, UN agencies and donors, to promote gender equality and women’s empowerment. The Ending Violence Against Women (EVAW) portfolio contributes to UN Women Bangladesh Strategic Note 2022 – 2026 Outcome 1.4: By 2026, more women, girls and sexual minorities benefit from an environment in which they are empowered to exercise their rights, agency, and decision- making power over all aspects of their lives and towards

a life free from all forms of discrimination, violence and harmful norms and practices. Bangladesh reiterated its commitment to gender equality in its 8th Five Year Plan (FYP) (2020- 2025). The plan recognizes the need to address discriminatory social norms to prevent VAW; strengthen social research to identify the root causes of violence.

In Bangladesh harmful gendered social norms manifest across all aspects of women and girls' lives – particularly in political, social, and economic spheres. Acceptance of violence against women as the social norm not only results in high prevalence, but it also perpetuates inter-generational transmission of violent behaviour. As a result, prevailing inequalities are reinforced, and the country's full development potential remains untapped. Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) cuts across sectors, class and geographic locations. The VAW survey (BBS, 2015) estimated that more than two thirds (72.6 per cent) of ever-married women experience one or more forms of violence by their husbands at least once in their lifetime, while 37.5 per cent of adolescent girls aged 15 to 19, experience physical intimate partner violence. Laws related to VAW are still discriminatory, especially the definition of rape, use of character evidence, and family law. Laws are yet to be fully implemented and interpreted with gender lens. Both CEDAW Concluding Observations and Voluntary National Review have highlighted concerns related to legal reform, women's access to justice, tackling harmful social norms and stereotypes, and strengthening the gender-responsiveness of the law enforcement and Judiciary. UN Women has learnt from evidence elsewhere, experiences in Bangladesh that it takes time to change discriminatory social norms and that it requires changes at each level of the social ecology: the individual, family/household, community, and society/culture. This also adds to a body of evidence showing consistent and sustained changes in power dynamics requires long-term, gender-transformative interventions, and the creation of enabling systems that allow these changes to flourish at all levels of the social ecology (for example, evidence-based prevention interventions, such as SASA! Together and Sammanit Jeevan).

II. Description of the project

Under the EAW programme, the Combatting Gender Based Violence in Bangladesh (CGBV) is 5 years, 3 months (includes 9 months no cost extension period) project funded by Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Government of Canada, that has started in March 2018 and will end on 30 June 2023 with a total funding amount is USD 3.8 million. The CGBV project is being implemented in 12 villages under 3 districts in Bangladesh - Bogura, Cumilla and Patuakhali. Bogura, reputed for cultural activism but conservative mindset of people due to larger Muslim population (94%) and has extremely high child marriage rate that are fuelled by spread of extremism in some of the districts. This district also saw a higher rate of overseas migration of people in past years.

Cumilla district is politically vibrant, has cross border movement and human trafficking, especially young women, and adolescent girls, with highest overseas migration among the districts and has seen a steady industrialization. Patuakhali is a cyclone prone, riverine district with agricultural and fishery based small and medium industrial area where women aged 15 – 19 married is 17.2 – 27.7% (VAW survey 2015).

The CGBV project recognized that prevention of violence requires sustained and comprehensive action at individual, family, organizations, and societal levels. The project focuses on primary prevention, stopping violence before it occurs, as it is a strategic approach to ending violence against women and girls. The CGBV project has created a holistic and participatory framework of integrated and mutually

reinforcing interventions to address the underlying causes and drivers of violence against women and girls; make duty bearers accountable to comply with international and national obligations addressing violence against women and promote their equal status in the society. Simultaneously, the project has enhanced the capacity of civil society to advocate and influence policies for a violence free society and strengthen women's voice and agency.

UN Women is implementing the CGBV project in partnership with 3 Civil Society Organization (CSO) partners (Responsible Parties-RP). BLAST at the national level, is responsible for discriminatory law reformation to prevent sexual harassment and other forms of gender-based violence. It has worked with CSO coalition to build the capacities for advocacy for legislative policy changes related to GBV laws and Sexual Harassment Act. Christian Aid has implemented VAW prevention manual and implementation of High Court Directive (2009) to prevent sexual harassment for strengthening local government institutions, human rights defender manual for improving workers voices and rights, mid-level managers manual for institutional building at the factories. And WE CAN has implemented Whole of School approach in the education institutions, community mobilization approach – SASA!Together and family-based intervention – Shomman O Shomotar Jeebon (adapted from Stepping Stones).

UN Women partners with district based and high-level leadership of key institutions such as, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Offices, Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI), and education institutions in three districts. The RPs have been involved with DC offices, Upazila Nirbahi Officer's office (subdistrict executive officer'), Department of Women Affairs (DWA), Nari Nirjaton Protirodh Committee (VAW committee) at district and upazila (subdistrict) level, Union Councils, selected factory workers and management, and in selected 6 tertiary level educational institutions and 12 villages to prevent and address violence against women. Finally, the project has created a strong and expanded knowledge base system to inform prevention policy and programming. The project is expected to reach 11,000 direct beneficiaries (as per latest PMF) at the end of project implementation. Specifically, the CGBV project focuses on the following outcomes:

- Outcome 1:** National and local laws and policies to prevent violence against women are strengthened, if needed, and implemented.
- Outcome 2:** Favourable social norms, attitudes and behaviours are promoted to prevent violence against women and enhance women's economic empowerment.
- Outcome 3:** Policy and programming is increasingly informed by an expanded knowledge base on effective approaches to prevention of violence against women.

III. Purpose and use of the evaluation

The evaluation of CGBV project will be undertaken with the purpose of ensuring accountability to the donor, project beneficiaries and partners for achieving best results with its normative, coordination and implementation work. The project has resulted in transparency, credibility and bringing together duty-bearers and rights-holders that generates a space for mutual accountability, transparency and application of key gender equality and human rights principles. In addition to that, the evaluation will assess the progress towards achieving the intended results and compile lessons learned and promising practices in country to prevent VAW. Moreover, the evaluation will be carried out to generate knowledge to inform the designing of VAW prevention programming and the other

projects in EAW programme of UN Women in Bangladesh. UN Women at the global and regional level will use the results of the evaluation for disseminating promising practices and lessons learned and findings through other countries and regions. Other national stakeholders - NGO partners, participating government institutions, and other local partners, will be also closely involved in the evaluation process to increase ownership of findings, draw lessons learned and make greater use of the evaluation results.

As part of this assignment, UN Women is seeking an international consultant with expertise in EAW evaluation and research following the OECD criteria. A national consultant will be hired who will support the international consultant to translate the tools, field data collection, sorting and analyse of the data, and report writing. The international consultant should manage the national consultant and the international consultant will be engaged for a total of 40 days within the period of the contract.

IV. Evaluation Objectives

Guided by the UN Women Evaluation Policy, the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) Norms and Standards for Evaluation in UN System and the UNEG Ethical Guidelines, the main objective of the evaluation is to assess the contribution of the Combatting Gender Based Violence (CGBV in Bangladesh) project in the prevention of violence against women through sustained and comprehensive actions at individual, family, institutional and societal levels. The CGBV project focused on primary prevention, stopping violence before it occurs, as it is a strategic approach to ending violence against women and girls.

The evaluation aims to be both summative (reviewing past gains) and formative (informing future strategies) in order to assess the achievement of results and identify the strengths and weaknesses of the project, while drawing key learning from the evaluation findings that can inform recommendations for future EAW programming of UN Women Bangladesh.

The evaluation will have the following specific objectives:

1. To assess the CGBV project's contributions to the overarching goal of: "Women and girls, including the most marginalized, are free of violence at home, at work and in public spaces". In doing so, the evaluator will analyse the programmatic achievements under the following three outcome areas:
 - a. National and local laws and policies to prevent violence against women are strengthened and implemented.
 - b. Favourable social norms, attitudes and behaviours are promoted to prevent violence against women and enhance women's economic empowerment.
 - c. Policy and program are increasingly informed by an expanded knowledge base on effective approaches to prevention of violence against women.
2. To evaluate the project against the OECD DAC's six evaluation criteria of relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability³².

32 Read more at: <https://www.oecd.org/dac/evaluation/daccriteriaforevaluatingdevelopmentassistance.htm>

3. To analyse how human rights approach and gender equality principles are integrated in implementation.
4. To draw lessons and produce concrete recommendations on how UN Women Bangladesh can build on the gains of the CGBV project; including identifying what could be done differently and which interventions have worked and should be considered for scaling—whether through expansion or replication (horizontal) or through policy, political, legal, or institutional scaling (vertical).

V. Scope of the Evaluation

The scope of the evaluation will follow the prevention strategy of the CGBV project, and the prevention interventions that have been implemented at national level and local level in the districts of Bogura, Cumilla and Patuakhali. Evidence building -adapting model, measuring impact for generating knowledge on primary prevention of VAW remained the core overarching strategy of CGBV project.

The CGBV project has worked at the national level, supported concerted national level Policy Advocacy for a stronger legal framework protecting women from all forms of gender-based violence. Therefore, the geographical scope of the evaluation will include - Bogura, Comilla, and Patuakhali. The evaluation will cover the project implementation of the project from 20 March 2018 to 30 June 2023. The evaluation will assess all the components of the project.

VI. Evaluation Criteria and Key Questions

The evaluation will use the standard criteria of assessing the relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability of the programme assess results. The following section outlines the suggested preliminary evaluation questions that can be refined by the evaluator during the inception phase in consultation with UN Women.”

Relevance and coherence of the programme design and priorities

1. To what extent the programme design, strategies and partnership were relevant to the needs and priorities of the women in relation to living a life free from gender-based violence and adjust to or respond to changes in country contexts, for example, political changes, COVID-19 pandemic.
2. To what extent did the CGBV project support and complement the National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women (NAP-VAW) and other interventions in the country and address gaps in GBV/VAW primary prevention?

Effectiveness of the programme results

1. To what extent did the CGBV project achieve its objectives in strengthening women’s legal protections for VAW, changing social norms/attitudes/behaviours to prevent VAW, and expanding the knowledge base in VAW prevention?
2. How effective was UN Women’s approach in using evidence-based strategies to prevent VAW? What worked well that need to be considered for future programming?
3. How did the project leverage strategic partnerships at all levels and how effective was the partnership approach?

Efficiency of the programme approach and management

1. To what extent did the programme set-up, including UN Women's management systems, human and financial resources, and interventions contribute to or hinder the achievement of programme objectives and with national approaches of UN Women?

Impact of the programme³³

1. What are the key contributions of the CGBV project to improving the prevention of GBV/VAW in Bangladesh?
2. To what extent did the CGBV project impact the lives of the women and men who were the primary beneficiaries of the project? What about the impact on secondary beneficiaries?
3. What contributions have been made towards impact with respect to furthering gender equality and women's empowerment and human rights?
4. How well the knowledge generation and lessons were documented and disseminated?

Sustainability of the programme

1. How sustainable are the gains from the CGBV project? To what extent will net benefits of the intervention continue or are likely to continue in the current country context? Did the interventions consider partner capacities and build ownership in the design and implementation of the project? To what extent the interventions are scalable?

VII. Evaluation methods and management process

The evaluation will be a transparent and participatory process involving relevant UN Women staff, stakeholders, and partners at the national and local level and the external consultant. It will be carried out in accordance with [United Nations Evaluation Group \(UNEG\) Norms and Standards](#) and [Ethical Guidelines and Code of Conduct](#), more specifically, UN Women's GERAAS (see Annex 1) will be used to assess and ensure the quality of evaluation products. All deliverables will be reviewed against the GERAAS criteria by the Evaluation Management Group for approval. The evaluation content and process are required to integrate gender equality and human rights principles. The evaluator is expected to provide a detailed plan on how the ethical principles will be ensured throughout the evaluation process.

VIII. Expected Data Collection method:

The data source for the evaluation will be progress reports, donor reports and the quarterly reports on RMS (UN Women Result Based Management System), information on beneficiaries, quantitative data sheet on beneficiary target reach and events brief developed by partner and of UN Women.

³³ The evaluation of impact as a criterion in this evaluation refers to higher level and longer-term results, and it should not be confused with the term "impact evaluation", which refers to specific methodologies for establishing statistically significant causal relationships between the intervention and observed effects.

The international consultant needs to design data collection methods and take measures to ensure data quality, reliability, and validity of data collection tools and methods and analysis (such as appreciative inquiry, most significant change, storytelling, case study, survey, interviews, focus groups, observation, site visit) that are responsive to gender equality and human rights issues following ethical considerations and will identify participatory tools for consultation with different stakeholders ensuring diversity and inclusion. It should develop a sampling frame (area and population represented, sex disaggregated data, rationale for selection, mechanics of selection, limitations of the sample) and specify how it will address the diversity of stakeholders in the intervention. A full methodology will be developed by the international consultant during the preparation phase and included in the inception report. The list of sources of information collected will be then attached to the evaluation report. The evaluator will elaborate on the final rationale for selection and their limitations.

IX. Evaluation Stakeholders

During the evaluation, the beneficiaries, especially the women and men from the communities from the project sites will be engaged in participatory manner along with other key stakeholders from local government institutions, Chamber of Commerce & Industries, workers and senior management from factories, sexual harassment prevention committee members, and multi stakeholder alliance members, students group members from educational institutions will take part. National level stakeholders such as University Grants Commissions, BLAST and their unit coordinators will be consulted. In addition to that, the staff from implementing partners, UN Women project staff and donor focal point will participate as stakeholder. During the evaluation the ethical safeguards will be employed to ensure safety, and privacy of the participants who will share their consent to be part of the stakeholder list.

X. Evaluation Process

The evaluation process includes the following four phases that will be used for determining the evaluation timelines and setting deliverables/performance indicators:

1. Preparation: this phase will include stakeholder analysis and establishment of the reference group, development of the ToR, and recruitment of the evaluation team. Recruitment of the consultant, initial meeting(s) of the selected consultant with UN Women Bangladesh to discuss objectives, approach, scope, methodology and timelines of the evaluation will also be carried out in this phase.
2. Conduct: This phase will begin with inception report, the desk review, stakeholder workshop, development of data collection tools, and data collection and analysis. The evaluation will consider consulting the CGBV prevention strategy, scoping study and baseline, the midterm review, COVID-19 assessment, yearly donor reports and learning briefs to understand the progress and design the methodology and tools for the evaluation.
3. Reporting: This phase will include the presentation of preliminary findings, draft and the final report of the evaluation after successful completion of the field data collection from the selected sample involving the mentioned stakeholders.
4. Use and follow up: This phase will include the management response, validation of the findings and the dissemination of the report and follow up to the implementation of the management response.

XI. Evaluation Timeframe

Tasks	Deliverables	Timeframe	% of payment
1. Conduct preliminary desk review and consultations, develop data collection tools, draft and submission of inception report (including how the ethical principles will be ensured throughout the evaluation process)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inception report including Evaluation matrix and Data collection tools Inception presentation to the ERG together with national consultant 	5 April 2023	30% of total value upon successful completion of delivery 01
2. Conduct data collection and analysis and presentation of preliminary findings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor the process of field data collection Debriefing after data collection from the field by 20 May 2023 	30 June 2023	70% of total value upon successful completion of delivery (02 –04)
3. Preparation of reports and validation: first draft evaluation report, validation of preliminary findings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Power Point Presentation of preliminary findings to ERG Submit findings with draft report by 10 June 2023 		
4. Finalization of report after validation workshop presenting the draft report to relevant stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final draft incorporating feedback from validation workshop Submission of the final report 		

XII. Evaluation Governance and Management

The evaluation will be followed and managed by the below structure:

Evaluation Management Group (EMG):

An evaluation management group will be established to oversee the evaluation process, coordinated by the evaluation manager. The group will be chaired by the Country Representative of UN Women Bangladesh Country Office (BCO) with Planning, Monitoring and Reporting Analyst as Evaluation Task Manager. The EMG will be composed of Programme Coordinator, EVAW and Evaluation Specialist of regional office of Asia Pacific (ROAP) as advisory capacity.. This evaluation management group will be responsible for final approval of the evaluation ToR, selection of the external evaluation team, inception report and final evaluation report. The Programme Coordinator, EVAW should ensure that the evaluation addresses the information gaps and evaluation questions relevant to the CGBV project.

Evaluation Reference Group (ERG):

The reference group will be consisted of the key stakeholders from stakeholder analysis of CGBV project. The Evaluation Manager will identify stakeholders, who should participate, how and when, as well as the relevance of a particular group to the purpose and use of the evaluation using stakeholder analysis. The reference group will be a diverse and representative group of stakeholders. The representation from stakeholder from duty bearers and right holders and different areas of intervention including representation from donor, national partners, local implementing partners,

University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh, will be reflected in reference group. This reference group will support the evaluation process in providing information for data collection (through participating in survey and qualitative interview). This group will also be involved in preliminary findings sharing, providing recommendations and dissemination of evaluation report. The quality of the evaluation must comply with GERAAS (Global Evaluation Reports Assessment and Analysis System) criteria.

XIV. Duration of assignment:

40 days spread between 15 February 2023- 30 June 2023 and will be home based.

XV. Supervision and performance evaluation

The International consultant will receive guidance from the Planning, Monitoring and Reporting Analyst, UN Women Bangladesh.

XVI. Travel and DSA:

No DSA will be paid at the duty station and field data collections in CGBV project field locations.

Competencies Core Values

- Respect for Diversity;
- Integrity;
- Professionalism.

Core Competencies

- Awareness and Sensitivity Regarding Gender Issues;
- Accountability;
- Creative Problem Solving;
- Effective Communication;
- Inclusive Collaboration;
- Stakeholder Engagement;
- Leading by Example.

Functional Competencies

- Excellent evaluation skills, especially based on OECD based criteria ;
- Good understanding and practice of primary prevention programming in a less developing country;
- Good understanding of the underlying issues related to gender-based violence in Bangladesh and/ or South Asia;
- Outstanding knowledge of gender, women’s rights, humanitarian law and principles, legislative laws related to GBV
- Excellent facilitation and communication skills

XVII. Required Skills and Experience

Education:

- A master’s degree in economics, social sciences, international relations, development studies, gender equality or related area.

Technical Competencies

- Minimum 5 years of relevant experience and involvement in ending violence against women (EVAW) evaluations. Experience of conducting evaluation within the United Nations system will be considered an asset.
- Minimum 4 years of proven experience of working with Women CBOs, and grass roots organizations.
- Minimum 3 years of experience / knowledge of gender equality and GBV programming at country or international level is desired.
- Demonstrate facilitation and communications skills, experience in participatory approaches and ability to negotiate amongst a wide range of stakeholders.

Language requirement:

Excellent command of English (oral and written)

XVIII. Evaluation Method and Criteria

Candidate will be evaluated using a cumulative analysis method taking into consideration the combination of the applicants’ qualifications mentioned above, the technical and financial proposal. A contract will be awarded to the individual consultant whose offer receives the highest score out of below defined technical and financial criteria. Only candidates obtaining a minimum of 50 points in the technical evaluation will be considered for financial evaluation.

Cumulative analysis:

When using this weighted scoring method, the award of the contract should be made to the individual consultant whose offer has been evaluated and determined as:

- a) Responsive/Compliant/Acceptable, and

- b) Having received the highest score out of a pre-determined set of weighted technical and financial criteria specific to the solicitation.

Applications will be evaluated based on cumulative analysis.

Technical Qualification (70 points) weight; [70%]

Financial Proposal (30 points) weight; [30%]

A two-stage procedure is utilized in evaluating the applications, with evaluation of the technical application being completed prior to any price proposal being compared. Only the price proposal of the candidates who passed the minimum technical score of 70% of the obtainable score of 100 points in the technical qualification evaluation will be evaluated.

Technical qualification evaluation criteria:

The total number of points allocated for the technical qualification component is 100. The technical qualification of the individual is evaluated based on following technical qualification evaluation criteria:

Evaluation Criteria	Obtainable Score
Academic Qualification	10
Number of years of relevant experience and involvement in several evaluations of development projects, following OECD criteria within or outside of UN system	20
Number of years of proven experience of working with Women CBOs, and grass roots organizations	20
Number of years of experience /knowledge of gender equality and GBV prevention	20

Only the candidates who have attained a minimum of 70% of total points 70 will be considered as technically qualified candidates who may be contacted for a validation interview.

Financial Evaluation (30%) – max. 30 points.

The maximum number of points assigned to the financial proposal is allocated to the lowest price proposal. All other price proposals receive points in inverse proportion. A suggested formula is as follows:

$$p = 30 (\mu/z)$$

Using the following values:

p = points for the financial proposal being evaluated

μ = price of the lowest priced proposal

z = price of the proposal being evaluated Only long-listed candidates will be contacted.

The shortlisted candidate will be requested to submit a financial proposal.

XIX. Suggested Submission of Application

Interested candidates will submit the following documents/information to demonstrate their qualifications.

To be included as part of the proposal:

- A brief expression of interest: a brief narrative presenting your suitability for this assignment
- A **technical proposal** outlining the understanding of the assignment and proposed methodology, team composition, Gantt chart, ethical consideration for undertaken the evaluation in line with the TOR.
- UN Women Personal History form (P-11) which can be downloaded from: <http://www.unwomen.org/about-us/employment>
- **2 Sample excerpts** on evaluation related to VAW prevention, gender equality, and or women's empowerment.

Financial proposal:

The financial proposal shall specify a daily professional fee and total for 40 days in USD . UN Women will not bear any other expenses.

Note: Kindly note that the system will only allow one attachment. Please upload as one attachment of the documents as mentioned above online through this website.

Annexes

- Annex 1 [UN Women GERAAS evaluation quality assessment checklist](#)
- Annex 2 UN Women Evaluation Consultants Agreement Form
- Annex 3 [UNEG Norms and Standards for evaluation](#)
- Annex 4 [UN Women Evaluation Handbook](#)

SUPPORTING THE ALL-INCLUSIVE FINANCIAL PROPOSAL³⁴

A) Breakdown of Cost by Components:

Cost Components	Unit Cost	Quantity	Total Rate for theContract Duration
I. Personnel Costs			
Professional Fees			
Relevant associate cost			

34 The costs should only cover the requirements identified in the Terms of Reference (TOR)

B) Breakdown of Cost by Deliverables*

Deliverables <i>[list them as referred to in the TOR]</i>	Percentage of Total Price (Weight for payment)	Amount
Deliverable 1		
Deliverable 2		
....		
Total	100%	USD

**Basis for payment tranches*

Annex II: List of the Evaluation Reference Group Members

No	Name	Agency	Role
1	Farzana Sultana	Government of Canada	Development Advisor
2	Mauli Azad	University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh	Deputy Director
3	Sara Hossain	Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST)	Honourable Executive Director
4	Pankaj Kumar	Christian Aid Bangladesh	Country Director
5	Jinat Ara Haque	WE CAN Alliance	Chief Executive
6	Irene Connie Tumwebaze	UNICEF, Bangladesh	Child Protection Specialist
7	Ruma Sultana	Manusher Jonno Foundation	Programme Coordinator
8	Yvette Alal	Raising Voices	VAW Prevention Technical Manager

Annex III: Strategic questions and detailed areas of enquiry

Evaluation Criteria	Overall Strategic Evaluation Question (EQ)	Detailed areas of inquiry
Relevance	EQ1: How relevant has the CGBV project design, strategies and partnership been in meeting the needs and priorities of women to live a life free from gender-based violence?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What particular needs and priorities the Government of Bangladesh/Development Partner related to VAW has the CGBV met? • To what extent has the CGBV project met the priorities set by the national policy frameworks on VAW prevention? • To what extent did the CGBV project align with the specific national level policies, strategies and approach to preventing and responding to VAW? • What particular needs and priorities of target populations, particularly of the most marginalized and excluded, has the CGBV project met? • How relevant was the project and to what extent did the CGBV project respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and other changes in the country context? • How realistic and feasible was the project design and planning in the context and ground reality of VAW in Bangladesh? • How relevant has the CGBV project been in adjusting and responding to changing contexts of the implementation, etc.?
Effectiveness	EQ2: How effective has the CGBV project been in (a) strengthening women's legal protections for VAW, (b) shifting social norms/ attitudes/behaviours to prevent VAW, and; (c) expanding the knowledge base in VAW prevention?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent did the CGBV project achieve its objectives (each of its intended outcomes and outputs), in strengthening women's legal protections for VAW, changing social norms/ attitudes/behaviours to prevent VAW, and expanding the knowledge base in VAW prevention? • What were the enablers and barriers to the success of each of the outcomes? • How effective was the CGBV project in ensuring duty bearers are accountable to comply with international and national obligations addressing VAW and promote their equal status in the society? • How and to what extent did the CGBV project enhance the capacity of civil society to design, implement and sustain primary prevention of gendered violence? What were the barriers/enablers for this? • How effective were the implementing strategies/approach? Which strategies proved successful, and which did not? If not, why?

Evaluation Criteria	Overall Strategic Evaluation Question (EQ)	Detailed areas of inquiry
Efficiency	EQ3: How efficient has the CGBV project been with regards to cost, timeliness, management and approaches in meeting its outcomes?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent did the CGBV project deliver its outcomes cost-effectively, in a timely-manner, and with good management? • How efficient has the choice of the CGBV project approaches been to VAW prevention and partnerships? • To what extent did the programme set-up, including UN Women management systems, human and financial resources, contribute to or hinder the achievement of programme objectives? • What are some of the barriers and/or enablers (in relation to planning, implementation, management, and approaches) to the CGBV project being efficient? • How did the project leverage strategic partnerships at all levels and how effective was the partnership approach?
Impact	EQ4: What is the impact of the CGBV on (a) advancing VAW prevention; (b) furthering gender equality, women's empowerment and human rights in Bangladesh, and (c) shifting gender inequitable norms that drive GBV?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the impact of the CGBV project on women's and girls' (including persons with disabilities and the most marginalized) safety at home, at work and in public spaces? • Are there any positive (or negative) unintended impacts of the project? • What is the impact of the CGBV project in shifting gender inequitable attitudes, practices and/or norms and acceptability of VAW? • To what extent did the CGBV project impact the lives of primary beneficiaries, women and men? • What are the barriers/enablers for the CGBV project to be impactful (in terms of changing norms, improving accountability, improving VAW prevention)?
Coherence	EQ5: How coherent has the CGBV project been with regards to other national-level efforts to prevent VAW in Bangladesh?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent has the CGBV project complemented the NAP-VAW? • To what extent has the CGBV project been coherent with/ complemented other national-level efforts to prevent and respond to VAW? • To what extent has the CGBV project coordinated and collaborated with other similar projects to avoid duplication and share lessons learned?

Evaluation Criteria	Overall Strategic Evaluation Question (EQ)	Detailed areas of inquiry
Sustainability	EQ6: To what extent has the CGBV project achieved each of its intended targets (outcomes and outputs), and which of the achieved targets are likely to be sustainable?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent will the CGBV project accomplishments (e.g., capacity built, etc.) remain after the end of the project? • How sustainable are the benefits and accomplishments of the CGBV project (e.g., shifts in attitudes and behaviours, etc.)? • What factors contribute/hinder the likelihood of sustainability of project gains?
Gender Equality and Human Rights	EQ7: How were human rights approach and gender equality principles integrated in implementation of the CGBV project?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent, and how has the CGBV project integrated human rights approach in the planning, design and implementation? • To what extent, and how has the CGBV project integrated gender equality principles in the planning, design and implementation? • How inclusive and participatory was the CGBV project (i.e., did it foster inclusion and participation of women, the most marginalized and disadvantaged groups as well as the full range of stakeholder groups)? • What barriers and /or challenges were encountered for the integration of human rights approach and gender equality principles in the CGBV implementation?

Annex IV: Data Collection Tools

Below are three data collection instruments including an introduction.

Please note that when the ET entered the data collection phase, some of the questions in these questionnaires were further refined to accommodate translation from English into Bangla. This is because some terms, concepts and definitions may vary between the languages. As agreed with the UN Women Bangladesh, and to ensure the practicality and the appropriate level of understanding among relevant stakeholders, in particular the individual beneficiaries, the UN Women Bangladesh team reviewed the translation of the data collection tools to ensure contextualization, simplicity and relevance. Please also note that the Bangla translation of the data collection tools included extensive probing for each equation in the tools allowing for clear communication with respondents and effective data collection process.

KII Questionnaire for CGBV Team and Implementing Partners

My name is Qumrunnessa Nazly and I am an independent evaluator, and on behalf of UN Women in Bangladesh, I am conducting an evaluation of the Combatting GBV Project in Bangladesh. The purpose of the evaluation is to examine achievements on prevention of violence against women by the CGBV in Bangladesh from its inception in 20 March 2018 to 30 June 2023. Particularly, the evaluation questions will focus on understanding the effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence, sustainability and impact of the CGBV project. Your opinions are extremely important in providing recommendations to UN Women on how to best prevent and respond to VAW.

Your participation in this evaluation will provide valuable information. Your answers will be used only for the purposes of the research, and your responses will be confidential, unless you wish to be identified.

If you give permission, may I proceed with this interview?

Date:		Start Time:		End Time:	
Respondent Name:					
Affiliation and Position					
Sex:					
Location:					
Interviewed by:					

Q 1. Can you please tell me about your role in the CGBV project? / Can you tell me which component of the CGBV project were you involved/engaged in?
Response

Relevance
<p>Q 1. How relevant was the CGBV in meeting the needs and priorities of VAW survivors and those at risk of violence?</p> <p>Can you provide examples of these needs/priorities have been met?</p>
<p>Response:</p>
<p>Q 2. How relevant was the CGBV in meeting the needs of implementing partners and other institutions/ organizations involved in VAW prevention in Bangladesh?</p> <p>Can you provide examples of these needs/priorities have been met?</p>
<p>Response</p>
<p>Q 3. Overall, how relevant (realistic and feasible) was the CGBV’s design/planning and approach to the on-the-ground-reality of VAW in Bangladesh?</p> <p>Can you provide examples?</p>
<p>Response:</p>
Effectiveness
<p>Q 1. How effective was the CGBV in strengthening national and local laws and policies and their implementation, to prevent VAW?</p> <p>Can you provide examples of effectiveness?</p>
<p>Response:</p>
<p>Q 2. How effective was the CGBV in promoting favorable social norms, attitudes and behaviours that support prevention of VAW and enhance women’s economic empowerment?</p> <p>Can you provide examples of effectiveness?</p>
<p>Response:</p>

<p>Q3. How effective was the CGBV in generating knowledge and evidence on prevention of violence and inform evidence-based prevention interventions? This includes development of research and analysis, establishing databases, resources for VAW prevention, etc.</p> <p>Can you provide examples of effectiveness?</p>
<p>Response:</p>
<p>Q 4. How effective was the CGBV in enhancing the capacity of women’s organizations’/rights organizations to influence policies and hold duty bearers accountable to comply with international and national obligations addressing VAW and promote their equal status in the society?</p>
<p>Response:</p>
<p>Q 5. How effective was the CGBV in enhancing the capacity of private and public institutions to develop policies (and programmes) on VAW?</p>
<p>Response:</p>
<p>Q 6. How effective was the CGBV in building partnerships, mobilizing communities and engaging men and boys for VAW prevention?</p>
<p>Response:</p>
<p>Q 7. Overall, what were the enablers of, and barriers to the CGBV being effective (enablers/barriers to success of each of these outcomes)?</p> <p>Can you provide examples?</p>
<p>Response:</p>
<p>Efficiency</p>
<p>Q 1. To what extent the CGBV delivered its outcomes cost-effectively, in a timely-manner, and with good management?</p>
<p>Response:</p>
<p>Q 2. What were the enablers of and, barriers to, the CGBV being cost-efficient, timely implemented and well managed? What could be done better?</p>
<p>Response:</p>

Impact
<p>Q 1. To what extent, and how, has the CGBV contributed to/improved VAW prevention in Bangladesh? Can you provide examples of how it contributed?</p>
<p>Response:</p>
<p>Q 2. What is the impact of the CGBV on your ability to (1) shifting gender inequitable attitudes, practices and or norms related to gender inequality and VAW; (2) Strengthening national and local laws and policies to prevent VAW; and (3) Expanding knowledge base on effective approaches to prevention of VAW and informing policy and programming. Can you provide examples of how it contributed?</p>
<p>Response:</p>
<p>Q 3. Are there any, and what kind, unintended positive or negative consequences of the CGBV? • Can you provide examples for both, if any?</p>
<p>Response:</p>
Coherence
<p>Q 1. To what extent, and how, was the CGBV coherent with/complemented national level efforts by Bangladeshi Government to prevent and respond to VAW? Can you provide examples?</p>
<p>Response:</p>
<p>Q 2. To what extent, and how, has the CGBV coordinated and collaborated with other similar projects (e.g. by other donors, development partners or I/NGOs) to avoid duplication, share lessons learned? Can you provide examples?</p>
<p>Response:</p>
<p>Q 3. Overall, what are the enablers of, and barriers to, the CGBV being coherent/complementary to national efforts by multiple partners to prevent VAW in Bangladesh? Can you provide examples?</p>
<p>Response:</p>

Sustainability
Q 1. To what extent will the CGBV gains/accomplishments (e.g., capacity built, shifts in attitudes and behaviours, compliance of duty bearers with international standards. etc.) remain after the end of the project?
Response:
Q 2. Which of the CGBV gains/accomplishments (e.g., capacity built, shifts in attitudes and behaviours, compliance of duty bearers with international standards. etc.) are most likely to sustain?
Response:
Q3. What factors contribute to, hinder, the likelihood of sustainability of the CGBV gains/accomplishments?
Response:
Human rights approach and gender equality principles
Q 1. To what extent, and how, has the CGBV integrated human rights approach and gender equality principles in the planning, design and implementation?
Response:
Q. 2 What barriers and /or challenges were encountered to integration of human rights approach and gender equality principles in the CGBV implementation?
Response:
Additional Comments
Q 1. Based on the project achievements and challenges, what further actions can be recommended and should considered for future efforts to prevent VAW in Bangladesh
Response:
Q 2. Would you like to add anything else?
Response:

KII Questionnaire for Institutional Beneficiaries

My name is Qumrunnessa Nazly and I am an independent evaluator, and on behalf of UN Women in Bangladesh, I am conducting an evaluation of the interventions, such as capacity building of different public and private institutions to develop and implement policies and mechanisms to prevent violence against women, implemented by different local CSOs, such as Aid Cumilla, DRISTI, AVAS, SUVVO, Gram Bikash Shangstha.

The purpose of the evaluation is to examine achievements and assess the impact of the interventions in preventing violence against women at home, public space and workplaces before it occurs. Your opinions are extremely important in formulating recommendations on how to best prevent and respond to VAW.

Your participation in this evaluation will provide valuable information. Your answers will be used only for the purposes of the research, and your responses will be confidential, unless you wish to be identified.

If you give permission, may I proceed with this interview?

Date:		Start Time:		End Time:	
Respondent Name:					
Affiliation and Position					
Sex:					
Location:					
Interviewed by:					

Q 1. Can you please tell me about your role in the CGBV project? / Can you tell me which component of the CGBV project were you involved/engaged in?
Response
Relevance
Q 1. How relevant was the CGBV in meeting the needs and priorities of VAW survivors and those at risk of violence? Can you provide examples of these needs/priorities that have been met?
Response:

Q 2. How relevant was the CGBV to the mandate and mission of your organization/institution and in fulfilling its mandate/mission to prevent VAW and promote gender equality?
Response:
Effectiveness
Q 1. What are the key accomplishments of your organization/institution in developing and implementing the policies and other required measures, to prevent VAW within your mandated areas/ constituencies as a result of the implementation of the CGBV project?
Response
Q 2. What are the key accomplishments of your organization/institution in promoting favorable social norms, attitudes and behaviours that support prevention of VAW among the different stakeholders of your respective institution as a result of the implementation of the CGBV project?
Response:
Q3. What are the key accomplishments of your organization/institution in generating knowledge and evidence on prevention of violence and inform evidence-based prevention interventions as a result of the implementation of the CGBV project? Can you provide examples?
Response:
Q 4. How, and to what extent was the CGBV successful in enhancing the capacity of women in your institution/organization/workplaces to identify the needs and gaps, and advocate for the changes in their respective institutions to prevent VAW and promote gender equality?
Response:
Q 5. How, and to what extent was the CGBV successful in enhancing the capacity of your organization/ institution to develop, implement and monitor (the implementation status of) the policies and mechanisms on VAW?
Response:
Q 6. Overall, what were the enablers of, and barriers to the CGBV being successful (enablers/barriers to the successes you mentioned?) Can you provide examples?
Response:

Efficiency
Q 1. How efficiently the CGBV interventions were implemented in terms of project set up (staff composition, capacity, and management), planning and utilization of financial resources, timeliness, and quality and adequacy of the interventions?
Response:
Q 2. What were the enablers of and, barriers to, the CGBV being efficient (Project set up [staff composition, capacity, and management], planning and utilization of financial resources, timeliness, and quality and adequacy of the interventions)? What could be done better?
Response:
Impact
Q 1. What is the impact of the CGBV on prevention of VAW and promoting gender equality within the mandated areas/constituencies?
Response:
Q 2. Are there any, and what kind, unintended positive or negative consequences of the CGBV observed within the mandated areas/constituencies of your organization/institution? Can you provide examples for both, if any?
Response:
Coherence
Q 1. To what extent, and how, was the CGBV coherent with/complemented national level efforts by the Government to prevent and respond to VAW? Can you provide examples?
Response:
Q 2. To your knowledge, how, has the CGBV coordinated and collaborated with other similar projects (e.g. by other donors, development partners or I/NGOs) to avoid duplication, share lessons learned? Can you provide examples?
Response:

Sustainability
Q 1. To what extent will the CGBV gains/accomplishments (e.g., capacity built, shifts in attitudes and behaviours, policies and mechanisms developed. etc.) remain after the end of the project?
Response:
Q 2. Which of the CGBV gains/accomplishments (e.g., capacity built, shifts in attitudes and behaviours, policies and mechanisms developed. etc.) are most likely to sustain?
Response:
Q3. What factors contribute to, hinder, the likelihood of sustainability of the CGBV gains/accomplishments?
Response:
Human rights approach and gender equality principles
Q 1. To what extent, and how, did the activities foster inclusion and participation of women, the most marginalized and disadvantaged groups as well as other stakeholder groups? Can you provide examples?
Response:
Q 2. Have the activities taken specific measures, and which ones' to engage with and/or involve women, the most marginalized and disadvantaged groups as well as other stakeholder groups?
Response:
Q 3. To what extent and how have the activities shared messages of equality between men and women and human rights for all?
Response:

Additional Comments
Q 1. Based on the project achievements and challenges, what further actions can be recommended and should considered for future efforts to prevent VAW in your organizational sphere as well as in Bangladesh?
Response:
Q 2. Would you like to add anything else?
Response:

IDI Questionnaire for Individual Beneficiaries

My name is Qumrunnessa Nazly and I am an independent evaluator, and on behalf of UN Women in Bangladesh, I am conducting an evaluation of the interventions, such as capacity building training, awareness raising events at family, community, educational institutions and work places, implemented by local CSOs (Aid Cumilla/ DRISTI/ AVAS/ SUVO/ Gram Bikash Shangstha etc.) to prevent violence against women.

The purpose of the evaluation is to examine achievements of the interventions and assess the impact of the interventions in preventing violence against women in the family, in workplaces, in educational institutions and in community level.

Your opinions are extremely important in formulating recommendations on how to best prevent and respond to VAW. Your participation in this evaluation will provide valuable information. Your answers will be used only for the purposes of the research, and your responses will be confidential, unless you wish to be identified.

If you give permission, may I proceed with this interview?

Date:		Start Time:		End Time:	
Respondent Name:					
Affiliation and Position					
Sex:					
Location:					
Interviewed by:					

Q 1. Can you please tell me about your participation (which intervention) in the project? How did you get involved? How long were you involved in the project interventions? Was anybody else in your family involved in the project interventions?
Response
Relevance
Q 1. How the interventions addressed your needs? If not, what is needed further to address the needs?
Response:

Effectiveness
<p>Q 1. How did you benefit from the project interventions (e.g. capacity building training on gender equality, prevention of VAW; behavioural change campaign; awareness raising sessions; referral service; establishing mechanisms to address VAW in workplaces/educational institutions)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can you provide examples?
Response:
<p>Q 2. What interventions were most useful for you? Why do you think so?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can you provide examples?
Response:
<p>Q3. What were the enablers and barriers to your active and full participation in the interventions?</p>
Response:
<p>Q 4. How was the intervention beneficial to the wider community as well?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can you provide examples?
Response:
<p>Q 5. How do you assess the effectiveness of the family-based intervention/community mobilization and engaging men and boys for VAW prevention?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can you provide examples?
Response:
Efficiency
<p>Q 1. How satisfied are you about the project interventions (e.g. duration of the activities, event schedule and venue, staff capacity and commitment etc.)?</p>
Response:
<p>Q 2. What could be done better to project being efficient?</p>
Response:

Impact
<p>Q 1. What did you learn from the project activities? How did the project contribute in changing your life?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can you provide examples?
Response:
<p>Q2. What changes can you see in your family members/co-workers/co-fellows as a consequence of the interventions?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can you provide examples?
Response:
<p>Q3. What changes can you see in your community/workplace/educational institutions as a consequence of the interventions?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can you provide examples?
Response:
<p>Q 4. Overall, what are the barriers/enablers for the project (CGBV) to bring expected changes in preventing and addressing VAW/sexual harassment and promoting gender equality? [shifting gender inequitable attitudes, practices and or norms related to gender inequality and VAW; and (2) developing and implementing laws, policies and mechanisms to prevent VAW; (3) creation of knowledge and evidence, and evidence based policy and programming on VAW prevention]</p>
Response:
<p>Q 5. Are there any, and what kinds, unintended positive or negative consequences of the project in your family/community?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can you provide examples for both, if any?
Response:
Coherence
<p>Q 1. Are you aware of any other interventions on VAW prevention? If so, have you ever participated in those interventions?]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can you provide examples?
Response:

Sustainability
Q 1. How will you continue the project learning? Can you please share few learning that you will continue practicing?
Response:
Q 2. Which benefits (that you gained from the project interventions) are most likely to be continued? [e.g. knowledge gained, capacity built, shifts in attitudes and behaviours, etc.]
Response:
Q 3. What factors contribute to, hinder, the likelihood of continued practice of your gains/learning from the CGBV?
Response:
Human rights approach and gender equality principles
Q 1. How well were you able to participate in the CGBV activities? Have your opinions been heard and considered?
Response:
Q 2. Were there any specific challenges or barriers to your participation?
Response:
Q 3. Have other women/men, other groups, able to share their opinions, being heard, etc.?
Response:
Q 4. To what extent have the issues of equality between men and women been acknowledged, discussed and promoted in the activities you participated in?
Response:
Additional Comments
Q 1. Based on your experience, what further actions can be recommended and should considered for future efforts to prevent VAW in Bangladesh
Response:
Q 2. Would you like to add anything else?
Response:

FGD Guide for Individual Beneficiaries

My name is Qumrunnessa Nazly and I am an independent evaluator, and on behalf of UN Women in Bangladesh, I am conducting an evaluation of the interventions, such as community, and family-based activities including group sessions, court yard sessions, community mobilization, implemented by different CSOs (WE CAN/ DRISTI/ AVAS/ SUVO etc.) to prevent violence against women before it occurs, and facilitate required assistance and support services for those experiencing violence.

The purpose of the evaluation is to examine achievements of the interventions, and assess the impact of the interventions in preventing violence against women in the family and community level. Your opinions are extremely important in formulating recommendations on how to best prevent and respond to VAW.

Your participation in this evaluation will provide valuable information. Your answers will be used only for the purposes of the research, and your responses will be confidential, unless you wish to be identified.

If you give permission, may I proceed with the discussion?

Date:		Start Time:		End Time:	
FGD facilitated by:					

List of FGD participants

SL	Name	Sex	Location (village, union, upazilla and district)	Category of beneficiaries

Q 1. Can you please tell me about your participation in the activities implemented by local CSOs, namely-DRISTI/ AVAS / SUVO/WE CAN? Can you please name the activities that you participated in?
Responses:
Impact
Q 2. What did you learn from the activities? Can you provide examples?
Responses:

Q3. How the activities impacted on your life, family relations and in community?
Responses:
Q 4. To what extent will the learning (knowledge, skills, changes in attitudes or practices, etc.) be likely to exist in the future?
Responses:
Q 5. In your opinion, what are the barriers/enablers for you to use your learning?
Responses:
Q 6. Are there any, and what kinds, unintended positive or negative consequences of the activities (that you mentioned earlier) in your life, in your family, your community? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can you provide examples, if any?
Responses:
Human rights approach and gender equality principles
Q 1. How well were you able to participate in the CGBV activities? Have your opinions been heard and considered?
Response:
Q 2. Were there any specific challenges or barriers to your participation?
Response:
Q 3. Have other women/men, other groups, able to share their opinions, being heard, etc.?
Response:
Q 4. To what extent have the issues of equality between men and women been acknowledged, discussed and promoted in the activities you participated in?
Response:
Additional Comments
Q 7. Based on your experience, what further actions can be recommended and should be considered for future efforts to prevent VAW at individual, family, community levels?
Responses:

Annex V: List of Documents Reviewed

List of Documents Reviewed	
Project reports and documents	
1.	Planning and Policy, and legal instruments of Bangladesh, such as Eighth Five Year Plan of Bangladesh, July 2020 - June 2025, National Women Development Policy 2011, National Action Plan to Prevent Violence against Women and Children (2013-2025), Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act, 2010, the High Court Directives to prevent sexual harassment in workplace and educational institutions, 2009.
2.	International human rights and development instruments, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), CEDAW and Relevant Concluding Observations on Bangladesh, relevant UPR recommendations
3.	Combatting Gender Based Violence in Bangladesh (CGBV) Project Documents (ProDoc) 2018 and 2021
4.	CGBV Result Framework
5.	CGBV Performance Monitoring Framework
6.	Baseline Study Report on Combatting Gender-Based Violence (CGBV) Project in Bangladesh, 2019
7.	Scoping Study, A qualitative study on violence against Women in six villages from three districts of Bangladesh, 2019
8.	Study on Gender Friendly Educational Institutes in Bangladesh (three reports)
9.	Effective Approaches to Preventing Violence against Women (VAW): Research on Programmes and Interventions Preventing Gender-Based Violence in Bangladesh
10.	Report on Field implementation challenges and strategies to deliver the Combatting Gender Based Violence Project (CGBV) in the context of COVID-19
11.	CGBV Project Learning Brief/ Implementing a complex GBV prevention program: Lessons learned
12.	Midterm review report of CGBV
13.	UGC monitoring data, Safety Audit Reports
14.	Whole-of-School Approach Toolkit to Prevent Sexual Harassment and GBV in Universities & Guidance Note, and or materials/manuals/modules developed on the whole of school approach to prevent Sexual Harassment with the University Grants Commission (UGC) for universities and National University for Colleges; Copies of Zero tolerance policies to Sexual Harassment in selected workplaces

List of Documents Reviewed
15. Adapted version of SASA, and Sammanit Jeevan (Shomman O Shomotar Jeebon) Curriculum/ Modules used in CGBV project/Economic Empowerment Module
16. Project Reports: (1) CGBV Project Annual Progress Reports; (2) Reports of project partners, i.e., Responsible Parties.
17. Reports on RMS (UN Women Result Based Management System), information on beneficiaries, quantitative data sheet on beneficiary target
18. Event Reports developed by partners and and project mission reports
19. Project Financial Reports
20. Policy Reform Advocacy Papers developed by the Partner
21. Copy of curriculum to address sexual harassment in the workplace
22. Copy of behaviour change intervention packages for male and female students in the education institutions
23. Communication Products: Story Book, Newsletter etc.
24. Community Assessment Survey (CAS) reports on SASA! Together
25. Guiding documents/manual/curriculum used in the factory-based interventions
26. CGBV VAW Prevention Modules for Local Government Stakeholders and District Level VAW Prevention Committees
27. National Legislative and Policy Advocacy Strategy; and Research/Policy Analysis conducted by the Rape Law Reform Coalition
Website and online resources
1. <i>UN Women's Virtual Knowledge Centre (http://www.endvawnow.org/en)</i>
2. <i>Media monitoring/Social Media Reports (UN Women Facebook Page, Web-based platform user reports)</i>

Annex VI: List of Stakeholders Interviewed

Stakeholders	Location	Interventions
National level	Dhaka	
		Project design, planning and implementation
CGBV project partner organisations (WE CAN, BLAST, Christian Aid)	Dhaka	
Representatives of UN Women		
Representative of development partner		
		Complaint Committee formed according to High Court Directive (2009), Capacity building on gender, GBV and roles and responsibilities to prevent and respond to VAW, gender responsive budget and planning
Members of Complaint Committee/		
members of Nari O shishu Nirjaton Committee (NNPC) or Prevention of Violence Against Women Committee Representative of other government offices (One Stop Crisis Centre)		
Women Affairs Officers (Department of Women's Affairs)		
Female Vice chair of Subdistrict Council		
		Capacity building training on GBV, Gender responsive budgeting, dialogue on respond to GBV

Stakeholders	Location	Interventions
Union Parishad Chairman	Talora (Dupchanchiya)	
		Complaint committee formation, training on roles and responsibilities of SRPC members, Adaptation of Zero Tolerance to Sexual harassment policy, Student change maker training, male engagement, awareness campaign
Sexual harassment prevention and complaint committee member	Bogura Azizul Haque College, Cumilla University, Patuakhali Science and Technology University	
Multi Stakeholder Alliance member		
Student Leader Group members		
Representative of UGC	Dhaka	
		Complaint committee formation, training on roles and responsibilities of SRPC members, Adaptation of Zero Tolerance to Sexual harassment policy, Leadership and effective communication to prevent and respond to VAW training to factory workers as human rights defenders
Executive Board Vice President, Chamber of Commerce and Industry	Cumilla CCI	
Representatives from factory mid-level management	Bhander Jute mill (Bogura)	
Human Rights Defenders (female and male)	Lalmai Footwear (Cumilla) and Bhander Jute mill (Bogura)	

Stakeholders	Location	Interventions
		Awareness campaign on prevention of public place sexual harassment
President/ General Secretary of Transport Owners Association	Patuakhali	
		SASA!Together community mobilization approach. Followed start and Awareness phases out of 4 phases that the original model has
Representatives of Community Activists Groups	12 communities (4 under each district)	
Representatives of Community Leaders Groups		
		Shomman o Shomotar Jeebon (SoSJ) module for family based VAW prevention and promoting healthy relationship
Family Prevention Group Members (FPG)		
		SoSJ-Economic Empowerment and income-generating activity module. Provide business skills training to 238 FPG members
		Responsible for CGBV project implementation
Aid Cumilla (Women led organizations) (CA partner)	Cumilla	
SUVO (WLO) (WE CAN partner)	Patuakhali	
Gram Bikash Shangstha (GBS) (CA partner)	Bogura	

Annex VII: Evaluation Methodology Matrix

Table below presents the proposed respondent groups (information sources) and the method of data collection and data analysis for each EQ.

Criteria	Evaluation Question	Sub-questions	Indicators data	Information Sources	Data Collection Method	Data Analysis Method
Relevance	How relevant has the CGBV's design, strategies and partnership been in meeting the needs and priorities of women to live a life free from GBV?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What particular needs and priorities of the government and development partners related to VAW has the CGBV met? • To what extent has the CGBV met the priorities set by the national policy frameworks on VAW prevention? • To what extent the CGBV aligned with the specific national level policies, strategies and approach to preventing and responding to VAW? • What particular needs and priorities of target populations, particularly of the most marginalized and excluded have the CGBV met? • How relevant was the CGBV to meeting the needs of implementing partners? • How relevant was the CGBV to meeting the needs and priorities of institutional beneficiaries? • To what extent, and how CGBV was relevant and responded to the COVID-19 Pandemic and other changes in the country context? • How realistic and feasible was the project design and planning in context of the ground reality of VAW in Bangladesh? • How relevant has the CGBV been in responding to changing contexts of the implementation, etc.? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alignment with national plans and policies on VAW 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Team • Implementing Partners • Institutional Beneficiaries • Individual Beneficiaries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document review • KIIs • IDIs • FGDs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document review and descriptive statistics • Content (frequency) analysis • Comparative statistics

Criteria	Evaluation Question	Sub-questions	Indicators data	Information Sources	Data Collection Method	Data Analysis Method
Effectiveness	How effective has the CGBV been in (a) strengthening women's legal protections for VAW, (b) shifting social norms/ attitudes/ behaviours to prevent VAW, and; (c) expanding the knowledge base in VAW prevention?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To what extent did the CGBV project achieve its objectives (each of its intended outcomes and outputs), in strengthening women's legal protections for VAW, changing social norms/ attitudes/behaviours to prevent VAW, and expanding the knowledge base in VAW prevention? What were the enablers and barriers to the success of each of the outcomes? How effective was the CGBV in ensuring duty bearers are accountable to comply with international and national obligations addressing VAW and promote their equal status in the society? How and to what extent the CGBV enhanced the capacity of civil society to design, implement and sustain primary prevention of gendered violence? What were the barriers/enablers for this? How effective were the implementing strategies/ approach? What strategies proved successful, what not, if not why? How effective has the CGBV been in adjusting to respond to changing contexts of the implementation, etc.? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of contribution to results Evidence of effective consultation with key partners Evidence of unintended effects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Team Implementing Partners Institutional Beneficiaries Individual Beneficiaries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document review KIIs IDIs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document review and descriptive statistics Comparative statistics Contribution analysis

Criteria	Evaluation Question	Sub-questions	Indicators data	Information Sources	Data Collection Method	Data Analysis Method
Efficiency	How efficient has the CGBV been concerning cost, timeliness, management and approaches in meeting its outcomes?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To what extent the CGBV delivered its outcomes cost-effectively, in a timely-manner, and with good management? How efficient have the choice of the CGBV approaches been to VAW prevention and partnerships? To what extent did the programme set-up, including UN Women's management systems, human and financial resources, contribute to or hinder the achievement of programme objectives? What are some of the barriers and/or enablers (in relation to planning, implementation, management, and approaches) to the CGBV being efficient? How did the project leverage strategic partnerships at all levels and how effective was the partnership approach? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of the CGBV being cost-effective, well managed and implemented on time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Team Implementing Partners Institutional Beneficiaries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document review KIIs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document review and descriptive statistics Content (frequency) analysis Comparative statistics

Criteria	Evaluation Question	Sub-questions	Indicators data	Information Sources	Data Collection Method	Data Analysis Method
Impact	What is the impact of the CGBV on (a) advancing VAW prevention; (b) furthering gender equality, women's empowerment and human rights in Bangladesh, and (c) shifting gender inequitable norms that drive GBV?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the impact of the CGBV on women and girls, including persons with disabilities and the most marginalized, safety at home, at work and in public spaces? • Are there any positive (or negative) unintended impacts of the project? • What is the impact of the CGBV in shifting gender inequitable attitudes, practices and/or norms and acceptability of VAW? • To what extent did the CGBV project impact the lives of primary beneficiaries, women and men? • What are the barriers/enablers for the CGBV to be impactful in terms of (changing norms, improving accountability, improving VAW prevention) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of changes in knowledge, attitudes and behaviours • Evidence of shifts in norms • Evidence of positive and negative unintended results 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Team • Implementing Partners • Institutional Beneficiaries • Individual Beneficiaries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document review • KIIs • IDIs • FGDs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document review and descriptive statistics • Content (frequency) analysis • Comparative statistics

Criteria	Evaluation Question	Sub-questions	Indicators data	Information Sources	Data Collection Method	Data Analysis Method
Coherence	How coherent has the CGBV project been concerning other existing national level efforts to prevent VAW in Bangladesh?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To what extent has the CGBV complemented National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women (NAP-VAW)? To what extent has the CGBV been coherent with/ complemented other national level efforts to prevent and respond to VAW? To what extent has the CGBV coordinated and collaborated with other similar projects to avoid duplication, share lessons learned? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of complementarity and alignment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Team Implementing Partners Institutional Beneficiaries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document review KIIs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document review and descriptive statistics Content (frequency) analysis Comparative statistics Sustainability analysis
Sustainability	To what extent has the CGBV achieved each of its intended targets, and which of the achieved targets are likely to be sustainable?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To what extent the CGBV accomplishments (e.g., capacity built, etc.) will remain after the end of the project? How sustainable are the benefits and accomplishments of the CGBV project (e.g., shifts in attitudes and behaviours, etc.)? What factors contribute/ hinder the likelihood of sustainability of project gains? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of long-term changes Evidence of ownership of interventions and achievements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Team Implementing Partners Institutional Beneficiaries Individual Beneficiaries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document review KIIs IDIs FGDs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document review and descriptive statistics Contribution analysis Content (frequency) analysis

Criteria	Evaluation Question	Sub-questions	Indicators data	Information Sources	Data Collection Method	Data Analysis Method
Gender Equality and Human Rights	How human rights approach and gender equality principles were integrated in implementation of the CGBV?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To what extent, and how, has the CGBV integrated human rights approach in the planning, design and implementation? To what extent, and how, has the CGBV integrated gender equality principles in the planning, design and implementation? How inclusive and participatory was the CGBV (fostered inclusion and participation of women, the most marginalized and disadvantaged groups as well as the full range of stakeholder groups)? What barriers and / or challenges were encountered to integration of human rights approach and gender equality principles in the CGBV implementation? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of adherence to the principles Evidence of promoting human rights and gender equality Evidence of inclusion and participation of women, the most marginalized and disadvantaged groups as well as the full range of stakeholder groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Team Implementing Partners Institutional Beneficiaries Individual Beneficiaries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document review KIIs IDIs FGDs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document review and descriptive statistics Content (frequency) analysis Comparative statistics

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GLOBAL CHAMPION FOR WOMEN AND
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THEIR NEEDS WORLDWIDE.**

UN Women supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to ensure that the standards are effectively implemented and truly benefit women and girls worldwide. It works globally to make the vision of the Sustainable Development Goals a reality for women and girls and stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on four strategic priorities: Women lead, participate in and benefit equally from governance systems; Women have income security, decent work and economic autonomy; All women and girls live a life free from all forms of violence; Women and girls contribute to and have greater influence in building sustainable peace and resilience, and benefit equally from the prevention of natural disasters and conflicts and humanitarian action. UN Women also coordinates and promotes the UN system's work in advancing gender equality.



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