

Management Response: Corporate Evaluation of UN Women's approach to violence against women prevention and response: Navigating changes in global and regional contexts

Overall Management Response

UN Women welcomes the *Corporate Evaluation of UN Women's approach to violence against women prevention response: Navigating changes in global and regional contexts.*, which sought to analyze UN Women's response to violence against women at country, regional and global levels, in the context of global conflicts and emergencies, including during the COVID-19 pandemic and the global pushback on gender equality and women's human rights. The evaluation aimed to assess the adaptability and effectiveness of UN Women's work, including its efforts to address the needs of those most marginalized and at higher risk of experiencing violence against women, and examine the coherence of the Entity's work with that of other UN actors in this space and its efforts to ensure sustainability. The evaluation provides valuable findings that will inform corporate programmatic thinking and practice on UN Women's work on violence against women and girls (VAWG) prevention and response, including in ongoing global VAWG programmes (e.g. Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces for Women and Girls Global Initiative, Spotlight 2.0, Essential Services, VAW Data, ACT to End Violence against Women and Girls, initiatives on Prevention and addressing Technology-facilitated Violence against Women and Girls (TF VAWG), Generation Equality and its corresponding Action Coalitions. It will also feed into the development of the next UN Women Strategic Plan (2026-2029) and strengthen the implementation of the Gender Equality Accelerator (GEA) on Ending Violence against Women and Girls (EVAWG).

UN Women appreciates the evaluation findings, that the Entity has been responsive to the challenges presented by the evolving landscape on EVAWG, including changing global contexts and emerging forms of VAWG. In particular, the evaluation notes that the Entity was 'particularly agile in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic,' notably through its thought leadership, supporting government and civil society partners' provision of essential support services for VAWG survivors online and offline; integrating VAWG considerations into government pandemic response plans at national and local levels; the swift generation of data and evidence, as well as leading coordinated advocacy efforts highlighting the nature and extent of the 'shadow pandemic' in private and public spaces, and good practices and recommendations.

UN Women acknowledges the finding of the evaluation that the Entity is increasingly playing an important coordination and advisory role in supporting more gender responsive and inclusive UN-wide humanitarian responses and that several of its interventions in response to natural disaster and climate change. It recognizes that, to some extent, some EVAWG programmes in these contexts are relatively nascent, and that the Entity can strengthen its response in this area. UN Women agrees with the evaluation's recommendation that there is further scope to develop additional strategic guidance, frameworks and tools to effectively support its work across the *Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus* (HDP) nexus, and to integrate emerging forms of violence, such as TF VAWG, across its EVAW programming, as TF VAWG is considered part of the online-offline continuum of violence experienced by women and girls.

At the same time, UN-Women has achieved a number of successful results in community mobilization, awareness-raising and piloting of interventions in sports, media, male-dominated sectors in comprehensive prevention initiatives. The entity has leveraged its UN coordination function and collaborative action at the global level to advance international norms and standards through informing intergovernmental policy processes and outcomes, and to address the absence of normative frameworks addressing TF VAWG at regional and country levels. It has also advanced normative changes and strengthening the provision of survivor-centred services, including for women and girls in vulnerable situations.

The evaluation recognizes UN Women’s strategic and multi-pronged approach involving strengthening development and implementation of laws addressing VAWG, supporting institutional capacity-building and strengthening women’s and girls’ referral and access to justice systems, all of which have contributed to improving their overall access to a range of multisectoral services. The evaluation recognizes UN Women’s long-standing relationship with women’s and civil society organizations. UN Women acknowledges a finding of the evaluation regarding its established strong constituencies with national women’s machinery, women’s rights and civil society organizations as a result of its history of engagement and advocacy for a human rights based, woman and survivor-centred and multisectoral approach to EVAWG, and acknowledges the need for further convening and networking opportunities, particularly in contexts where the civic space for these organizations is shrinking. Through initiatives such as the ACT to End Violence against Women Programme, UN Women is further consolidating its strategic partnership with women’s rights and civil society organizations through new alliances at the global and regional level to facilitate movement strengthening, multi-sectoral coalition building and shared advocacy agendas to amplify the voices of women’s rights movements. UN Women also continues to complement its efforts in addressing this need for further convening and networking with UN and other partners at all levels, alongside the UNTF to End Violence against Women, and through programmes such as Spotlight 2.0.

UN Women acknowledges the finding that its EVAWG programming has made concerted efforts to integrate sustainable programming elements to increase the sustainability of results beyond the end of a programme. Successful strategies implemented through global initiatives such as the Essential Services and the Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces for Women and Girls Global Initiative have included supporting normative change, institutional capacity strengthening and supporting the additional allocation of government funds towards EVAWG work, including through gender-responsive budgeting.

UN Women recognizes that more consistent, flexible and longer-term funding, especially for grassroots women’s rights organizations, is required to ensure EVAWG initiatives are sustained and result in impact-level change.

Evaluation Recommendation 1: Continue to refine and roll out existing guidance, and develop further guidance, frameworks and tools to adapt and strengthen EVAWG programming in response to persistent and emerging priorities (e.g., across the HDP nexus and in response to growing TF GBV)

Management Response:

UN Women accepts this recommendation and is already working to implement it through, for example, finalizing the draft UN Women *Strategy for Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Across the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Nexus* and developing a corresponding dissemination and socialization plan for UN Women personnel on its operationalization. UN Women is already contributing to the development of methodological approaches for data collection at global, regional, national and subnational levels to advance evidence-informed policy and programme action, as well as its advocacy in global and regional normative fora with key stakeholders on the importance of addressing TF VAWG and strengthening governments’ capacity to work in this area.

Accepted

Key Action(s)	Timeframe	Responsible Unit(s)		Tracking	
		Lead	Support	Status	Comments
Develop guidance and tools to address complex country-level challenges, e.g., providing EVAWG prevention and response support across the HDP nexus (this also includes dissemination and socialization among UN Women RO and CO personnel on the above-mentioned <i>Strategy for Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Across the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus</i>) and strengthening support for hard-to-reach groups of women in situations of vulnerability.	Continuous	EVAW	ROs, COs, WPSH		
Develop a global work plan on TF VAWG, including and building upon ongoing activities at global and country levels such as advocacy with key stakeholders, capacity-strengthening of governments and civil society, supporting the development of methodological approaches for data collection and generating research and evidence to fill knowledge gaps, advancing international norms and standards on preventing and addressing TF VAWG through informing intergovernmental policy processes and outcomes and piloting innovative approaches to prevention and responses.	Q4 2025	EVAW	COs, ROs		
Disseminate good practices on the linkages of climate and EVAW in knowledge products and global policy advocacy fora, including as part of cross thematic programming/joint programmes, and in other global EVAW initiatives.	Continuous	EVAW	COs, ROs		

Evaluation Recommendation 2:					
Further enhance global, regional and country-level support to WROs and grassroots/smaller CSOs working on VAWG prevention and response, including through a diversified donor/partner base.					
Management Response:				Accepted	
UN Women takes note of this recommendation and is already working to implement it through UN collaboration in EVAW Initiatives. For example, UN Women has developed the ACT to End Violence against Women and Girls Programme to enhance support to women's rights movements and organizations and to strengthen strategic advocacy on EVAW through building multisectoral coalitions.					
UN Women also manages the UN Trust Fund to End VAW on behalf of the UN system, which allows for a synergetic and complementary approach to the EVAW agenda through supporting demand-driven civil society-led initiatives through the consolidated grant-giving processes of the UN Trust Fund with interagency partners.					
Key Action(s)	Timeframe	Responsible Unit(s)		Tracking	
		Lead	Support	Status	Comments
UN Women will continue to strengthen the capacity of women's rights and other civil society organizations on VAWG prevention and response, facilitate women's movement-strengthening, coalition-building at global, regional and country levels and support their meaningful participation in national and international decision-making processes, including through initiatives such as the EU-UN Women ACT End Violence against Women Programme, Spotlight 2.0, and the Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces for Women and Girls Initiative, and as part of the Gender Equality Accelerator on EVAWG, and its linkages with other GEAs.	Continuous	EVAW	ROs, COs, Civil Society Section, UN Trust Fund to End VAW		
UN Women will leverage its convening role and comparative strengths to support women's rights and other civil society organizations through its advocacy efforts and networking, e.g., convening the UN Interagency Network on EVAWG, where it will continue to advocate for durable funding solutions, including through domestic financing, for these organizations, or by engaging through coalitions/networks of non-governmental organization partners, and the private sector to support implementation of their work, especially	Continuous	EVAW	ROs, COs, Civil Society Section		

in contexts where UN Women is less able to provide direct funding support.					
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Evaluation Recommendation 3:
Continue to roll out comprehensive frameworks on prevention and response that focus on **social norms change** at multiple levels and further refine and/or develop new tools/guidance to support institutional norms change, including through multiple strategies to engage with men and boys.

Management Response:
UN Women partially accepts this recommendation. From 2020 to the beginning of 2022 UN Women had to re-programme funds to support partners in the implementation of survivor-centred services online and offline given the increase of VAWG in many countries during the global pandemic of COVID 19. UN Women already places a strong focus on male engagement to end VAWG, as part of its overall work on social norms change. In its current Strategic Plan, UN Women has focused on transforming institutional practices and harmful social norms including by working with multiple sectors (security, sports, media, religious/faith-based organizations, policing, technology, transportation and urban planning, several commodity sectors in the agricultural value chain, etc.) and this will remain a strong focus in its forthcoming Strategic Plan (2026-2029).

Partially accepted

Key Action(s)	Timeframe	Responsible Unit(s)		Tracking	
		Lead	Support	Status	Comments
Through its GEA on EVAWG, UN Women will continue to develop and strengthen strategies that engage men and boys to transform patriarchal masculinities at the community, and especially institutional level, including through the roll out of the UN Women guidance on <i>Transforming Patriarchal Masculinities: Learning from Practice</i> in several regions, sharing promising practices and lessons learned in prevention initiatives. UN Women will explore with its partners whether additional guidance may be needed to strengthen social norms work in cross thematic initiatives.	Continuous	EVAW	ROs, COs, UN Trust Fund to End VAW, PAPDU		
UN Women will continue to synthesize lessons learned from concerted approaches to change social norms at multiple levels (individual/community/institutional) in the area of EVAWG, including through engagement with experts in networks on prevention; non-governmental organization consortia of partners on EVAWG, and UN global initiatives (e.g. essential services including gender-	Continuous	EVAW	ROs and COs		

responsive policing, and safe cities and safe public spaces networks, Spotlight 2.0), and other initiatives.					
Evaluation Recommendation 4:					
Strengthen and adapt approaches to foster more comprehensive and longer-term EVAWG programming at the country level					
Management Response:					Accepted
UN Women accepts this recommendation. UN Women is a strong partner in UN Joint Programming modalities (e.g. the Joint Programme on VAW Data, Joint Programme on Essential Services) where the joint management of programming with strategic partners which are common to multiple UN entities, as well as established relationships, offer an opportunity to build these partnerships to scale. In Spotlight 2.0, UN Women co-chairs the Advisory Board, together with the UN Development Cooperation Office, to advise the UN Deputy Secretary-General on the strategic direction of the initiative and assumes a technical coherence role at country level.					
This is an area that UN Women will work to strengthen at the country level, including where UN Women leads/chairs donor gender thematic groups. In the context of the development of their next Strategic Plans, UNDP, UNICEF, UNPFA and UN Women are aiming to further strengthen their joint work in pursuit of strategic and coherent results on EVAWG that are both harmonized and standardized. UN Women is also seeking to deepen its collaboration with other UN entities in its forthcoming Strategic Plan (2026-2029), and expand its range of partners, across and outside the UN system, e.g., with the private sector, research networks, etc.					
Key Action(s)	Timeframe	Responsible Unit(s)		Tracking	
		Lead	Support	Status	Comments
UN-Women will develop key indicators to specify how UN-Women plans to deliver results and measure results jointly with key UN-Women partners under the next SP IRRF.	Ongoing	EVAW	SPRED, UNSCD,		
To improve synergies between EVAWG programming with other thematic areas, UN Women will continue to convene regular meetings to identify cross-thematic entry points with EVAWG work and develop programming that integrates cross-thematic outcomes at the country level, through strengthening its Strategic Note and annual planning processes.	Ongoing	EVAW	ROs, COs, UN Trust Fund to End VAW.		

UN Women will promote the collection of comprehensive, disaggregated data on marginalized groups of women and girls at global, regional and country levels and the development of standardized frameworks and/or guidance to assist ROs and COs in conducting comprehensive needs assessments and systematic analyses.	Ongoing	EVAW	ROs, COs, Research and Data		
UN Women will continue to leverage its resources and make use of existing government EVAWG budgets for EVAWG programming and advocate for the additional allocation of government funds towards EVAWG work through gender-responsive budgeting.	Ongoing	EVAW	ROs, COs, UN Trust Fund to End VAW, SPD.		

Evaluation Recommendation 5:
 Building on UN Women’s role as **convener in the EVAWG space**, continue to strengthen the multistakeholder approach and **scale up** successful pilot initiatives at the country level.

Management Response: UN Women accepts this recommendation. UN-Women continues to implement comprehensive approaches to ending VAWG in public (online), and private spaces, including through the convening of a wide range of strategic multi-stakeholder partnerships with, inter alia, national and local governments, women’s groups and associations, community leaders, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the private sector, academia, development partners and the UN, which have a shared advocacy agenda, including through joint programming, and at multiple levels.	Accepted
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Key Action(s)	Timeframe	Responsible Unit(s)		Tracking	
		Lead	Support	Status	Comments
Through its Gender Equality Accelerator (GEA) on EVAWG, UN Women will support the expansion, scale up and/or adaptation of catalytic EVAWG initiatives on creating safe public spaces, prevention, support to women’s rights movements, advocacy improving access to services and support for the implementation of laws and policies at the country-level, in partnership with governments, the UN system, research institutions, the private sector, women’s rights and other civil society organizations and platforms such as the Generation Equality, Action Coalitions (AC).	Ongoing	EVAW	ROs, COs		

UN Women will document good practices and include ‘impact’ stories which highlight opportunities and challenges of UN Women’s coordination and convening role and share how these are overcome to support the implementation and acceleration of transformative EAWG results. User-friendly and interactive multi-media formats will be considered in the production and dissemination of high-level messaging.	2025-2029	EVAW	ROs, COs, Comms Teams		
UN Women will inform and integrate high-level messaging in UN and UN partner-led global and national fora, including those organized as part of Generation Equality ACs and the 16 Days of Activism on GBV, on the impact of coordination and convening for the achievement of normative and operational results, including across thematic areas that include EVAW, as part of integrated programming, including through such initiatives as the EU-UN Women ACT End Violence against Women Programme, Essential Services, and Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces for Women and Girls Programme in collaboration with UN Trust Fund to End VAW.	Ongoing	EVAW	ROs, COs PPID, EDO, Comms Teams		