



# Spotlight Initiative

**MID-YEAR NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT**  
**PROGRAMME TITLE: SPOTLIGHT COUNTRY PROGRAMME IN**  
**HONDURAS**  
**PROGRAMME DURATION: 2019 - 2022**  
**REPORTING PERIOD: JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup> 2019 – JUNE 30<sup>TH</sup> 2022**



## Executive Summary

The first half of 2019 represented a key period for launching Spotlight's Initiative in Honduras. On February 13<sup>th</sup>, Spotlight was launched at national level, including the presence of important personalities such as the Honduran President, Mr. Juan Orlando Hernández Alvarado; the Director of People and Peace in the General Directorate of Cooperation and Development of the European Union, Mrs. Henriette Geiger, the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Honduras, Mr. Igor Garafulic, and representatives of the international donor's community in the country.

During the launch, a panel was implemented to analyze key challenges to eradicate violence against women and girls (VAWG) in Honduras, which was integrated by experts from government institutions and civil society organizations. The panel constituted an opportunity to highlight the important contribution that Spotlight could bring to address VAWG through its different pillars. The agenda also included short speeches on the different the forms in which women and girls are exposed to violence in Honduras, including the perspectives of a young Afro-Honduran leader, a representative from the feminist and indigenous movement, a congresswoman and a representative from public essential services.

The event represented the first inter-agency event of this size and importance (Honduras was the first country to launch Spotlight Initiative worldwide), and this was possible thanks to the close collaboration and effort of all AFPs involved in the Initiative, the Delegation of the European Union and main counterparts. The event brought to light important issues on which the Initiative should focus, and was also useful to shine on specific risks and challenges of the national context, as Honduras is going under a social and political crisis, which has led to a high polarization of relations between the government and the civil society.

In spite of the limitations, given the national political scenario in which the civil society has been embedded for the defense of Human rights, since the launching event, the Spotlight Initiative has managed to develop a series of meetings with the Civil Society National Reference Group (CSNRG), which have been fruitful to clarify doubts, agree on collaboration, formulate governance mechanisms and to establish a fluid communication with its members.

On the other hand, the relationship built with government counterparts and the CSNRG during the first semester, and the various meetings held with both parties in collaboration with the Delegation of the European Union, has allowed the establishment of the Spotlight's National Steering Committee (NSC), which constitutes the main governance mechanism of the Initiative in the country. The NSC is integrated by the United Nations System, the European Union Delegation, government institutions and representatives of the CSNRG. Bringing together all the above-mentioned actors at the same table in a country's highly polarized political and social context that represents both an achievement but also, a huge challenge for the Initiative itself.





Another important milestone during this period in the implementation of the Spotlight Initiative is that the annual inter-agency planning of the Initiative has been carried out, which included the process of gathering inputs from Civil Society and Government Institutions and the realization of participatory workshops with national counterparts. The planning exercise was based on a comprehensive approach including issues on prevention, intersectionality and interagency coordination. The Annual Work Plan approval of the Initiative took place on April 4<sup>th</sup>. 2019.

During the last month of this first semester, Spotlight technical teams from the different implementing UN Agencies have been established and are now almost completed and the hiring process of the country's Spotlight Management Structure is almost finished. The Technical Country Unit (TCU) will be fully operational by the second 2019 semester and will include a National Spotlight Coordinator, a Communication Expert, an M&E Officer, and an Administrative Assistant. Another important accomplishment is that at the counterpart level, focal points of the Initiative have been identified and designated.

A very important achievement is that the first joint interagency mission to socialize the Initiative at a local level (which included the active participation of the EU Delegation) has been carried out in three of the five prioritized municipalities, including in this opportunity La Ceiba, Choloma and Intibuca municipalities. In these missions the Initiative was presented to local authorities, public institutions and civil society organizations, which contributed to identifying main problems, priorities and possible actions to better address VAWG in coordination with Spotlight. Next steps with local actors will include the formulation of local action plans.

Also, of high importance has been the establishment of clear coordination mechanisms between the different AFPs and the counterparts involved, as well as the creation of an inter-agency technical support team, which supervises the implementation at the programmatic level and has formulated a common communication plan. The Technical Coordination Unit (TCU) is creating the basis for the development of a monitoring and evaluation framework and is advocating to have adequate administrative support. At the operational level, the need to have harmonized tools which could facilitate inter-agency administrative processes has been identified, it is expected that this Initiative can promote the development of such tools, which could represent an example of good practices and set standards for future initiatives.

It is also worth to mention that during this semester, the process of selecting and recruiting a company for the preparation of the baseline of the Spotlight Initiative in Honduras has been carried out. The baseline will contribute to improve the territorial implementation approach and to measure its impact, verifying the results achieved. The collection of information will be carried out and completed during the second 2019 semester.





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## Results

### PILLAR 1

**OUTCOME 1 - Legislative and policy frameworks, based on evidence and in line with international human rights standards, on all forms of violence against women and girls and harmful practices are in place and translated into plans.**

Based on recommendations and adjustments suggested by civil society and government during AWP's consultations, some adjustments have been made under this pillar to streamline processes and resources.

### PILLAR 2

**OUTCOME 2 - National and sub-national systems and institutions plan, fund and deliver evidence-based programmes that prevent and respond to violence against women and girls and harmful practices, including in other sectors.**

- Implementation of activities at the municipal and community level in areas of influence have begun, which include the design and implementation of coordinated meetings with local governments and members of the CSNRG in three of the Spotlight's municipalities: Intibucá, Choloma, and La Ceiba. These meetings have facilitated the compilation of key inputs for planning adjustments and to articulate efforts with Women's Municipal Offices and Municipal Councils.
- Progress has been made in consultation and coordination meetings with Government entities for the review of training processes for public officials in gender planning and budgeting.
- A process has begun with the National Women's Institute (INAM for its acronym in Spanish) to launch a consultancy for the preparation and publication of the State of the Art of Public Budgets with a Gender Approach, with emphasis on preventive actions of VAWG. Results will be socialized with key institutions at the municipal and central level.

### PILLAR 3

**OUTCOME 3 - Gender equitable social norms, attitudes and behaviors change at the community and individual levels to prevent violence against women and girls and harmful practices**

- The National Autonomous University of Honduras has been identified as a key academic body to incorporate a mandatory course on gender-based violence which will be offered for all students in the first year of its academic careers. It is expected that from 2020 onwards





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an estimated 20,000 students will be reached annually. The educational curriculum of this course is currently under development and would be offered either in person or online.

- The Municipal Councils, part of the SIGADENAH<sup>1</sup>, are leading processes of changing social norms in 4 municipalities, aimed to support local population older than twelve, women and men, to recognize punishment as a way of learning violence (symbolic violence) and to promote an assessment of non-violent masculinities and gender equality.
- A multisectoral platform integrated by 12 institutions has been established for the formulation of a National Plan for Violence Prevention based on INSPIRE<sup>2</sup> and has developed three (3) multisectoral meetings with the participation of Undersecretary of Security on Prevention, Secretariat of Development and Social Inclusion, Public Ministry: Prosecutor's Office for Children, Secretariat of Human Rights, Autonomous National University of Honduras, AMHON – Municipalities Association, National Parks and Recreation Directorate, Secretariat of Economic Development, Secretariat of Health, Directorate for Children, Adolescents and Family (DINAF), Institute for Children in conflict with the law – INAMI, Secretariat of Education.
- High-level cooperation instances (PAHO/WHO, Embassy of Taiwan, Embassy of Korea, IADB, Embassy of Canada, European Union Delegation, World Bank, USAID, IOM) are providing support to the multisectoral planning and implementation process to develop the prevention strategies for the national plan of violence prevention based on INSPIRE.
- Children, adolescents, and adults of schools and local communities from 4 municipalities have participated in symbolic events with *Mujeres en las Artes* (Women in the Arts) inside and outside schools to question the social norm of punishment and recognize the importance of improving dialogue and coexistence in families for the promotion of equality.
- The first phase of a communication strategy for the prevention of violence against children with an empowerment and equality perspective will be launched in year 1 by the Prevention Cabinet in public spaces as parks, streets, and Youth Outreach Centers:
  - The consulting group selected for the consultancy to create a communication strategy for girls' equality has been hired, at this moment concept notes are being developed for the design of communication products for the differentiation and valuation of girls in the Youth Outreach Centers, and safe spaces.
  - The plan to disseminate the strategy has been defined for the municipal level and communities through cinemas, radio, muralism in educational centers and safe public spaces.

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<sup>1</sup> Integral System of Guarantee of the Rights of Children and Adolescents in Honduras, SIGADENAH, was formally approved on June 2019 as a set of organs, entities, public and private mechanisms and instances articulated at national, departmental and municipal level constituting the fundamental scaffolding for the promotion of rights, which include prevention, protection, defense and restitution of rights, through policies, programs and intersectoral actions aimed at guaranteeing rights of all girls, boys and adolescents in an integral way.

<sup>2</sup> INSPIRE is a set of seven evidence-based strategies for countries and communities working to eliminate violence against children. They are, implementation and enforcement of laws; norms and values; safe environments; parent and caregiver support; income and economic strengthening; response and support services; and education and life skills. They were launched alongside the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children in 2016.





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- Scripts of three (3) videos to incentive Prevention Strategy of the Cabinet and the Undersecretary for Safety in Prevention have been defined; they explain the Strategy for the Prevention of Violence Against Children and Adolescents; INSPIRE, gender perspective, and violence against girls and boys and strategy.
- A coordination with the Secretary of Development and Social Inclusion (SEDIS acronym in Spanish) has been established for the implementation of a module aimed to engage men and boys on gender-based violence issues, promote understanding and positive changes in their attitudes and practices related to gender, sexual and reproductive health, improvement of women and girl's well-being and self-care of men and adolescent boys. This action is coordinated with the SEDIS platform; this platform has 2,100 community technicians for the implementation of social protection programs. This platform is implementing a community-based training and education program called "Adolescents who Dream, Families that Support" in 185 marginalized urban areas and rural municipalities. The course uses a holistic approach to encourage family dialogue around adolescent pregnancy prevention as an "entry point" to promote sexual and reproductive rights.
- A process of capacity building to include prevention of sexual violence against girls' and boys' methodologies in the programs of the Security Sub-Secretariat and other entities of the Prevention, Peace and Security Cabinet, and to include an approach to address gender-based violence in the Youth Outreach Centers programs, has been agreed with FUNADEH- a National Foundation from private sector for its development in Honduras.
  - An inter-institutional agreement has been developed and is pending to be signed.
  - Additionally, an agreement has been established with Plan International, to integrate all active Spotlight organizations linked with CSNRG in a Training of Trainers (ToT) on the Champions for Change methodology, which is addressed to promote youth and teenagers (girls and boys) empowerment, the transformation of social norms and promotion of non-violent masculinities.
- An initial workshop on protection against violence, gender equality and change of social norms has been carried out for officials coordinating state programs for violence prevention, technicians, communicators and Spotlight focal points of the Under Secretariat of violence prevention.
- The application process for the selection of a consultancy firm for the development of a web page for the Peace and Security on Violence Prevention Cabinet has closed and is currently in the selection phase. This web page will include GBV issues guided towards children, adolescents, teachers, and parents.
- It has been facilitated the elaboration, consultation and validation of the ToR for the Study on Social Norms linked to social and institutional tolerance to VAWG. The study will capitalize on previous experiences developed in Colombia and Honduras on the analysis of social norms, whose conceptual framework has been presented to the CSNRG. The bidding process will be published and awarded expectedly by mid-August.
- Implementation of Social Norms Change Strategy has started in the coordination of different Spotlight Agencies, to ensure participation of adolescents, women and local adult





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organizations. This process is taking place in four (4) municipalities: San Pedro Sula, Choloma, La Ceiba, and Intibucá. Awareness-raising activities have begun with the organization Mujeres en las Artes (Women in Arts) through “*Crearte project*” which aims to question the first two set of social norms prioritized for this first year, including:

- First: Punishment as a form of the disciplinary norm that contributes to set up symbolic violence, which underpins structural bases for dominant relations, naturalizing domestic violence; and
- Second: Positive cultural valuation of violent masculinity, which demands the demonstration of manhood as aggressive, controlling, insensitive and irascible to justify men’s protection capacities over children and women. Conversely, is the construction of girls and women’s submission and defenseless, that justifies their need to be protected, guided and controlled by male figures.
- Aiming sustainability, the installation of this strategy has been coordinated with local authorities of three (3) Municipal Councils of the National Rights Guarantee System (SIGADENAH for its acronym in Spanish) and the Childhood and Adolescent Units of these municipalities, which have identified local young volunteers. Those instances have led the learning process of *Crearte Volunteers* to promote gender equality, reinforce creative and communication skills to influence the change of social norms through artistic and cultural activities. From April to June, 15 volunteers have been integrated into the process in La Ceiba, 10 in Choloma, 25 in San Pedro Sula and 30 in Intibuca.
- The summon for proposals process for NGOs and CSOs, whose key activities were validated in March with the CSNRG, will be launched in July and will include three strategic proposals for this Pillar:
  - Launch of a Media Observatory on VAWG and Femicides which will include a strategy to disseminate findings and a sustainability plan;
  - Design and implementation of a training process aimed at social media communicators on the treatment of VAWG and Femicides from a gender approach, which is expected to facilitate production and dissemination of communicational pieces with a preventive focus on VAWG;
  - Facilitation of an inter-religious dialogue on gender equality and the rights of girls and women.
- An agreement with Cure Violence Global<sup>3</sup> has been signed to adapt their homicides methodology for the interruption of femicides and the inclusion of gender-based violence

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<sup>3</sup>, CVG, was founded by Gary Slutkin, M.D., former head of the World Health Organization's (WHO) Intervention Development Unit and Professor of Epidemiology and International Health at the University of Illinois/Chicago School of Public Health. Cure Violence is a teaching, training, research and assessment NGO focused on a health approach to violence prevention. The Cure Violence health model regularly experiences reductions in violence within the first year ranging from 40-70% and greater reductions in subsequent years. CVG was also included in INSPIRE as an evidence-based strategy to prevent violence. CVG was launched in Chicago, expanded to Baltimore, New York, New Orleans, Oakland,





approach, to be used in areas of greatest exposure and vulnerability to VAWG where Spotlight will work. The agreement will include the following:

- Methodological adaptation of manuals and training on Cure Violence methodologies and GBV will be developed to train focal points in Honduras.
- Adaptation of baseline indicators and formation of a monitoring platform for the inclusion of GBV and femicide information.
- UNICEF as part of the Spotlight Initiative was linked with the Ciudad Juárez (Mexico) effort on Cure Violence Global to adapt their methodologies aiming to reduce femicides responding to gender-based violence in areas of greatest conflict: a) related to drug trafficking and cartels, b) related to gangs (maras in Spanish). This methodological adaptation will be replicated in Mexico and Honduras. A two-year agreement is currently under review for approval.
- A first approach and analysis of areas of greater vulnerability to GBV have been carried out with local actors in four (4) municipalities, La Ceiba, Choloma, San Pedro Sula (Chamelecon neighborhood) and Intibucá.
- A femicide interruption process has been initiated in coordination with health sector methodologies and approaches in San Pedro Sula and Chamelecon, with the International Ministry Christ is the Rock, as a local partner. The model is developed by seven local leaders called interrupters, who have developed mappings according to the methodology and started local actions of mediation to stop the spread of violence and femicides. The model strengthens community-based actions to interrupt transition, reduce highest risk and change community norms.
- As a result of this initiative, from April 1<sup>st</sup>. 2019 to date, interrupters have provided follow-up to six violence incidents of shootings in these communities, in which women, adolescents, and girls have been at high risk. Interrupters have also worked on 168 mediation sessions/meetings to avoid retaliation, resulting in reducing the risk for women and adolescents in at least 30%. Interrupters have also worked on the mediation of three sexual violence events avoiding abuse of six adolescents. Additionally, follow up has been provided to four couples with high levels - close to murder - of intimate partner violence history. Interrupters have also started to document student drop off from schools and women forced to be displaced due to violence and threats.
- Seven Interrupters local leaders and three coordinators have been trained in gender-based violence to start the local process in San Pedro Sula and to scale up to the municipalities of Choloma and La Ceiba during 2019. Local coordination meetings for risk analysis and action planning is being held every week with all local interrupters.

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Loiza, Puerto Rico, and other sites. In 2008, Cure Violence began its first international adaptation and replication of the methodology in Basra and Sadr City, Iraq. Since then, international programs have been added in Canada (Halifax and Alberta), Colombia (Cali), El Salvador (San Salvador and San Pedro Mazawal), Honduras (San Pedro Sula), Jamaica (St. Catherine North and St. James), Kenya (Nairobi and Rift valley), Mexico (Ciudad Juarez and Chihuahua City), South Africa (Hanover Park), Syria (western and northern), Trinidad & Tobago (Port of Spain) and United Kingdom (London). More information: [www.cureviolence.org](http://www.cureviolence.org)







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- An alliance was established with the Women's Rights Centre (*Centro de Derechos de Mujeres in Spanish*) to implement capacity building activities for women's networks in advocacy and political dialogue, and to promote gender equality and prevention of gender-based violence, including sexual violence, in 4 Spotlight municipalities: Choloma, La Ceiba, Intibucá and Tegucigalpa.

### PILLAR 4

#### **OUTCOME 4: Women and girls who experience violence and harmful practices use available, accessible, acceptable, and quality essential services including for long term recovery from violence.**

- A consultancy for the design of a comprehensive route of care for children victims of violence from a human rights perspective has been launched and the selection committee will be integrated by several instances and is led by the SIGADENAH National Council.
- Workshops and analysis meetings are being held with different municipalities to define routes development, current approaches and gap analysis on how the state responds to victims.
- Plan International has developed coordination mechanisms with Children and Adolescent Municipal Councils for the construction of essential routes and services in 3 municipalities, Intibucá, Choloma, and La Ceiba.
- The initiative has identified relevant government organizations at the national level which are providing services, including health, social services and access to justice to women and girls' survivors of violence. Several meetings have been carried out to start a dialogue and exchange ideas to strengthen a comprehensive response to GBV and to deliver quality and coordinated essential services.
- Technical assistance has been provided to the Minister of Health, to review national protocols and tools in line with the guidance for essential services.
- During this period a procurement plan was developed, which includes the purchase of supplies for the care and treatment of sexual violence, forensic investigation kits, and a mobile attention unit.
- Preparatory meetings have been held for the adaptation of the Latin American Protocol for Femicide Research in coordination with the RCO and OHCHR, which will facilitate the design and implementation of a training process for justice operators for femicide research, with an intersectional approach.
- Likewise, a guide that collects available resources from the Virtual World Knowledge Center for the elimination of violence against women ([www.endvawnow.org](http://www.endvawnow.org)) has been prepared, focusing on main issues related to VAWG, including hypertexts towards the platform, as well as download links for essential services. This guide has been broadly disseminated with the CSNRG and different implementing partners.





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- Planning activities and active work plans have been developed to strengthen the Specialized Care Units for girls and boys of three (3) Spotlight municipalities, La Ceiba, Choloma and Intibucá, which focused on:
  - Implementing services to provide specialized care for girls, adolescents and women survivors of violence and the development of their cases.
  - Psychological care for GBV survivors and on other forms of violence
  - GBV prevention actions are being planned for 2019.
- An Annual Work Plan proposal has been designed with the participation of the Witness Protection Program, the Special Prosecutor's Office for the Protection of Children, the Specialized Comprehensive Care Module (MAIE) and the Crimes Against Life Unit, for the development of the protocol to improve differentiated protection of victims and witnesses (children, adolescents, and women) linked to cases of femicide and gender-based violence.
- An agreement with COPECO<sup>4</sup> has been signed to develop the protocol for receiving complaints and strengthen capacities of personnel on the national emergency support line 9-1-1, to bring specialized attention and care for girls and boys.
  - The first workshop for all entities that offer in-line phone support which have an inter-institutional coordination mandate has been planned for August 2019. The 9-1-1 emergency line aims to improve coordination and offers more specialized service for children and women.
- SDGs Hotspot approach will be used to guide service delivery in selected communities. For this methodology, a key element is the analysis and collection of data for the identification of problems and the participation of interested parties in the analysis of this information and the construction of solutions. To advance this process, a working route has been developed for the development of the SDG Hotspot that will be implemented next semester.

### PILLAR 5

#### **OUTCOME 5 - Quality, disaggregated and globally comparable data on different forms of violence against women and girls and harmful practices, collected, analyzed and used in line with international standards to inform laws, policies and programmes**

- During the reporting period, a mapping of the institutions involved in the management of information on violence against women and girls has been carried out; as well as the identification of available data and indicators and the analysis of main challenges in each of the stages of the information management cycle.

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<sup>4</sup> COPECO is the entity created to coordinate public and private organizations for disasters and is within the framework of the National Risk Management System of the Republic of Honduras. It also includes the communication systems and attention in emergencies, as 9-1-1.





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La gestión de información basada

[Link to document:](#)

- Honduras has various institutions in charge of producing data on crime and violence: National Police, Public Ministry, Forensic Medicine, and Judiciary instances. Each institution has units and dependencies that collect data on crime incidence and collate information. Also, the country has other instances of civil society that validate, analyze and disseminate information, such as the University Institute for Democracy, Peace, and Security (IUDPAS acronym in Spanish).
- Data is highly segmented and atomized in different instances and levels of government, which causes some cases to be counted more than once (double counting). In this sense, administrative records are not the optimal tool to measure the true incidence of the phenomenon. In this sense, minimum levels of disaggregation for the analysis of violence against women and femicide have been defined.

### PILLAR 6

#### **OUTCOME 6 - Women's rights groups, autonomous social movements and relevant civil society organizations, including those representing youth and groups facing intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization, more effectively influence and advance progress on gender equality and women empowerment and EVAWG.**

- Support has been provided for the process of establishment of the Inter-Institutional Commission for the Investigations of Violent Deaths of Women and Femicides, created by Decree 106-2016. This Commission has a full representation of members of the feminist movements selected by the CSNRG as representatives.
- A meeting was coordinated in February 2019 with the CSNRG to develop and validate the ToRs to guide their participation as an advisory and governance mechanism for the Initiative with the participation of all RUNOs.
- Responding to a request from the Secretariat, a questionnaire has been designed to gather more information about the members of the CSNRG and its formation process, which on one hand allowed the elaboration of short biographies about the 16 titular persons and the 4 substitutes and on the other, gather information about the organizations to which they belong. A response was obtained from 19 of the 20 members, with an initial input for mapping the current situation of women's organizations and civil society - installed needs/advocacy capacities of organizations working on response and prevention to VAWG and femicides, with emphasis on vulnerable populations.





Anexo.

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- A strategic grouping and adjustment of objectives of 12 activities from Pillar 6 have turned into 8 processes that will be launched as Request for Proposals directed to Civil Society Organizations. These processes include a tender to strengthen the capacities of CSOs and feminists' organizations to apply the EVAW Trust Fund of the United Nations Secretariat coordinated by UNW.
- Additionally, in the case of La Ceiba, a comprehensive meeting was also held with Women and Feminist's Organizations to reinforce the joint understanding of their participation in the Initiative, particularly in their governance mechanism.

### **Challenges/Difficulties Encountered and Measures Taken**

Please see the Risk Management Matrix attached document.

### **Next steps**

In the second semester of 2019, actions will focus on the execution of the work plan developed for this year. Expected activities will include the following:

- Presentation of the spotlight initiative to the last two prioritized municipalities: San Pedro Sula and Tegucigalpa.
- A Workshop with CSNRG to analyze possible national political and social scenarios for Spotlight implementation. The UN Peace and Development Advisor would contribute to this collective reflection process. It will be important to continue to maintain this open dialogue space with the CSNRG to help strengthen Civil Society, facilitate collaboration between counterparts and be vigilant to eventual alerts of changes in the social fabric.
- Exchange of good practices and lessons learned between municipalities prioritized for the implementation of the spotlight initiative.
- Spotlight Baseline Consultancy will be granted and developed. The baseline elaboration will be closely monitored, and it is expected that in the next report there will be available data to report progress on the selected indicators.
- It is also expected to accompany local governments in the planning and budgeting process with a gender approach while incorporating contributions focused on violence against women and girls.
- Coordination and support to the work plan with inter-institutional commissions that follow up on violence prevention actions against women and girls.





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- Implementation of the development financing assessment tool (DFA) to analyze the national financial flow and identify resources for the implementation of the 2030 agenda with a gender approach.
- Beginning of the results-based budgeting training processes with a gender focus of strategic institutions (central and locals) for the implementation of prevention and response programs to violence against women and girls and femicides.
- Capacity building of statistics and data management instances (national and local).
- Support to institutional and civil society actors will be provided and will be focused on the analysis and adaptation of the Essential Services Package for Women and Girls Subject to Violence, which implies the identification of appropriate organizational structures at the central and municipal level, and the selection of the guidelines of the Package that will be implemented according to the context and the progress that the country already has made.

All these activities will involve a coordinated advocacy process with all the agencies involved in the initiative and the European Union Delegation.

### Stories from the Field

#### Neily seeks a world where there is light, clarity and justice

**TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras** - “There are many things I like about Bajamar, my hometown,” said 14-year old Neily. “The town always felt like one big family. We all looked out for each other.” Unfortunately, Neily and her family have been forced to flee the town she loves due to the surge in violence over the past few years.

Neily’s story is not unique. Reports of displacement and migration due to threats, intimidation, sexual violence by gang members, and murders are common. Over the past decade, more than 4,600 femicides — when a woman or girl is killed because of her gender — have been recorded in Honduras.

Although official statistics that detail the full magnitude of the violence women and girls face are hard to come by, figures from the justice ministry show that in 2013, more than 21,000 legal complaints of domestic violence were filed with courts — 92 percent of them were filed by women seeking justice.

The violence Neily experienced in Bajamar made her feel isolated among her peers in the new town where she lives. “I was scared people would not accept me,” Neily said. “I was afraid people would not believe me and that they would keep their distance from me.”





Despite these challenges, Neily has shown remarkable resilience. She is now the president of her school's student body. She is a member of the children's congress and is an activist for peace in her community.

As part of her activism, Neily spoke at the high-level launch of the Spotlight Initiative in Honduras. The event brought together government representatives, civil society leaders and representatives from the European Union (EU) and the United Nations (UN) to secure political commitments and galvanize support for the new national programme to end femicide and violence against women and girls in Honduras.

"I would like violence to end forever," said Neily. "I want girls and women who have lived through situations of violence to speak up. Silence is a form of darkness, and in darkness, we cannot express ourselves."

"In 2018, we announced that ending femicide would be a priority for our human rights agenda. We cannot accept this reality any longer. We must invest in boys and girls and young people to change the culture." - President Juan Orlando Hernandez.

In partnership with the Government of Honduras and civil society, the Spotlight Initiative will invest more than \$11 million to develop and strengthen strategic interventions designed to end femicide and prevent and respond to violence against women and girls in the municipalities of Tegucigalpa, San Pedro, La Ceiba, Choloma and Intibucá.

Spotlight Initiative programmes will address policy and legislative gaps, change social norms and behaviors that are conducive to violence, provide quality services for survivors, produce data to inform public policies and galvanize women's movements and other civil society actors, in support of the development of Honduras, while leaving no one behind.

"We want to highlight the importance to invest specifically in women and girls to reach the Sustainable Development Goals," said UN Resident Coordinator Igor Garafulic.

Neily would like to continue contributing to ending violence against women and girls. "When I grow up, I want to become a detective!" she said. "I want to make sure that women and girls who have experienced violence will receive justice."

With the launch of the Spotlight initiative, Honduras is taking vital steps towards fulfilling Neily's dream.

**(Update in the platform and published @ <http://bit.ly/2OjiJsS>)**

## Communications and Visibility





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Honduras was the first country in Latin America to launch the Spotlight Initiative through a high-level event held in Tegucigalpa on February 13, 2019. In the event participated Government institutions led by the President, the European Union Delegation, United Nations System and Organizations of Women and Feminists as well as cooperation and Civil Society in general. For the launch, promotional material was produced including a video, brochures, press release, banners and a backdrop for press conferences. The launch had wide media coverage and live streaming available in the RUNOs social networks (<http://bit.ly/2ydTwoF>).

As part of the visibility actions, the Initiative was socialized in the municipalities of Choloma, La Ceiba and Intibucá. This jointly organized activity contributed to making the initiative known at the territorial level, as well as gathering inputs for its implementation in the territories. There is a preliminary communication plan that is in the process of being revised, as well as the initiative's communication strategy.

### PHOTOGRAPHS



Government institutions led by the President, European Union, United Nations System and Organizations of Women and Feminists as well as cooperation and Civil Society participated in the launching of Spotlight Initiative in Honduras.



Socialization events took place in three out of five participating municipalities, with the participation of key stakeholder at the local level.



**Spotlight  
Initiative**

**SUBMIT VIDEOS VIA THE VIDEO SUBMISSION PLATFORM**

**(Video submitted at the platform and also available at <http://bit.ly/2Y5XrDD>)**

