

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

United Nations Development Programme Kazakhstan Spotlight Initiative Regional Programme for CA and Afghanistan 18 December 2022



Reporting Period	1 January – 18 December 2022					
Donor	EU					
Country	Kazakhstan					
Project Title	Spotlight Initiative regional programme for Central Asia and Afghanistan "Alliances for Change – Ending Sexual and Gender-Based Violence and Harmful Practice in Central Asia"					
Project ID (Atlas Award ID) Outputs (Atlas Project ID and Description) Strategic Plan and/or CPD Outcomes Implementing Partner(s) Project Start Date Project End Date	00130010 00123511 Programme Spotlight Initiative In Central Asia_Ending Sexual and Gender-Based Violence and Harmful Practice in Central Asia UNDP July 2020 31 December 2023					
2022 Annual Work Plan Budget	USD 675 788					
Total resources required						
Revenue received	 Regular USD Other Donor USD Trust Fund Cost Sharing USD Thematic Trust Fund C/S USD Special Activities USD EU funding USD 1,018,957 Total USD 1,018,957 Total programme budget – \$4,248,584 (EU only), of which UNDP is implementing the budget of \$1,018,957 (23 per cent). Funding was received through Multi-Partner Trust Fund starting from late November 2020 – \$359,905 (1st tranche, 2020); \$119,917 (2nd tranche, 2021); \$539,135 (final tranche, 2021). 					
Unfunded budget	USD					
UNDP Project Manager	Name: Natalia Maqsimchook Email: natalia.maqsimchook@undp.org Tel.:					

Table of Content

I.		EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
II.		BACKGROUND
III.		PROGRESS REVIEW
IV.		PROJECT RISKS AND ISSUES12
А. В.	-	UPDATED PROJECT RISKS AND ACTIONS
v.		GENDER RELATED ACTIVITIES
VI.		CROSS-CUTTING THEMES16
VII.		LESSONS LEARNED
VIII.		CONCLUSIONS AND WAY FORWARD17
IX.		FINANCIAL STATUS
х.		ANNEX

I. Executive summary

The executive summary is a concise brief on the progress towards the project outputs during the reporting period. The section also includes key implementation challenges, lessons learned and way forward. It is also suggested to include key financial information, such as expenditure for the reporting period, cumulative expenditure and a delivery rate against budget. (Suggested length - 400 words maximum)

Spotlight regional programme supports the countries of Central Asia in implementation of international standards for prevention and response to gender-based violence through studies, tools and capacity-building workshops for relevant ministries, security sector, and civil society representatives.

The programme follows comprehensive approach to address gender discrimination and gender-based violence - legislative and institutional reforms, social norms transformation and civil society activism. All the activities are formulated with an emphasis on the power of collective action, cross-border networking and unique expertise of each stakeholder group to contribute towards increased quality of state and non-state response to end sexual and gender-based violence. The programme identified synergies and areas of joint work with UNDP country offices in Central Asia, which all have long-term close relationships with the Government and NGO sector on gender equality and elimination of violence against women agenda. Close co-operation and co-ordination with other UN Agencies, EU, international NGOs, regional programmes and women's CSOs in CA region ensure complementarity of efforts in the field.

Spotlight Initiative regional programme succeeded in fostering connections and knowledge sharing among (1) the law enforcement agencies; (2) crisis centres and NGOs working with survivors of domestic and sexual violence; (3) youth from the countries of Central Asia.

II. Background

The background should be a short introductory of the project. The situation analysis and the objective sections of the Project Document can be referred to for this section. Also include an up-to-date overview of changes in the context and situations and comment on how these changes affected the relevance of the project. (Suggested length - maximum half a page)

Spotlight Initiative is the world's largest dedicated effort to end all forms of violence against women and girls by 2030. It is implemented as a global multi-year partnership between the European Union and the United Nations. Spotlight Initiative is built on understanding that violence is the result of structural, deep-rooted discrimination, which the state and society has an obligation to respond to through legislative and institutional reforms, social norms transformation and civil society activism. The Spotlight Initiative emphasizes the power of collective action, cross-border networking and unique expertise of each stakeholder group to

contribute towards increased quality of state and non-state response to end sexual and genderbased violence.

Today Spotlight Initiative is 32 country and regional programmes across the globe. Each programme is built around 6 pillars which define a unified holistic framework to eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls (EVAWG). This approach includes addressing legislative and policy gaps, strengthening institutions, promoting gender-equitable attitudes, providing quality services for survivors, producing disaggregated data and empowering women's movements. Each programme is designed to tackle country or region-specific GBV challenge and threats, such as domestic abuse, human trafficking, femicide, harmful practices. The cornerstone "leave no one behind" principle of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and human rights-based approach guides implementation of these programmes.

III. Progress Review

Fill in the table with project indicators data:

This narrative part of this section should focus on results backed by evidence of achievements. It should make forceful arguments regarding the transformational change achieved, using quantitative and qualitative indicators. It must include a review and assessment of the intended project outputs and output targets in accordance with the Annual Work Plan (AWP). This section should also indicate any progress and achievements against the outcomes, outputs and indicators linked to of the Country Programme Document (CPD), UNDP Strategic Plan and Integrated Results and Resources Framework (IRRF). Gender aspects should be incorporated in this section as well.

If the project was evaluated, it should be indicated in this section. Indicate main conclusions and recommendations and how these recommendations were or will be followed up.

Where possible, include photographs to demonstrate the project implementation, beneficiaries, etc. Give an overall and clear sense of the 'before-and-after' of the project intervention.

The latest approved AWP can be attached as an Annex.

(Suggested length - maximum 5 pages)

Expected outputs	Output indicators	Data source	Baseline		Value for the	Target for the	Actual value for
			Value	Year	previous year if different from baseline	reported year	the reported year
Output 1.1 National and regional partners in Central Asia have strengthened evidence-based knowledge and capacities to assess gaps and draft new and/or strengthen existing legislations on ending VAWG, including DV/IPV, and/or gender equality and non-discrimination that respond to the rights of the most groups facing multiple and intersecting forms	1.1.1 Number of draft new and/or strengthened laws and/or policies on ending VAWG and/or gender equality and non- discrimination developed that respond to the rights of women and girls facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination and are in line with international HR standards, within the last year.	Assumptions/data source: External information on policy and law amendments. In Kazakhstan: 3: 1) Amendments made to the concept on family and gender policy until 2025, among other including 30% quote for women on decision making level; amendments are being prepared to the 2) Criminal Code and 3) Administrative Code; Legal work in Uzbekistan on law on protection from harassment and violence: <u>https://regulation.gov.uz;</u> Kyrgyzstan: Amendments to the Law on Protection against Family Violence and to the Labour Code on protection against sexual harassment in the work place, <u>http://cbd.minjust.gov.kg/</u>	0	2020		5	5
of discrimination and are in line with international HR standards and treaty bodies' recommendations.	1.1.6 Number of legislation assessments completed within the last year.	Project data	0	2020		5 national 1 regional	6

- The regional study of the architecture of response to gender-based violence in the countries of Central Asia examined sufficiency of the architecture of VAW prevention and response in the countries of Central Asia in relation to recognized international norms and standards. It provided important link between pillars of the Spotlight Initiative regional programme, reviewing parts of the system of response to GBV between legislative/policy framework (Pillar 1) and multi-sectoral coordination in provision of services to survivors of violence (Pillar 2).
- 2. The study compiled a regional snapshot of national systems of prevention and response to GBV, including key actors, coordination arrangements, availability and accessibility of services to survivors of violence, barriers for reporting violence and data on violence. It offered recommendations on filling the gaps between expectations of GBV services that are set out in international agreements and the national institutional capacity that exists in practice. These recommendations were formulated in consultations with civil society organisations working with survivors of violence, national experts and academia, and representatives of protection sector, healthcare and social support organisations during preparation of the overview and validation of findings.
- 3. Five country reports and a regional summary with recommendations on the architecture of response to gender-based violence in the countries of Central Asia produced. A regional analysis of national systems that analysed gaps between the international standards of the SGBV services and existing practices has been prepared and disseminated among national stakeholders to increase awareness on international standards and help governments and civil society to address gaps. Worth to mention that the research team of 10 experts who led the study on the architecture improved their capacities on gender-focused research through exposure to ESP (Essential Service Package) - internationally recognized standard of normative guidance for supporting national systems to respond to SGBV, and other international instruments.
- 4. **4** online national discussions with participation of over 100 national experts, gender and women rights activists, crisis centres and leaders of women CSOs on country-specific results of the study of gaps in the architecture of response to sexual and gender-based violence in the countries of Central Asia during 4 national discussions (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan).
- 5. One 2-day regional convening for 25 national counterparts and 10 national experts from 5 countries (representatives of the protection sector, crisis centres, CSOs and development community) on evidence-based knowledge of the gaps in the system of response to SGBV in their respective countries and contributed their ideas to the development of a set of priority actions for improved prevention and response to SGBV. Through access to these materials dozens of CSOs enhanced their advocacy and ability to lead an informed dialogue with key stakeholders on improvement of services to victims/survivors of violence. The experts developed a set of actions for the region of Central Asia to address the gaps in the architecture of response, resulting in follow on work on strengthening social services and access of marginalized and vulnerable groups to services (women living with HIV), costing of services for survivors of sexual and domestic violence, work with police to strengthen security services, criminalization of domestic violence. [in addition to 35 offline participants, another 30 participants joined online].

Specifically for Kazakhstan:

- 1. The study contributed to strengthening evidence-based knowledge of national partners of the gaps in the system of response to SGBV. It also supported capacity of national research institutions to assess these gaps through exposure to internationally recognized UN tools and instruments on EVAW.
- CEDAW, CRPD, CRC, the Istanbul Convention and UN-standard-setting documents such as Essential Services Package for Women and Girls Subject to Violence served as benchmarks for assessing sufficiency of the architecture of response VAW. As a follow up, these findings and recommendations were communicated to policy and decision-makers during several high-level events, e.g. International Scientific Conference on the topic: "Family, Demographic and Gender policy at a New Stage of Development of Kazakhstan» on 17-18 November 2022".
- 3. Key country-specific findings emphasized that human rights-based approach and LNOB principle are not adequately mainstreamed in gender-related policies. Other important findings referred to insufficient numbers and capacity of crisis centres for survivors of violence, insufficient number of police in protection of women against violence, and barriers in access to specialized social services for women with disabilities and women living with HIV. These findings reconfirmed the need for strengthening legislation and law enforcement practice on EVAW and existing regulations on service provision to survivors of violence. Capacity of the protection sector and service providers also needs continuous development.
- 4. Joint advocacy by UN Agencies, international organisations and NGOs has already led to the Ministry of Internal Affairs of RK (MIA RK) coming up in 2022 with a set of proposals to make the domestic context of certain crimes an aggravating factor to strengthen punishment on perpetrators of domestic violence, and administrative measures aimed at strengthening the preventive side of EVAW work. These proposals include a shift to the principle of inevitability of punishment (e.g., punishment of perpetrator of violence irrespective of whether the victim reports to the police or the case is based on evidence from witnesses of violence, video recordings, etc.). Other proposals feature replacement of courts issued warrants with sentencing of perpetrators of violence to public works and tightening reconciliation procedures (no repeated reconciliation between the victim and perpetrator of violence). MIA RK emphasizes importance of complex approach to addressing domestic violence and acknowledges potential of civil society organisations in multi-sectoral response and importance of knowledge sharing.
- 5. Civil society organisations acknowledge positive developments in legal response, especially proposed revision of qualifying attributes of medium and grievous bodily harm and torture for punishment of persons committing domestic violence.
- 6. The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of RK launched a massive study in 2022 to reform the tariff policy (per capita financing of specialized social services) which also has bearing on how the work and financing of crisis centres for survivors of domestic and sexual violence will be effected.

Expected outputs	Output indicators	Data source	Baseline			Target for the	Actual value for
			Value	Year	previous reported year if year different from baseline		the reported year
Output 2.1 Key officials at national and/or sub-national levels in all relevant institutions of Central Asia are better able to develop and deliver evidence-based programmes that prevent and respond to VAWG, including DV/IPV, especially for those groups of women and girls facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination, including in other sectors.	Indicator 2.1.6 Number of key government officials and other sector representatives trained on human rights and gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours towards women and girls, including for those groups facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination, within the last year	Data source/assumptions: project data on the number of participants of trainings	0	2020		70	70

- 1. **Three regional products** focused on police, health and social sectors participation in the Multi-Sectoral Response to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (MSR to SGBV) are made available in the Russian language for countries of Central Asia (in partnership with UNFPA):
 - Situation analysis on SGBV and institutional environment for MSR to SGBV implementation in the region.
 - Regional SOP models for SGBV case referral and case management for police, health, and social sectors;
 - Sectoral training packages for professionals in the police health, and social sectors on provision of coordinated sectoral and one stop shop services for SGBV survivors.
- 2. The 60 representatives from five Central Asian countries received knowledge on SGBV and institutional environment for MSR to SGBV implementation in the region, including the best practices applicable for CA countries on MSR to SGBV, use of regional SOPs model, training package on coordinated provision of services to survivors by police, health, and psychosocial sectors at the 2-day regional workshop in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The workshop was followed up by a 3-day training organized on coordinated provision of services to survivors of violence conducted for 35 representatives of police, health and social sectors, state and non-governmental specialized organisations providing services to survivors of violence.
- 3. 25 representatives of police service from Central Asian countries exchanged experience and practice of response to SGBV and are better equipped to develop and deliver response measures and participated in each of the following activities, through a series of 4 practice sharing meetings and one 6-day study visit to Kazakhstan (10 participants). This work has resulted, among other, in engaging 2 experts from the Ministry of Internal Affairs of RK in the development of a training programme for Kyrgyz police. Within practice sharing meetings e.g. Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan are studying the existing practice of Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan of specialised units in the police on protection of women against violence and view such units (and more women police officers) as effective addition to the system of police response to violence against women. To sum up, the informal group of core 10-15 representatives of law enforcement sector (from all CA countries) was formed which consistently participated in capacity-building activities by all the RUNOs, including training on regional SOPs model for 3 key sectors, discussion of gaps in service delivery for survivors of violence, case management and referral, training on SOP model for coordinated service provision.

"Knowledge created by NGOs for NGOs" grant competition has been completed, in which 9 NGOs have strengthened their capabilities and agency to work on eliminating violence against women and girls. 9 grantees documented and shared their experience of working with survivors of violence with peer NGOs. Each grantee reached out to 5-10 other NGOs with training and knowledge sharing events. Participants of the competition created local networks, telegram-chats and safe spaces for women (usually at schools) for sharing essential information on SGBV, access to legal, medical and other support services, development of skills for sustaining livelihood. Some grantees reported that participation in this activity helped them to identify areas for improvement through re-thinking and re-living their work experience.

Expected outputs	Output indicators	Data source	Baseline		Value for the	Target for the	Actual value
			Value	Year	previous year if different from baseline	report ed year	for the reporte d year
<u>Output 5.2</u> Quality prevalence and/or incidence data on VAWG is analysed and made publicly available for the monitoring and reporting of the SDG target 5.2 indicators to inform evidence-based decision making	Indicator 5.2.1 Number of knowledge products developed and disseminated to the relevant stakeholders to inform evidence- based decision making, within the past 12 months	Project data	0	2020		5	5

- 1. The **Spotlight Digital Challenge provided an initial intensive educational programme (bootcamp for 2 days) for over 200 online participants** to learn about the issues of gender-based discrimination and violence and online violence and created a space for young people to make headway on preventing, responding to and collecting data of VAW.
- 2. 73 mixed teams from 5 Central Asian countries were admitted to the Spotlight Digital Challenge. In 48 hours, participants developed and presented 58 ideas of solutions in three categories prevention; collection and visualization of data on violence; and assistance to survivors of violence. The Challenge improved young people's understanding of gender inequality and discrimination, and increased awareness of gender-based violence in cyberspace (IT-facilitated violence) and safety measures. Living community of like-minded young people formed a self-sustained network for sharing information on different opportunities for acceleration of their ideas.
- 3. During 16 Days of Activism against GBV (on November 26, 2022) eight teams met in Almaty for a pitching session. The teams made presentations of their ideas and shared their progress, challenges they have faced, and their plans. Specialists in the development and promotion of IT products and representatives of programs for incubation and acceleration of socially-oriented IT startups spoke to participants about opportunities to fill the gaps in missing knowledge, find partners, financing opportunities for the development of their ideas.
- 4. **7 out of 9 winners are continuing working on their idea**. "Made to Top" team from Uzbekistan is now cooperating with the Association of Journalists of Uzbekistan. "God is a Women" team from Kazakhstan participated in the Digital Knowledge Week 2022 in Astana with their idea.

IV. Project Risks and Issues

This section identifies and analyses project risks and issues that:

had an impact on project deliverables¹ (quality, schedule, etc.) during the reporting period, or
 were newly identified during the reporting period and are being addressed by the project (in the case of risks, "addressed" means to mitigate their effects or decrease the likelihood of impact, and in the case of issues, how to resolve them).

For details of project risk management, please refer the <u>POPP</u> and <u>UNDP Handbook</u> on Planning, Monitoring and Evaluating for Development Results (page 48).

(Suggested length – half a page to 1 page)

¹ A deliverable is defined as the result of an activity or in other terms the product which contributes to the achievement of project outputs).

a. Updated project risks and actions

#	Event	Cause	Impact(s)	Risk Category and Sub- category	Impact, Likelihood & Risk Level	Risk Valid From/To	Risk Owner (individual accountable for managing the risk)	Risk Treatment and Treatment Owner
1	Delays in implementation of planned outputs by RUNOs (UN Women and UNFPA)	Programme components out of sync among recipient UN organisations (RUNOs)	Delivery of resources with implications for the next tranches	Operational 3.2 Leadership and Management	Likelihood: 3 Impact: 3 Risk level: Medium	From: 01/02/2021 To: 01/06/2023	Programme Coordinator UN RC office	Risk Treatment 4.1: Regular coherence meetings with RUNO's officers (UNFPA and UN Women), joint planning among RUNOS. Risk Treatment Owner: Project Officer, Programme Coordinator
2	Mid-Term Assessment points to insufficient coordination among RUNOs and among Spotlight Initiative national and regional programmes, weak reporting mechanism on programme progress	Mid-term assessment methodology is not well designed for measuring regional programme	Donor dissatisfaction with the programme progress and implications for Phase II funding	Operational 3.2 Leadership and Management	Likelihood: 3 Impact: 3 Risk level: Medium	From: 01/04/2022 To: 01/06/2023	Programme Coordinator UN RC office	Risk Treatment 5.1: Regular coherence meetings with RUNO's officers (UNFPA and UN Women), joint planning among RUNOS. Risk Treatment Owner: Project Officers, Programme Coordinator

				Risk Treatment 5.2:
				Regular
				coordination
				meetings with the
				donor, and
				engagement of
				donor in planning
				of programme
				outputs, reporting
				on results
				framework
				Risk Treatment
				Owner: Programme
				Coordinator,
				Project Officers

b. Updated project issues and actions

Project Issue 1: Mid-Term Assessment

Actions taken: UNDP together with the other RUNOs compiled the list of counterparts, partners and stakeholders to be included as key informants. UNDP Project Officer participated in a group interview with evaluators together with other RUNOs.

Project Issue 2: Phase II project concept and budget

Actions taken: UNDP provided inputs in respective Pillars/Outcomes and took part in the presentation of Phase II concept and participatory discussion with various stakeholders leading to approval of Phase II budget in late 2022

V. Gender Related Activities

This section should capture project's results on gender equality and/or gender mainstreaming, or major activities that, under sound assumptions, will contribute to improvement in women's life.

Spotlight Initiative is built on understanding that violence is the result of structural, deep-rooted discrimination which the state and society has an obligation to address through legislative and institutional reforms, social norms transformation and civil society activism.

The Programme achieved results across all its key pillars. The programme continued to contributing to the elimination of gender-based violence through: (i) comprehensive analyses, identification of gaps and recommendations on aligning SGBV legislation with international norms and standards; (ii) strengthening capacity of government agencies to provide services to the victims and survivors of SGBV; (iii) various awareness-raising campaigns and advocacy initiatives aimed at changing the attitudes and behaviors of communities and individuals towards gender-based violence, (iv) creation of informal alliances and networks, carrying out knowledge-sharing, public awareness and advocacy campaigns; (v) generating new research-based knowledge and largely missing data into the nature and extent of gender-based violence in the region; and (vi) supporting regional women's movement.

VI. Cross-Cutting Themes

If relevant, this section should capture project's results on incorporating different cross-cutting themes, such as Rights-based Approach to Programming, Environmental Sensitivity and Sustainability, Crisis Response, South-South and Triangular Cooperation etc.

VII. Lessons Learned

This section should capture the lessons learned to ensure on-going learning, knowledge sharing and communication within the organisation and with the partners/donors. It should include analysis on the following contents:

- 1) Key project successes and factors which supported these successes;
- 2) Difficulties encountered and measures taken to overcome these difficulties;
- 3) Analysis on what could have been done differently / better to attain the project results;
- 4) Recommendations to improve future programming.

(Suggested length – half a page to 1 page)

- Spotlight Initiative regional programme for Central Asia and Afghanistan succeeded in fostering connections and knowledge sharing among the law enforcement agencies, crisis centers and NGOs working with survivors of domestic and sexual violence, and youth from the countries of Central Asia. It supports the countries of Central Asia in implementation of international standards for prevention and response to gender-based violence through studies, tools and capacity-building workshops for relevant ministries, security sector, and civil society representatives.
 - Comprehensive approach legislative and institutional reforms, social norms transformation and civil society activism.
 - Emphasis on the power of collective action, cross-border networking and unique expertise of each stakeholder group to contribute towards increased quality of state and non-state response to end sexual and gender-based violence.
- 2) The programme is not well designed in terms of engaging the countries, counterparts and stakeholders, addressing priorities and cooperating with UN Agencies' country offices. Delays with recruitment and procurement within individual participating agencies led to delays in the delivery of outputs designed by other participating agencies. Short duration, absence of indicators designed to measure the progress of the regional programme, implementation arrangements, and understaffing are the issues which affect implementation and attainment of planned goals.
- 3) The project of such a scale requires more formal and informal coordination mechanisms within and across participating UN Agencies and country offices. Implementation as "One UN" calls for innovative and flexible approaches, more effective use of programme and procurement instruments.

VIII. Conclusions and Way Forward

This section should summarize the achievements, challenges and lessons learned as well as explain the way forward, including relevance of the project and necessary revisions that will be made to the project and plans of the upcoming reporting period. Any funding gaps, resource requirements as well as further partner engagement plans can be specified in this section. This should include any modifications that need to be made to indicators, baselines, targets as well data collection and monitoring to track progress.

If this is a Final Report and if applicable, also mention on sustainability of the project and/or plans on future projects that may supplement / scale up the achievements of this project. (Suggested length – half a page to 1 page)

In Phase II the regional programme will finalise activities, findings and outputs of Phase I, including strengthening legislation and institutions, changing social norms and attitudes with regard to gender roles, addressing the gaps in data on SGBV. The programme will disseminate the regional models, recommendations and knowledge products among national partners and promote SI complex approach to respond to GBV.

Financial Status

This section should provide overview of the project financial resources utilization for the entire project implementation period. The financial information should be based on Combined Delivery Reports.

PHASE I (2020-2022)			
OUTCOME/PILLAR	UNDP		
	Spotlight EU contribution (USD)	Total Expenditure (Phase I), USD	Total Expenditure (Phase I), %
OUTCOME 1	120,378	115,412	96
OUTCOME 2	298,369	292,809	98
OUTCOME 5	93,133	96,253	103
TOTAL PROGRAMME OUTCOME COSTS	511,880	504,475	99
PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT COSTS	440,416	393,094	89
Total Direct Costs	952,296	897,569	94
8. Indirect Support Costs (Max. 7%)	66,661	62,830	
TOTAL Costs	1,018,957	960,398	94

IX. Annex

Insert the latest approved Annual Work Plan (AWP), relevant copies of media coverage, publications, etc. Specific reporting requirements from donors can also be inserted here.

Natalia Maqsimchook Project Officer

DocuSigned by: Natalia Magsimechook A190CC95D1DC47A...