



## Spotlight Initiative



# EARLY RESULTS 2019

### Joint Recruitment modality for the Implementation team:

As per the Delivering as One principle, recruitment call for staff who would make up the Implementation team was made jointly for three agencies. The four Recipient United Nations Organizations (RUNOs), the agency associated with the program and the Resident Coordinator Office (RCO) participated in the evaluation committees and the selection panels in a collective process.



### EL SALVADOR

#### Empowering young people to lead on local decisions

Through the Spotlight Initiative's support, more than 240 young people are now part of a municipal decision-making body in the City of San Martin. The local committees on the rights of children and adolescents ensures that young people's needs and ideas – including those of the most vulnerable – are incorporated into local decisions.

#### Engaging young through art, music and creativity

More than 100 youth have participated in life skills and self esteem interventions that incorporate gender-based violence prevention

### LATIN AMERICA

#### ARGENTINA

#### Fostering a new generation of responsible digital citizens

More than 2,500 young people in Buenos Aires province benefited from the Spotlight Initiative-supported "Environ" programme, which teaches young boys and girls about online sexual abuse and violence. Through role-playing, and peer-to-peer exercises, participants learned about the effects and consequences of cyberbullying, sexting, online harassment and grooming.

#### Assessing perceptions and attitudes on femicide and GBV

Spotlight Initiative is conducting a qualitative study to determine men and women's perceptions and attitudes towards gender-based violence, and on the quality of care services. In line with the principle of leaving no one behind, the study will also focus on women and girls who face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. Study results will inform Spotlight's programmatic actions.



principles. Spotlight Initiative has partnered with the Ministry of Education and 'Musicians Without Borders' to develop community programmes aimed at preventing GBV and promoting peaceful coexistence in schools and communities through music.

## AFRICA

### LIBERIA

#### **New legislation to end violence against women**

As a result of advocacy and sensitization efforts at the highest levels of government – accelerated through the launch of Spotlight Initiative – the Domestic Violence Bill has been passed by the legislature. The passage of the law, despite removal of the FGM clause, is a major step towards addressing violence against women and other harmful practices.

#### **Statement of commitment from religious leaders on harmful practices**

After consultative dialogues involving more than 170 traditional leaders and practitioners from the 11 FGM practicing counties in Nimba County, a seven-count Policy Statement on FGM was signed by the traditional leaders, suspending the operation of Sande activities in Liberia for one year in Monrovia in the presence of the government officials.

#### **Provision of comprehensive services**

Through the Spotlight Initiative, more than 1,400 cases of sexual and gender-based violence have been reported by IMS data in 15 counties. More than 450 survivors have been referred for support, counselling medical and case management services provided at the six 'one-stop centres' in Montserrado and Grand Gedeh and the two hospitals in Grand Cape Mount and Lofa.

### MALAWI

#### **Partnering with faith-based institutions**

More than 1,000 women faith-based leaders and influencers were engaged via a partnership with the Seventh Day Adventist Church 'End It Now' campaign. Religious and community leaders made commitments to address norms that promote harmful attitudes and behaviours around violence against women and girls in churches and other spaces where they have influence.

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#### **Training a new generation of young mentors**

Spotlight Initiative supported the creation of a new mentorship manual for adolescent girls to empower them to exercise their sexual and reproductive health rights, access safe spaces, prevent gender-based violence and challenge harmful practices in their communities. Using the training-of-trainers model, it is estimated that 21,000 young women and girls will receive mentorship through the new manual by 2020.



#### **Joint Implementation modality for Civil Society facilitated:**

As per the Delivering as One principle, agencies have released joint Expressions of Interest for Civil Society Organizations to implement Spotlight activities. These expressions of interest were disseminated broadly, including targeted dissemination to grassroots level CSOs and CBOs. These expressions of interests specifically encouraged CSOs/CBOs who have never worked with the UN to apply and also to apply through a consortium, and as a result, 138 submissions were received with a great number of submissions from grassroots level organizations.

#### **Crowdsourcing youth perceptions on gender-based violence**

Leveraging UNICEF's U-Report platform, more than 100,000 young people were asked to share opinions on issues related to violence against women and girls. Results from the opinion polls will inform the Initiative's programme design to better target audiences and communities.

## MOZAMBIQUE

### Services for young people, by young people

Spotlight Initiative supported the expansion of the Geracao Biz programme, which provides age-appropriate sexual reproductive health information and counselling to young people in and out-of-school. The Initiative also expanded the SMS peer-counseling hub in Namupla, which provides responses to key issues on sexual and reproductive health, GBV, HIV prevention and child marriage for young people. The platform currently has more than 90,000 users.

## NIGERIA

### Improving referral pathways for gender-based violence

In North East Nigeria, Spotlight Initiative influenced the revision of Adamawa state's standard operating procedures on gender-based violence reporting and support. Access to fistula repairs is ongoing for 150 women and girls living with obstetric fistula across Sokoto, Adamawa and Cross River states. These have been accompanied with an enhanced community awareness of referrals for obstetric fistula in the states.

## UGANDA

### High-level advocacy to advance gender-responsive law and policies

Due in part to effective political advocacy through the Spotlight Initiative, the national sexual reproductive health and rights policy has been endorsed by the ministries of health, finance, and planning and economic development for cabinet approval. The Sexual Offences Bill was also debated in parliament and will undergo further revision to strengthen protections from sexual harassment and child marriage, address issues of consent to sexual acts, and to remove the requirement for evidence corroboration in cases of sexual violence. While the Marriage Bill continues to garner some resistance, the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs has pledged to fast track the passage of the bill and reintroduce it before the end of this session of Parliament.



### Increased community mobilization on ending violence against women and girls and harmful practices

More than 40,000 people have been reached 400 Spotlight Initiative community mobilization events in Arua and Kyegwa districts. Topics discussed include: SGBV referral pathways, services, GBV core concepts, effects of early marriage, misuse of power, physical violence, SRHR and gender equality. In addition, more than five million people were reached with messages through radio programmes on Namirembe FM 93.9, Light FM, Access Broad Casting Services in Arua, East FM in Tororo and Voice of Life 100.9 FM. Six community dialogues were also conducted in the hot spot areas reaching 180,000 people. Due to these efforts, more than 75 communities in Kasese district have renounced child marriage.

### Sensitizing the transportation industry

Through its partnership with the Initiative, the Uganda Police Force conducted HeforShe dialogues with 190 Bodaboda (motorcycle taxi) riders from Safe Boda, Taxify, Uber, and Century to address negative masculinity and on the responsibility of men and boys to eliminate discrimination and VAWG at



home, workplaces and in the community. 99 men signed up as HeForShe Champions. The event attracted media attention and was aired on four TV stations including Dream TV, Delta TV and Salt TV in Kampala and one FM Radio. Four Male Action Groups (MAGs) have also been formed in districts of Kasese, Kyegegwa, Tororo and Arua.

### **Increasing access to services**

More than 97 cases of violence against children were reported to the Child Helpline and referred for services in Spotlight Initiative target districts. Service providers in Kasese managed 500 walk-in cases. Three integrated sexual and reproductive health service campaigns were conducted in Kyegegwa and Amudat districts, reaching more than 1,200 people. Midwives were placed in two refugee settlements, along with a 24-hour ambulance service, through which 84 emergency referrals were made, including 11 obstetric emergencies. More than 500 survivors in refugee settlements gained knowledge on how to maintain and promote mental health and psychosocial wellbeing. More than 300 gender-based violence survivors received access to justice through mobile legal aid clinics and mobile courts. Awareness raising activities reached an additional 1,500 people.



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