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‘Ending GBV and Achieving the SDGs’: taking stock of lessons learned from local responses to GBV



Concept Note for Event to be held in parallel to the SVRI Forum in Cancun, Mexico

Wednesday 21 September at 13.00

Sala Ibiza, Paradissus Hotel, Cancún, Mexico

Background

Gender-based violence (GBV) is a gross and widespread violation of human rights, and a serious barrier to sustainable development. Persistent patterns of GBV observed across contexts have downstream impacts on the security, health and well-being of individuals, communities and nations, with significant health, social and economic costs that hinder the achievement of the SDGs.

The global movement to end GBV had made significant progress on various fronts. Over decades, civil society actors mobilised across the world to advocate for change and place GBV on the political agenda. Together with UN agencies, governments and researchers, this community has built a rigorous evidence base on the prevalence and drivers of violence against women, what works to respond to the needs of survivors, and to prevent violence from occurring in the first place. As a result, nearly [3 out of 4 countries](#) have national multi-sectoral plans that address violence against women and girls. While this policy infrastructure is encouraging, the reality is that these plans are often unfunded or underfunded and are rarely operationalised at a local level. For example, [only 44% of countries](#) report having a national budget line item for the provision of health services for violence against women. The scale of action does not match the magnitude of the burden, and there is an urgent need to redress this balance.

Since 2018, UNDP has been implementing a global initiative on ‘Ending GBV and Achieving the SDGs’, funded by the Republic of Korea. The initiative is testing new approaches to reduce gender-based violence and accelerate progress towards other development goals, in seven countries: Bhutan, Indonesia, Iraq, Lebanon, Peru, Republic of Moldova and Uganda.

As part of this global initiative, UNDP has partnered with the United Nations University International Institute for Global Health (UNU-IIGH) on the project ‘Costing and Financing: Ending GBV and Achieving the SDGs’. The multi-country project is producing new tools and evidence on the benefits of GBV prevention for achieving the SDGs. It is contributing to the evidence base on [‘participatory planning and paying models’](#) that engage diverse community stakeholders to define their own solutions and establish sustainable financing for local GBV action plans. The “planning and paying” approach combines the latest thinking in cost sharing along with long standing local participatory planning methods. Under this approach, local action plans (LAPs) to address GBV are designed through participatory methods. Local action plans coordinate multiple sectors and partners and include complimentary actions to prevent violence before it starts and enhanced services for survivors. The LAPs strive for multiple outcomes, including reduced violence, increased gender equality and other related gains, and thus help identify new potential “payers” for the local plans.

In addition to generating policy relevant evidence, each of the pilots in Indonesia, Peru and Republic of Moldova had to adapt quickly in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the embedded implementation research infrastructure of the project enabled agile learning and documentation.

This event will take stock of lessons learned about effective policy and local responses to GBV using participatory models, and from adapting to deliver in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and other national-level political and environmental fluctuating contexts.

Purpose and objectives of the event

The event will provide a critical platform to reflect on lessons learned in relation to participatory approaches to ending GBV, multi-sectoral action and collaboration, and adapting to changes and challenges within diverse contexts.

Participants will share and discuss how, and under what circumstances, strong participatory processes and local responses to planning action ensured greater reach, impact and resilience. This event will enable knowledge exchange and conversations across governments, civil society, academics, UN agencies, and other experts working in the GBV field.

UNU-IIGH, as a think tank within the UN system on global health, aims to support the work of key UN agencies and programmes and serve as a neutral convenor for evidence-based discussion and learning. UNU-IIGH and UNDP are co-convening this event in partnership with other key stakeholders, to provide a platform for knowledge-sharing and stock-taking on the lessons learned from piloting participatory planning and paying approaches to ethically and effectively address GBV. This will provide an opportunity to collectively reflect on the learning from several GBV projects and interventions, and bring together other initiatives to steer efforts and scale up action towards achieving the 2030 goal of ending GBV.

Specific objectives:

- Provide a multi-sectoral and interdisciplinary space for knowledge-sharing and learning exchange
- Discuss the implications of these lessons and experiences for influencing policy agendas and programming frameworks, building from WHO's Interagency Prevention Framework – [RESPECT¹](#)
- Discuss the potential for adapting, replicating, and scaling up promising approaches towards the 2030 goal of ending GBV, with relevant UN agencies, including the mechanisms expected to work in different institutional contexts and potential donors.
- Promote South-South cooperation and knowledge exchange as a tool to cross-fertilize, generate and disseminate relevant ideas, knowledge, and tools.

Specific outcomes include:

1. An overview of intervention adaptations, good practices, lessons learned and challenges across a range of contexts
2. Discussion of next steps for programming and research on these approaches

Participants

The dialogue will include participants from UN agencies, academics, governments and civil society, initially by invitation (opening up if space is available).

Logistics & Format

The event will be co-hosted by UNU-IIGH and UNDP. It will be held as in-person event in Cancun, Mexico, in parallel with the SVRI Forum (as a [participant-driven](#) event), with a hybrid format (or live streaming) enabling virtual participation.

¹ This Framework was endorsed by 12 UN and bilateral agencies and civil society groups and stands for seven main strategies for preventing GBV listing different interventions at various levels of evidence.

The session will be highly interactive to ensure ample time for discussion and cross-fertilisation of learning and ideas. It will be held over 1.5 hours. It will be moderated by Jacqui Stevenson from the UNU-International Institute for Global Health

Agenda:

- Video from the Peru pilot (3 minutes)
- Presentation of the Lessons Learned Report (15 minutes)/ Erin Stern

- Discussants (10 minutes each):
 - ◊ Jacqui Stevenson (UNU-IIGH), *Moderator*
 - ◊ Vitalie Frecautuanu (UNDP Moldova) on *Adaptation and Ability to Pivot of LAP interventions*
 - ◊ Mixy Paredes (UNDP Peru) on *Impact of quality LAP implementation on GBV*
 - ◊ Lori Heise (Prevention Collaborative) with *Overall Comments*
 - ◊ Erin Stern (Prevention Collaborative)
 - ◊ Diego Antoni (UNDP New York)

- Q&A with audience/online participants (30 minutes)

Topics covered in the session will include:

- Models of local participatory responses to GBV and lessons from adaptation
- Sharing findings, recommendations and lessons learned from participatory planning and paying pilot projects
- Roundtable discussion on accelerating multi-sectoral action and funding for local participatory and integrated approaches to end GBV