

**UN WOMEN AND WHO GLOBAL JOINT PROGRAMME**  
**Annual Programme Narrative Progress Report**  
**Reporting Period: June-December 2018<sup>1</sup>**

<b>Programme Title</b>	Strengthening Methodologies and Measurement and Building National Capacities for Violence Against Women Data	
<b>Participating Organizations</b>	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)  World Health Organization (WHO)	
<b>Programme Cost (US\$)</b>	Total approved budget as per project document: <sup>2</sup>	UN Women: USD \$2,599,436 WHO: USD \$2,889,000 TOTAL: USD \$ 5,488,436
<b>Priority Areas Strategic Results</b>	<p><i>Priority Areas</i> Global Arab States and North Africa Sub-Saharan Africa</p> <p><i>Strategic results</i> Quality, comparable data on different forms of violence against women are available and collected over time to address national data gaps and meet policy and reporting commitments under the SDGs, CEDAW and the Beijing Platform for Action</p>	
<b>Implementing partners</b>	National and regional counterparts and other International Organizations	
<b>Programme Duration</b>	Overall Duration	54 months
	Start Date <sup>1</sup>	22 JUN 2018
	Original End Date <sup>3</sup>	31 DEC 2022
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<sup>1</sup> The expected start date of the programme was January 2018, as reflected in the programme document and contribution arrangement. However, the effective start date and therefore the start date for the progress reported here is the date of the first transfer of the funds from the Administrative Agent to the Participating Organizations.

<sup>2</sup> This refers to DFID budget as per the signed contribution arrangement; based on the budget presented and approved during the first steering committee meeting (June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018); based on currency exchange rate on the date the first tranche was deposited.

<sup>3</sup> As per approval of the original project document by the relevant decision-making body/Steering Committee.

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## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women
DFID	Department for International Development (of The United Kingdom)
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
EGM	Expert Group Meeting
EIGE	European Institute for Gender Equality
ESCWA	(United Nations) Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
GBVIMS	Gender-Based Violence Information Management System
GEOSTAT	National Statistics Office of Georgia
IAWG	Inter-Agency Working Group on Violence against Women Data
IPV	Intimate Partner Violence
JP	Joint Programme
NPSV	Non-Partner Sexual Violence
NSO	National Statistical Office
OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
PUNO	Participating United Nations Organization
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SC	Steering Committee
TAB	Technical Advisory Board
TAG	Technical Advisory Group
TOR	Terms of Reference
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
VAW	Violence Against Women
WHO	World Health Organization

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The goal of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Joint Programme *Strengthening Methodologies and Measurement and Building National Capacities for Violence Against Women Data* is to ensure the availability of quality and comparable data on different forms of violence against women (VAW) to address national data gaps and meet policy and reporting commitments under international frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals, the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Beijing Platform for Action. In year 2018 results have been mainly focused on establishing partnerships, within and outside the United Nations family, and establishing the foundation for delivering results in the coming years.

The first Steering Committee meeting of the programme was held in June to discuss plans for 2018-2019 and approve budget allocations. Programme staff was hired. Data on intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence were extracted and the database updated for the calculation of country, regional and global estimates by WHO. A systematic review of studies, measures and survey instruments on violence against older women was initiated. Work also commenced to develop a background paper and organize an expert group meeting on VAW administrative data to inform the development of global guidelines, and a technical advisory board was set up. A partnership was established with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) for capacity building for implementation of VAW prevalence surveys in the Arab region.

At the national level, UN Women supported user-producer dialogues in **Jamaica**, with government and civil society stakeholders, around the results of the 2016 Women's Health Survey and their use to support the implementation of the National Strategic Action Plan against Gender Based Violence 2017-2027. Specific recommendations include targeting all-boys schools to address gender discrimination and toxic masculinities from an early age, and carefully monitoring and addressing school drop-out and fertility rates among girls, based on the finding that intimate partner violence prevalence is higher in women who began living with a man before they were 18. With the support of this programme, UN Women in **Georgia** ensured wide dissemination of the findings of the 2017 National Study on VAW. With special emphasis on the sexual harassment findings, in close partnership with the Gender Equality Council of the Parliament of Georgia and the USAID ProLog project, UN Women advocated for the development and adoption of relevant legislation. The national VAW study findings greatly informed the drafting and advocacy process around regulating sexual harassment. As a result, in the spring of 2019 the parliament of Georgia adopted a bill introducing the definition of sexual harassment and its regulation in the public space as well as workplace environments.

The joint programme has contributed to strengthening UN inter-agency coordination and collaboration, beyond the joint work of UN Women and WHO in the context of this programme. This is deemed as a very positive result, even though not explicitly outlined as a primary envisioned result of the programme.

The partnerships established with the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE), the Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS), ESCWA and others in the context of the joint programme help set up an important foundation for the successful implementation of the programme. These partnerships have led to exciting collaborations in 2019. The joint programme made efforts also to ensure linkages with other programmes, such as the UN Women Women Count Programme, the Spotlight Initiative, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) kNowVAWdata initiative in the Asia Pacific region, as well as the Global Joint Programme on Essential Services for Women and Girls Subject to Violence.

## I. PURPOSE

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Joint Programme *Strengthening Methodologies and Measurement and Building National Capacities for Violence Against Women Data* (“the Joint Programme” [JP] hereafter) responds to the urgent need to strengthen the knowledge-base on all forms of violence against women (VAW). The JP’s goal is to ensure the availability of quality and comparable data on different forms of VAW to address national data gaps and meet policy and reporting commitments under international frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Beijing Platform for Action. It aims to develop standards and methods for the collection of data on some forms of VAW for which there is no consensus yet on the definitions and best way to measure. These include psychological intimate partner violence (IPV), violence against older women, violence against women with disabilities as well as non-partner sexual violence (NPSV). The strengthening of administrative systems and data on VAW through the development of global guidelines, is another significant gap that the programme aims to address. The JP also seeks to increase the harmonization of VAW data work and databases of different United Nations (UN) organizations and improve joint work for data compilation and reporting for SDG target 5.2 indicators, including the update of the WHO country, regional and global estimates.

The JP also aims to strengthen national capacities of National Statistical Offices (NSOs), relevant ministries, civil society, researchers and other relevant stakeholders to design, plan and implement national VAW prevalence surveys, as well as to analyse and use data from these surveys. This is envisioned to be done through the engagement of regional institutions in two selected regions (Arab States and Africa), as well as the set-up of a network of experts from these regions, whose capacities are built as part of the programme. This is expected to promote ownership and sustainability beyond the life of the programme.

Finally, the JP will contribute to advocacy efforts globally, regionally and nationally, on the relevance of VAW data and the available methods and standards. This is expected to contribute to greater and improved data collection, dissemination and use for advocacy, policy and programming to end VAW.

In 2018, the JP focused on setting-up the governance structures, such as the Steering Committee (SC), as well the required systems and methods of work for the management and implementation of the programme. Both Participating United Nations Organizations (PUNOs), i.e. UN Women and WHO initiated the recruitment of personnel for the implementation of the programme. The JP aimed to continue work already initiated, such as the development of measurement standards for psychological IPV or the consultations and data extraction for the calculation of global, regional and country level estimates on the prevalence of IPV and NPSV. During this first year of implementation, the programme also aimed to establish key partnerships, including with the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) for the work around administrative data, and with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) for capacity building work in the Arab States region. It also aimed to ensure other UN agencies that are not PUNOs of this JP are fully informed of and engaged in, as relevant, the different components of the programme. The JP made efforts to ensure linkages with other programmes, such as the UN Women [Women Count](#) Programme, the [Spotlight Initiative](#), the UNFPA [kNowVAWdata](#) initiative in the Asia Pacific region, as well as the Global Joint Programme on Essential Services for Women and Girls Subject to Violence. Therefore, the main purpose of the first six months of this JP was to set the ground for the achievement of results in 2019 and beyond.

## II. RESULTS

The paragraphs below describe progress and results contributed to by the JP. As 2018 is the first implementation year of a 5-year programme and implementation started in the second half of 2018, higher level results are expected and will be reported on subsequent years. The text below also describes follow-up plans and priorities for 2019.

### OUTCOME 1

Measurement and methodologies for VAW data collection and use are strengthened and disseminated, including for national, regional and global monitoring and reporting requirements for SDG target 5.2 indicators.

**Output 1:** Selected methods and standards for data collection and analysis are reviewed or developed, including for measurement of psychological violence, violence against older women, violence and disability status, and disseminated to ensure improved coherence and harmonization to produce prevalence data on VAW, including for the SDGs global monitoring indicators.

**Measurement of psychological intimate partner violence:** Acknowledging the considerable methodological work needed to be able to produce prevalence estimates on psychological IPV for global comparison the WHO convened a meeting in June 2016 to begin discussions towards consensus for a consistent definition, measurement and analytical approach for psychological IPV. Building on the recommendations of this meeting the following activities were carried out in 2018:

- Reworded items in the WHO Multi-Country Study instrument, and suggested revisions to the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) module on domestic violence through the recent DHS- Questionnaire Review Consultation to focus on women's experiences, rather than perpetrator intent, and standardizing abuse frequency measures, timeframes and item stems for all psychological IPV items;
- Worked on operationalizing a threshold, above which an act or series of acts can be considered psychological IPV (compared to emotional abuse or acts that can be considered unkind or insulting).

In 2019, the WHO will do an analysis of the data on psychological/emotional IPV that has been extracted for the global, regional and country level estimates, as well as a review of the questions and the methods used to report. This will form the background for further discussions towards a consensus and recommendations.

**Intimate partner violence against older women:** A quantitative and qualitative systematic review of prevalence studies, measures/survey instruments on IPV against women over 50 was initiated in 2018 and is ongoing. An Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on measurement of violence against older women took place in April 2019. The meeting brought together experts to discuss methodological and measurement issues, and work towards identifying a core set of data for developing a standard module/set of questions that could potentially be added to existing surveys.

**Violence against women with disabilities:** A consultant was hired to do a systematic review to understand how best to capture VAW with disabilities. Work on this area was only initiated late in 2018. More consultations with disability groups and experts are needed and will be done in the life of the programme to develop a recommendation on how to best measure this.

**Output 2:** National, regional and global VAW prevalence data are presented in a consistent way by different agencies and are used for the monitoring and reporting of the SDG target 5.2 indicators.

**Prevalence database and estimates:** In 2018, WHO conducted a rigorous, updated systematic review of prevalence studies of IPV and NPSV that includes multiple internationally comparable population-based studies and surveys like the DHS, the WHO multi-country surveys as well as national studies conducted by NSOs. Studies were independently reviewed by 2 reviewers and were included if they met the following inclusion criteria: i) study sample was women aged 15 and above, ii) were nationally representative or population-based, and iii) measured the prevalence of psychological/emotional, physical and/or sexual IPV, NPSV or sexual violence by any perpetrator.

Data regarding study characteristics, population characteristics and information on type of violence and time period were extracted. Variables that focused on study quality which may have influenced reported prevalence, for example, whether or not interviewers received specialised training on asking questions on violence, and whether all ever-partnered or only currently-partnered women were asked about violence were also extracted.

All data extraction and data entry are being double-checked for accuracy and consistency. WHO is also comparing and validating the systematic review database with VAW databases held by other organizations and UN agencies, to ensure completeness and reliability of data extracted, and improve data consistency and comparability. The database currently includes data on physical and/or sexual IPV for 147 countries across all geographic regions for surveys conducted between 2000 and 2018. Data on physical and/or sexual violence experienced in the past 12 months are available and extracted for 139 countries.

Whilst recognizing the current limitations in the measurement of psychological IPV, the WHO database extracted comparable data on lifetime prevalence of emotional abuse experienced by ever-partnered women for 123 countries and data for emotional abuse experienced within the last 12 months for 104 countries. This will be used to look at the distribution of the data and determine what constitutes psychological violence.

Data on lifetime experience of NPSV for 92 countries, and past year NPSV prevalence data for 28 countries were entered on the database. In comparison to IPV, there is very limited data coverage of NPSV within available studies and surveys. The number of countries with data on NPSV on the WHO database continues to increase with the ongoing analyses of microdata from recently available DHS surveys.

The resulting database allows analysis of data availability and quality and will form the basis for estimates for global monitoring, including reporting for SDG target 5.2 indicators. The work on measurement and methodologies for VAW data under the JP contributes to increasing high-quality VAW data across all regions, thus better understanding of magnitude and extent of violence faced by women and girls. Better evidence and data can better inform formulation of policies and programmes to address VAW.

**Technical advisory group and estimation methods:** The Technical Advisory Group (TAG) is an independent group of experts, including some NSO representatives, who provide technical advice on the methodological approaches to estimation, selection of covariates and adjustment factors. The TAG supports the work of the interagency working group on VAW data (IAWG), which is composed of all the co-custodians for SDG target 5.2 indicators, i.e. UN Women, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), as well as the partner agency United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD). The TAG convened first in June 2017 and WHO will be organizing another TAG (and IAWG) meeting in 2019 to present and discuss the final



global, regional and country estimates on IPV and NPSV, and the methodological approach adopted. Prior to that, WHO had convened an expert group meeting in January 28-29 on measurement of VAW which brought together a larger group of people from where the TAG members were identified. This group identified some of the gaps and measurement challenges that need addressing. Activities of the JP further widens space for global technical experts to exchange and articulate thinking on advancing the work on ending VAW. The JP facilitates more fora for experts and specialists to guide the ending VAW field forward.

**Country/regional consultations:** Given that the prevalence estimates are expected to be available in 2019, there is a need to start to plan the process for country (or regional) consultations. The co-custodian agencies recognize the importance of the country consultation process, particularly in an area like VAW for which the calculation and use of estimates is relatively new. It is understood that countries need to be given the opportunity to understand what has been done with their data, the methodology for this and the actual estimates. The usual process includes circulating a letter advising the country about the estimation process, nomination of a focal point in the country, review of draft estimates and finalization of estimates with new data provided by countries. Discussions have been had as to the best way in which to do this and the possibility of having regional consultations rather than the usual written consultation on a country by country basis. The final decision on this will depend on time and budget. The JP sees these consultations as an important opportunity to build capacity and ownership of the estimation process. It is anticipated that this process, including country consultations will be completed by the end of 2019.

**Dissemination:** Work is currently ongoing on developing a template and in turn a database that is in a format that is more accessible to the public, policy-makers, national governments and international agencies. The adaptation of the current WHO database to a more user-friendly format is being undertaken simultaneous to the generation of the estimates and country consultation planning process.

**SDG target 5.2 indicators reporting:** In early 2018, UN Women convened all co-custodian agencies of SDG target 5.2.1 indicator<sup>4</sup> to agree on the database, metadata revisions and storyline for the UN Secretary General's report *Progress Towards the Sustainable Development Goals*. The storyline presented an analysis of the prevalence of physical and/or sexual IPV against girls 15-19 in the last 12 months from comparable data from 56 countries. At the end of 2018, UN Women again convened, coordinated and facilitated discussions among all co-custodians to agree on the database, metadata revision and storyline for the 2019 UN Secretary General's report. For this most recent report, comparable data from 106 countries on the prevalence of physical and/or sexual IPV against women and girls aged 15-49 in the last 12 months were extracted, and global and regional aggregates were also presented. Co-custodians have agreed that, while the WHO-led estimates are produced, data to be reported for SDGs progress should meet the following criteria: refer to women and girls aged 15-49; use standard comparable definitions of physical and sexual IPV and be nationally representative. These criteria, which have been considered to ensure comparability and produce regional and global aggregates without any adjustments or use of probabilistic methods, explain the differences with the database maintained by WHO, in terms of countries for which data have been extracted. It is expected that for the next round of reporting, the estimates calculated by WHO will be used to report on 5.2.1 indicator.

WHO has led discussions among co-custodians around SDG indicator 5.2.2<sup>5</sup> reporting. Given the challenges of this indicator, including low data availability for the last 12 months timeframe and low sensitivity of the indicator to measure change, a communication was prepared by co-custodians and submitted to UNSD in

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<sup>4</sup> Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age

<sup>5</sup> Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence



early 2019 informing of plans to propose a revision of the indicator in the [2020 Comprehensive Review of the global indicator framework to monitor progress on the SDGs](#). Discussions are ongoing to propose an alternative indicator.

**[Consistency between different UN agencies databases](#):** Apart from the database that WHO maintains for the estimates calculation, other UN agencies co-custodians of SDG target 5.2 indicators maintain their own databases for various purposes. UN Women, as per the mandate of the UN Secretary General, developed, maintains and annually updates the [Global Database on Violence against Women](#). This database compiles measures taken by UN Member States to address VAW, including legislative measures, those around prevention, support to survivors and research. For each UN Member State, a country profile with prevalence data on various forms of VAW, including IPV and NPSV, is presented. In 2018, as in previous years, UN Women cross-checked its data and data sources with those included in the SDGs database for 5.2.1 indicator on IPV, to ensure consistency of data presented. Data and sources are also cross-checked with the [database UNICEF maintains](#) on female genital mutilation (FGM) and child marriage, as well as with that [maintained by the UNFPA kNOwVAWdata initiative](#).

**[Guidelines on VAW administrative data](#):** Administrative data on VAW has been recognized as a critical source of information on VAW. However, there is no guidance available or compilation of documented good practices that can serve as a guide for countries embarking in strengthening their service records on VAW. Therefore, the work to initiate the development of these global guidelines took off in late 2018, including the identification of the Technical Advisory Board (TAB) members and its terms of reference (TOR). Work is progressing as planned. The first draft of a background paper that compiles information about the key discussions, debates and good practices on the collection, analysis and use of VAW administrative data within and across sectors (mainly health, police, justice and social services) has been shared with TAB members in May 2019. This paper will provide an evidence-based foundation and draft recommendations for discussion at an EGM in September to inform the development of the global guidelines.

This work is especially important for countries implementing the Spotlight Initiative, many of which will be working to strengthen their VAW administrative data systems as part of their plans under the data pillar/outcome. The background paper and eventual guidelines build on the principles and recommendations of the [Essential Services Package for Women and Girls Subject to Violence](#), jointly developed by UN Women, UNFPA, WHO, UNODC and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as part of the Global Joint Programme on Essential Services for Women and Girls Subject to Violence.

In 2018, key partnerships for this work, including with EIGE and the Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS) were explored and initiated. Representatives from both are currently part of the TAB.

### ***Delays in implementation, challenges, lessons learned and best practices***

The availability and reporting of data in a comparable and consistent way across surveys (especially in relation to differing age ranges, definitions of violence, definitions of partnerships, time frames and denominators when extrapolated to the population) have proved challenging in terms of extracting data and harmonizing data across studies both within the estimates database, but also across UN databases. The process of ironing out these inconsistencies has sometimes involved contacting and numerous follow-ups with NSOs, as well as an understanding that UN agencies maintain databases for different purposes and, therefore, different inclusion criteria may be required for each. However, transparency in data presented is essential, and special attention is being placed to ensure clarity and accurate descriptions of all published data.

Some delays in this outcome are also due to delays in recruitment processes. Most required staff positions and consultancies have been completed in early 2019 and the remaining ones will be completed soon.

The country consultation process is one of the challenges envisaged in finalizing and publishing the country, regional and global IPV and NPSV estimates. The levels of engagement may vary between countries and where there is a lack of agreement by Member States with the country prevalence estimates produced and/or the methodology adopted there could be further delays.

## **OUTCOME 2**

Capacity of national institutions to collect violence against women data in line with globally agreed standards is increased.

**Output 3:** A long-term training programme for implementing VAW prevalence surveys in alignment with agreed global standards is developed and implemented initially in at least 1 institution in 3 different regions

**Capacity building in Arab States:** In 2018, strategic partners already working on this area in the region were identified, the advantages and disadvantages of various strategy options were explored, and the way forward was defined. To achieve this, discussions were held by UN Women headquarters with its regional office for Arab States and with ESCWA Statistics Division. The promotion of regional and national ownership and sustainability are key guiding principles of work under this outcome.

On May 2018, ESCWA organized in collaboration with the Statistics Directorate of Morocco, together with UNSD and with the participation of WHO as co-facilitator, a regional workshop with the following objectives: strengthen national capacities to produce statistics on VAW and time use and enhance monitoring of related SDG indicators; adopt international methodologies for such measurement, and exchange and share good practices and lessons learned on gender statistics among NSOs and relevant government units. An update on the work of the IAWG, on VAW measurement methods, data availability for the region and challenges was provided. An update on the WHO survey questionnaire, which has been translated into Arabic, was also provided. The workshop, held in Tangier, Morocco was an excellent opportunity to update NSOs on the ongoing work under Outcome 1 described above, prepare the ground for the country consultations for the estimates, and identify areas for capacity building to strengthen the measurement of 5.2 indicators and VAW more broadly. More information about this workshop can be found [here](#).

Additionally, in September 2018 ESCWA, UN Women and the League of Arab States organized a regional workshop to support National Women Machineries in the region in their efforts in addressing VAW. The workshop, which was held in Beirut, Lebanon, aimed to highlight the role of international and regional mechanisms and bodies specializing in women's issues, and their impact on the development of policies, strategies, national legislations, and standard services to address VAW. Discussion topics included the importance of gender-sensitive national legislations, the need for quality support services for survivors as well as the advancement and recommendations for VAW prevention. UN Women organized together with ESCWA a session for sensitization and advocacy on the need for national data on the prevalence of VAW to inform policies and programmes and sharing globally agreed methodological as well as ethical and safety standards and recommendations. This session was a very good opportunity for UN Women to also present the work of the IAWG in the context of methodological developments and SDG 5.2.1 indicator reporting; better understand the needs and challenges in the region around VAW data collection and use, and share the plans and opportunities for capacity building under the umbrella of the JP. More information about this workshop can be found [here](#).

Whereas the primary audience of the workshop in Tangier, Morocco was NSOs, the primary audience of the one in Beirut, Lebanon were national machineries. It was important to reach out to and understand the needs and priorities of the statistical systems, ministries of gender and women affairs, as well as women's organizations in the region. This will help ensure the capacity building component of the JP is context specific and relevant; linkages with other strategies to end VAW in the region, i.e. responses for survivors, prevention, legislation, and position EVAW as a key priority in the region more broadly. These workshops were excellent opportunities also to strengthen the partnership with ESCWA, who is leading work around VAW data collection and use in the region. It should also be noted that while UN Women's and WHO's engagement in these workshops was considered strategic and foundational for the capacity building work in the region long-term (outcome 2 of this JP), it also contributed to output 5 under outcome 3 of the JP, i.e. *Increased advocacy and awareness raising at global, regional and country level among governments, NGOs, including women's organizations, academia, and other relevant stakeholders, of the relevance of VAW data and the available methods and standards*. These workshops were strategic to mobilize interest and commitment from all these national actors in producing high quality VAW statistics.

Discussions were also held between UN Women, WHO and ESCWA on the identification of institutions in the region (from academia, civil society, development or other sectors) that would meet the criteria to become the regional hub for capacity building and technical assistance for VAW prevalence surveys in the region. The sense is that the region may have institutions well suited to engage in this work, although there may be need to engage a consortium instead. There is a perception that institutions with good statistical capacity may not have the required knowledge and expertise on gender equality and the understanding of the methodological as well as ethical and safety principles and requirements for VAW prevalence surveys. On the other hand, institutions working on gender issues and on the elimination of VAW may not have the required statistical and research expertise for this capacity building work. It is deemed key to ensure strong partnerships between women's machineries and the statistical community are established.

The meetings and discussions above led to specific agreements in 2019, including the signing of a UN Agency to UN Agency Contribution Agreement between ESCWA and UN Women to finalize a VAW data toolkit in Arabic. This toolkit includes the questionnaire (adapted regionally from the WHO questionnaire), question by question guide and a field manual. The agreement will also support a meeting to be jointly organized in the last quarter of the year with NSOs and women machineries in the region to present this toolkit; advocate for the need for data collection on VAW prevalence in line with globally agreed standards and principles; invite and learn from institutions in the region who may potentially be selected for the capacity building work, and firm plans for the capacity building work going forward.

It is expected that the call for proposals for this regional institution (or consortium of institutions) will be launched before the end of 2019.

In 2018, UNFPA Asia Pacific Regional Office completed and piloted the 4-week kNowVAWdata training curriculum in partnership with the University of Melbourne and ANROWS (Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety). UN Women and WHO, as members of the TAG reviewed and contributed to the curriculum. The implementation of the capacity building plans in both the Arab States and Africa regions will build on the curriculum, process and lessons learned from the kNowVAWdata initiative. Conversations are currently ongoing on how to establish a formal collaboration with UNFPA on this regard. More details about this UNFPA training course can be found [here](#).

**Capacity building in Africa:** There are no activities or progress to report in 2018. Work in Africa was initially planned to commence later in the life of the programme, i.e. 2020. However, and as per advice from the SC, work is being accelerated in 2019. A capacity building workshop is planned for July 2019 with

countries in the East and Southern Africa region where commitments to implement a VAW prevalence survey have been made (as part of UN Women's Women Count programme and linked also to Spotlight Initiative). This meeting also plans to engage relevant regional institutions, including the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and other UN agencies. The launching of a request for proposals for institutions to partner with for capacity building in the region is also expected to happen before the end of 2019.

Linkages with Women Count Programme have been ensured in 2018 and onwards in 2019, particularly in supporting pathfinder countries in their planning and implementation of VAW prevalence surveys. UN Women provided advice to Morocco as they planned their VAW prevalence survey in 2018, particularly around the inclusion of costing questions and interviewing men. Data collection has commenced in 2019. UN Women also provided advice and technical assistance to the Albania Institute of Statistics (INSTAT) in the planning (consultant recruitment, questionnaire design), implementation and reporting (report review) of their [National Population Survey: Violence against Women and Girls in Albania](#). The survey was implemented in 2018 and the report launched in May 2019. UN Women, as explained later in this report, also supported the National Statistics Office of Georgia (GEOSTAT) and women's machineries in the use of data from the prevalence survey implemented by GEOSTAT in 2017. Linkages are also currently being sought with other pathfinder countries planning the implementation of VAW prevalence surveys, such as Uganda (which is also a Spotlight Initiative country), Tanzania and Kenya.

<p><b>Output 4:</b> A network of experts from different disciplines and regions is established to support the implementation of VAW prevalence surveys</p>
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There are no activities to report against this output in 2018, as this will be the result of the capacity building planned for 2020. However, the support UN Women and WHO are providing in the implementation of surveys at the national level through the country offices is helping identify colleagues with good capacities that can provide assistance to surveys in other countries.

### ***Delays in implementation, challenges, lessons learned and best practices***

The work under this outcome requires the establishment of strategic partnerships and building on ongoing efforts and initiatives rather than creating new ones. It also requires advocating for the need for reliable and up to date comparable data on the prevalence of VAW that are collected in line with globally agreed methodological and ethical standards. This has been the focus of the work in 2018. It is expected that this will lead to the establishment of strong and productive partnerships for this important work of the JP in the coming years, fostering regional and national capacities, ownership and sustainability.

It is envisioned that finding an institution in both regions, Arab States and Africa (initially East and Southern Africa), with the required capacities as well as the institutional funding and commitment to implement and carry on this work beyond the life of the programme may be challenging. As mentioned above, in order to solve this challenge, the possibility of engaging a consortium of institutions will be considered.

## **OUTCOME 3**

National data on VAW are collected, made accessible and used for advocacy, policy and programming to end violence against women and girls.

<p><b>Output 5:</b> Increased advocacy and awareness raising at global, regional and country level among governments, NGOs, including women's organizations, academia, and other relevant stakeholders, of the relevance of VAW data and the available methods and standards</p>
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## **Better understanding of the need for and relevance of VAW statistics by the National Women Machineries in the Arab Region**

As mentioned previously, UN Women together with ESCWA and the League of Arab States organized a regional workshop to support National Women Machineries in the region in their efforts in addressing VAW. The inclusion of a dedicated session on the need and relevance of VAW data collected in line with methodological, ethical and safety standards to develop and strengthen policies and programmes was a good platform to better understand challenges around this area in the region and share measures to be put in place to address them. It was evident that countries have strong interest in better understanding the economic costs of VAW and including questions on this in national prevalence surveys. Other issues that were raised were related to challenges around interviewing women alone (without the husband's permission), interviewing non-married women and the sensitivities related to the inclusion of questions on sexual violence. Examples of how these challenges have been addressed in the implementation of surveys in the region and beyond the region were shared. This not only served as an advocacy platform to raise awareness about the relevance of collecting and using data on the prevalence of VAW, but it will be instrumental in the definition and design of the capacity building work in the region to be implemented under Outcome 2. More information about this meeting can be found [here](#).

## **A statistical overview of VAW in the UN World Data Forum**

UN Women participated in the 2018 UN World Data Forum in Dubai, United Arab Emirates in October, on a session on “*Violence against women: a statistical overview*”, moderated by UNSD and with panelists from UNFPA Asia Pacific Regional Office, the Italian National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT) and the Mexican National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI). UN Women presented the challenges around the collection of data on VAW prevalence and the production of regional and global aggregates due to comparability issues. Global level efforts to address these challenges and advance this field were presented, including work by the IAWG and the plans under the JP. Regional and country level efforts and developments were presented by the other session panelists.

## **VAW data as a key priority of OSCE and EIGE**

UN Women participated in a session on the *Relevance of data collection on violence against women as key instrument for creating effective policies* in the Regional Meeting *Collection of data on violence against women: Where do we stand?*, jointly organized by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and EIGE in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina in September 2018. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss current regional practices on administrative data collection under the framework of Istanbul Convention, exchange views and share knowledge. This session was an opportunity to present issues around SDGs reporting, particularly on VAW indicators, clarify the different types of data produced by administrative records and prevalence surveys, share plans under the JP, particularly around administrative data, and more broadly share global level discussions and developments around VAW data collection and use. For more information about the meeting, see [here](#).

These events not only contributed to advocacy efforts, but also to strengthen partnerships and collaboration with key global, regional and national actors working on VAW data.



**Output 6:** National VAW data are collected, disseminated and used for advocacy, policy and programming to end violence against women and girls

### **VAW data influencing legislation reform in Georgia**

UN Women Georgia country office in partnership with GEOSTAT and the European Union conducted a [national prevalence study on VAW in Georgia](#) in 2017. Among other issues, for the first time in the country's history the study provided data on prevalence of sexual harassment in public spaces. UN Women Georgia country office, with the support of this JP, ensured wide dissemination of the findings of this study, with special emphasis on sexual harassment findings, to advocate for the development and adoption of relevant legislation. As a result, in close partnership with the Gender Equality Council of the Parliament of Georgia and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) ProLog project, draft legislative amendments regulating sexual harassment were prepared and widely consulted with different stakeholders from private sector, civil society as well as government. The national VAW study findings greatly informed the drafting and advocacy process around this bill. As a result, in the spring of 2019 the parliament of Georgia adopted the bill introducing the definition of sexual harassment and its regulation in the public space as well as workplace environments.

Five activities were carried out with the support of this JP: [High level meeting to advocate for the sexual harassment bill](#); [Workshop on sexual harassment for the Members of Parliament](#); [Roundtable discussion with private companies on sexual harassment and presentation of the national VAW study findings](#) (with a focus on sexual harassment); [Printing thematic information, education, communication and audio-video materials, popularizing sexual harassment related findings of the national VAW study](#), and production of a knowledge product on the *Implementation of the national study on violence against women: Experience and lessons learned from Georgia* (under finalization).

### **VAW data impacting the operationalization of the National Action Plan in Jamaica**

Jamaica published in 2017 the results of the [2016 Women's Health Survey](#), a national prevalence survey on VAW, the first study of its kind in the country and in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). The survey was implemented by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN) with the support of UN Women and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). In an effort to ensure that the information is widely disseminated and used by key stakeholder groups, UN Women hosted a series of user-producer dialogues with key institutional actors, non-government organisations, and members of one community-based organisation. These dialogues, which took place over a series of five workshops delivered in September and October 2018, are expected to support the implementation of the National Strategic Action Plan against Gender Based Violence 2017-2027, focusing on the priority areas of prevention, protection, and investigation, prosecution and enforcement. Specific recommendations that came out from these user-producer dialogues include: targeting all-boys schools (to ensure boys understand from an early age the concept of sex and gender, gender discrimination and how to identify and address toxic masculinities); carefully monitor and address school drop-out and fertility rates among girls and design and upscale programmes to reduce both, based on the finding that IPV prevalence is higher in women who began living with a man before they were 18; begin to devise a comprehensive approach for faith-based organizations to speak about IPV and offer services to women, including those within their congregations, who experience IPV, and develop a sustained public education campaign geared at providing women with information on where to seek help, and the services that are available to them.

### ***Delays in implementation, challenges, lessons learned and best practices***

Results presented above from Georgia, and the documentation accompanying this process (published and unpublished) will be used as a case study for data use for action and the organization of data users/data

producers dialogues in other countries, and as part of the training curriculum and capacity building efforts of the programme.

## **COORDINATION OF THE PROGRAMME**

The recruitment by UN Women of the Programme Specialist, VAW Data and Research for the management and coordination of the JP was completed before the end of 2018, and the staff member joined the Ending Violence against Women Section in February 2019. While this position was under recruitment, a consultant was hired in June 2018 to support the management and coordination of the programme, as well as to support the various activities under the three outcomes described above.

The first virtual SC meeting of the JP took place in June 2018, when the SC TOR as well as the 5-year workplan and budget allocations to both PUNOs, i.e. UN Women and WHO for the three 2018 disbursements were approved. The annual narrative report template was also prepared and the 2019 annual work plan drafted. Calls were organized by UN Women with WHO regularly to agree on the various JP requirements, i.e. annual work plans, budget allocations, annual report template; to update each other on ongoing work by both agencies and discuss joint work and to solve any issues and challenges arising.

The coordination and working methods established in 2018, both between the PUNOs and with the donor, seem to be working well and will continue in 2019 and during the life of the programme. Quarterly updates with the Department for International Development (DFID) of The United Kingdom have been agreed for 2019.

## **QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT**

The JP has contributed to strengthening UN inter-agency coordination and collaboration, beyond the collaboration and joint work of both PUNOs. This is deemed as a very positive result, even though not explicitly outlined as a primary envisioned result of the programme. The various meetings (in person and virtual) around SDGs reporting, discussions around the estimation methods and the regional/country consultation process, as well as the opportunities to share and input in common areas of work, including that on administrative data and capacity building, has resulted in stronger and more solid coordination among UN agencies in this area of work. Even though a few areas of our collaboration still need to be more clearly defined, i.e. joint work with UNFPA on capacity strengthening, building on the kNOwVAWdata programme, we have come a long way from where we started when the inter-agency discussions for this programme commenced.

The partnerships established with EIGE, the GBVIMS, ESCWA and others as described above in the context of the JP help set up an important foundation for the successful implementation of the programme. The partnership established by UN Women also with OSCE in the context of their [Survey on the Well-being and Safety of Women in South East Europe and Southern Europe](#) is also worth mentioning, particularly to contribute to the production and use of data on VAW according to methodological, ethical and safety standards in a relevant region that is not part of the scope of the JP. All these partnerships have led to exciting collaborations in 2019, as previously described.

In year 2018 results have been mainly focused on establishing partnerships, within and outside the UN family, and establishing the foundation for delivering results in the coming years.



### III. INDICATOR BASED PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

A revised version of the results framework as of April 2019, following the suggestion from the SC to have clearer yearly milestones for output level indicators is presented here. Progress in 2018 towards the 2022 impact and outcome targets has already been described in the previous narrative sections of the report. Descriptive qualitative information to report progress towards those targets seems more appropriate than quantitative one. Regarding progress on outputs, for some of them not measurable results are expected this year and, like for impact and outcome level indicators, the narrative qualitative information included in the text is more appropriate. Nevertheless, when relevant information is available, for all level indicators, data is provided under the relevant columns in the below table.

UN Women and WHO Joint Programme: Strengthening methodologies and measurement and building national capacities for violence against women data								
Indicators	B (2017)	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Means of verification	2018 result
<b>Programme Goal: Quality, comparable data on different forms of violence against women are available and collected over time to address national data gaps and meet policy and reporting commitments under the SDGs, CEDAW and the Beijing Platform for Action.</b>								
1. Number of countries with quality comparable data on intimate partner violence included in the SDGs database for target 5.2.1 indicator	87 (2005-2016)					150	SDG Indicators Global Database <a href="https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/">https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/</a>	106 <sup>6</sup> (2005-2017)

<sup>6</sup> This is the number of countries with data that was submitted by SDG indicator 5.2.1 co-custodian agencies to UNSD in early 2019 for the UN Secretary General's report *Progress towards the SDGs*.

UN Women and WHO Joint Programme: Strengthening methodologies and measurement and building national capacities for violence against women data								
Indicators	B (2017)	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Means of verification	2018 result
2. Number of countries with quality comparable data on non-partner sexual violence included in the SDGs database for target 5.2.2 indicator	0 <sup>7</sup>					65	SDG Indicators Global Database <a href="https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/">https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/</a>  WHO database (for the IAEG-VAWS)	Please see footnote 7 below.
3. Number of countries that have conducted at least two surveys on the prevalence of violence against women	47 (2000-2017)					52 (2000-2021)	WHO database (for the IAEG-VAWS)	-
<b>Outcomes 1: Measurement and methodologies for VAW data collection and use are strengthened and disseminated, including for national, regional and global monitoring and reporting requirements for SDG target 5.2 indicators.</b>								
1.1. Number of national VAW prevalence surveys (implemented or planned) that include and report on the standard measure of psychological violence that has been disseminated with the support of this joint programme	0					15	WHO database (for the IAEG-VAWS)	-
1.2. Number of national VAW prevalence	0					4		-

<sup>7</sup> The WHO Global Database for the 2013 estimates has data on this indicator (for the lifetime period) for 56 countries. A decision was taken by the co-custodian agencies in 2017 not to report on this indicator due to low country coverage and further work needed. Moreover, co-custodians will propose an alternative SDG indicator on non-partner sexual violence in the 2020 Comprehensive Review of the global indicator framework to monitor progress on the SDGs.

UN Women and WHO Joint Programme: Strengthening methodologies and measurement and building national capacities for violence against women data								
Indicators	B (2017)	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Means of verification	2018 result
surveys (implemented or planned) that include the set of questions on violence against older women that has been developed with the support of this joint programme								
1.3. A recommendation is made about how to best measure violence against women with disabilities	No					Yes	Desk review and joint programme annual reports	-
1.4. Number of countries where the VAW administrative data global guidelines have been piloted	0					5	Desk review and joint programme annual reports	-
<b>Output 1: Selected methods and standards for data collection and analysis are reviewed or developed, including for measurement of psychological violence, violence against older women, violence and disability status, and disseminated to ensure improved coherence and harmonization to produce prevalence data on VAW, including for the SDGs global monitoring indicators [outcome 1].</b>								
1.1.1. The updated WHO Multi-Country Study questionnaire and implementation tools are publicly available and accessible	No	-	Yes	-	-	-	WHO Website	-
1.1.2. A standard measure and recommendations for	No	-	-	Yes	-	-	WHO Website	-

UN Women and WHO Joint Programme: Strengthening methodologies and measurement and building national capacities for violence against women data								
Indicators	B (2017)	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Means of verification	2018 result
measuring and reporting of psychological violence is developed and disseminated for use in VAW prevalence surveys								
1.1.3. A set of questions on violence against older women is developed and disseminated for use in VAW prevalence surveys	No	-	Yes	-	-	-	WHO Website	-
1.1.4. Recommendations for the measurement of disability in VAW prevalence surveys are developed and disseminated	No	-	-	Yes	-	-	WHO Website	-
1.1.5. Global guidelines for the collection, storage, analysis and sharing of VAW administrative data are developed and disseminated	No	-	-	-	Yes	-	UN Women Website Joint Programme annual reports	-
<b>Output 2: National, regional and global VAW prevalence data are presented in a consistent way by different agencies and are used for the monitoring and reporting of the SDG target 5.2 indicators [outcome 1].</b>								
1.2.1. Global, regional	No	-	Yes	-	-	Yes	WHO Website	-

UN Women and WHO Joint Programme: Strengthening methodologies and measurement and building national capacities for violence against women data								
Indicators	B (2017)	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Means of verification	2018 result
and country estimates for SDG target 5.2 indicators are produced and disseminated at least twice, as a result of consultation with global experts and country stakeholders							Joint Programme annual reports	
1.2.2. Databases from different agencies present VAW prevalence data in a consistent and harmonized manner, and differences (when existing and justified) are clearly explained	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Web-based data visualization tool launched Desk review Joint programme annual reports	Yes
<b>Outcome 2: Capacity of national institutions to collect violence against women data in line with globally agreed standards is increased.</b>								
2.1. Number of data producers and users with strengthened capacity to implement, analyse and use data from VAW prevalence surveys as a result of this joint programme	0					60	Joint programme annual reports	-
2.2. Number of national VAW prevalence surveys conducted under the technical leadership of	0					8	Joint programme annual reports	-

UN Women and WHO Joint Programme: Strengthening methodologies and measurement and building national capacities for violence against women data								
Indicators	B (2017)	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Means of verification	2018 result
professionals trained with the support of this joint programme								
<b>Output 3: A long-term training programme for implementing VAW prevalence surveys in alignment with agreed global standards is developed and implemented initially in at least 1 institution in 3 different regions (total of 3 institutions) [outcome 2].</b>								
2.1.1. Number of regional institutions supported by the joint programme that develop/adapt a training curriculum for implementation of VAW prevalence surveys and implement at least one training	0	-	-	1 (Arab States)	1 (Africa)		Joint programme annual reports	-
<b>Output 4: A network of experts from different disciplines and regions is established to support the implementation of VAW prevalence surveys [outcome 2].</b>								
2.2.1. Number of professionals whose capacity and expertise on VAW prevalence surveys implementation has been strengthened as a result of this joint programme, that participate in South-South collaboration	0	-	-	2	2	2	Joint Programme Annual reports	-
<b>Outcome 3: National data on VAW are collected, made accessible and used for advocacy, policy and programming to end violence against women and girls</b>								
3.1. Number of national	0					8	Joint programme annual reports	-

UN Women and WHO Joint Programme: Strengthening methodologies and measurement and building national capacities for violence against women data								
Indicators	B (2017)	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Means of verification	2018 result
or sub-national policies or programmes to end violence against women developed/strengthened as a result of VAW national prevalence surveys implemented with the support of this joint programme								
<b>Output 5: Increased advocacy and awareness raising at global, regional and country level among governments, NGOs, including women's organizations, academia and other relevant stakeholders, of the relevance of VAW data and the available methods and standards [outcome 3].</b>								
3.1.1. Number of global, regional and national discussion panels and events organized with the support of this joint programme to advocate for the production of national statistics on VAW in alignment with global methodological and ethical standards	0	2	2	2	2	2	Joint Programme annual reports	2 <sup>8</sup>
<b>Output 6: National VAW data are collected, disseminated and used for advocacy, policy and programming to end violence against women and girls [outcome 3].</b>								
3.2.1. Number of countries that receive	0	2	2	2	2	2	Joint Programme documents	2 <sup>9</sup>

<sup>8</sup> (1) Regional Workshop on Combating Violence Against Women in the Arab Region, Session "Data collection and use on violence against women" and (2) UN World Data Forum, Session "Violence against women: a statistical overview".

<sup>9</sup> Morocco and Albania.



UN Women and WHO Joint Programme: Strengthening methodologies and measurement and building national capacities for violence against women data								
Indicators	B (2017)	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Means of verification	2018 result
joint technical support/quality assurance by the PUNOs of this joint programme (i.e. UN Women and WHO) for implementing VAW prevalence surveys								
3.2.2. Number of countries supported by the joint programme to implement VAW prevalence surveys that organize results dissemination activities that lead to concrete policy and programming action points	0	2	2	2	2	2	Joint Programme documents	2 <sup>10</sup>
3.2.3. Lessons learned from the capacity building training implementation and from the implementation of surveys supported by the joint programme are documented and shared	No	-	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Joint Programme annual reports	-

<sup>10</sup> Georgia and Jamaica.

#### **IV. RISKS AND VALUE FOR MONEY**

As mentioned previously, the JP is building on and aligning its work with existing initiatives, e.g. UN Women Women Count programme, Spotlight Initiative, UN Global Joint Programme on Essential Services for Women and Girls Subject to Violence and UNFPA kNowVAWdata initiative and establishing partnerships, e.g. with ESCWA and EIGE to ensure activities deliver the best outcomes capitalizing and maximizing given resources. This will also greatly contribute to sustainability of the results obtained beyond the life of the JP. Similarly, the JP has used existing platforms and events, e.g. meeting organized by UNSD and ESCWA on VAW and time use statistics; the meeting organized by ESCWA, UN Women and the League of Arab States on strategies to accelerate the elimination of VAW or the UN Word Data Forum to strategically advance work of this JP ensuring efficient use of the programme funds.

As per the request of the JP SC during its April 2019 meeting, a risk register was developed and shared with DFID to ensure measures to mitigate potential risks are thought through and envisioned from the onset of the programme, in case these need to be put in place. The PUNOs of this JP look forward to discussing with DFID the specifics of this risk register and welcome any suggestions for improvement. Programmatic risks include lack of interest and capacities from existing regional institutions to develop and implement the training to conduct VAW prevalence surveys, and lack of financial commitment to implement such trainings beyond the life of this JP; lack of interest from national stakeholders to the increase and improvement of the availability and use of national data on VAW in alignment with globally agreed methodological and ethical standards, and inability to effectively generate, systematize and disseminate knowledge/lessons learned arising from the implementation of the JP resulting in low impact towards improving capacity for VAW data, among others. Mitigation strategies are presented in the abovementioned risk register and some of these have also been addressed earlier in this report.

#### **V. PROGRAMMATIC REVISIONS**

As mentioned above, the results framework was revised in April 2019 following the second SC meeting. Although this revision was not done in 2018, the period of this report, the JP PUNOs considered relevant to ensure this annual report included this revised version of the results framework.

The work on the development of guidelines on VAW administrative data was also an area that was added to the workplan ad hoc after the programme document and the contribution arrangement were signed. This was identified as a significant gap for which there is no guidance available, neither a compilation of documented good practices that can serve as a guide for countries embarking in strengthening their service records and administrative data systems on VAW. These guidelines are also very timely and will be very relevant for the work on data by selected countries for the Spotlight Initiative.

Furthermore, work around SDG indicator 5.2.2 on NPSV was not initially envisioned to be part of the programme. Although no activities on this have been implemented in 2018, a decision was taken that year by all co-custodian agencies to propose a revision of the indicator in the upcoming review in 2020. Therefore, some work has been planned for 2019 on this regard to be led by WHO.

Finally, as per the request of DFID, an amendment was done to the contribution arrangement to review the 2018 payment schedule, and to delay the agreed June disbursement to September.

## **VI. RESOURCES**

The JP implementation started in June 2018, when the funds were transferred from the Administrative Agent of the JP to both PUNOs. Moreover, the budget included for year 1 in the 5-year work plan referred to a 12-month period. The delay in the signature of the contribution arrangement on the one hand, and in the funds disbursement on the other hand (as the Administrative Agent needs the SC approval to make this disbursement effective) led to the delay in the start of implementation of activities. It should be pointed out that the level of expenses and commitments in the first quarter of 2019 has exceeded the expenses in 2018, so both PUNOs are confident that the progress in implementation of activities as well as expenses and commitments will be on track and according to plans in 2019.

It should also be noted that the funds disbursed in 2018 and the funds disbursement schedule in the contribution arrangement overall are not aligned with the 2018 and 5-year budget for the JP, respectively. This issue has been discussed between both PUNOs and DFID in 2019 and a revised schedule of payments will be agreed in mid-2019.

## **VII. LESSONS LEARNED**

The uncertainty about the materialization of the contribution arrangement for this JP, as well as about its timing, led to the delay in the start of some of the activities. Processes such as staff recruitment or the start of conversations with partners for joint planning were put on hold until this agreement became effective. This led to a delay in the implementation of certain activities, which could have been prevented if these processes had been started earlier. Going forward, and in relation to the funds disbursement schedule, PUNOs will be less conservative and move forward with agreed plans, trusting the payments will be effective as agreed.

Regular updates and consultation with the donor, i.e. DFID on various aspects of the programme have been very helpful and suggestions and recommendations have contributed to more strategic actions. These communications were done somewhat ad hoc during 2018 but have been systematized in 2019.

The partnerships and strengthening of UN collaboration and communication, as described earlier, have been the result of the start of this JP. PUNOs expect for this to be further strengthened and scaled up going forward, which will surely be a very positive contributing factor to the success of this JP.