

# GENERATION EQUALITY ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT 2023

## ACTION COALITION ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

# FOREWORD

Violence against women and girls continues to be the most pervasive violation of human rights worldwide. As we reach the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, 1 in 3 women globally are still subjected to physical or sexual violence at least once in their lifetime.

Global emergencies, crises and conflict are exacerbating these already alarming figures and digitalization has led to the surge of new patterns of violence, with laws and policies failing to keep pace with technological developments. The rise in anti-rights movements and the shrinking space for civil society organizations (CSOs) are also undermining our global efforts to prevent gender-based violence.

In this context, Generation Equality is a beacon of hope. With its bold, whole-of-society approach to disrupt entrenched inequalities, harness new energy, unlock political will and intensify ambition, collaboration, investment and accountability, Generation Equality has brought together the resources and know-how of stakeholders from all parts of society through intergenerational and multi-stakeholder alliances. The results have been game changing.

As this report shows, in the two years since the Generation Equality Forums in Mexico City and Paris, Commitment Makers have pledged at least \$5.1 billion to the Action Coalition on Gender-Based Violence. This has been translated into concrete action, with more than 389 new policies and 600 programmes initiated or implemented and some 92 per cent of commitments reported to be on track. The Action Coalition on Gender-Based Violence is a powerful catalyst allowing diverse stakeholders to connect, forge new partnerships, exchange experiences and good practices, and speak with one voice to advance a collective vision. Last year, the Compact on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action (WPS-HA) has gained remarkable traction, welcoming over 205 Signatories. Together they have invested in 1,017 specific actions, over an estimated \$958 million, to address challenges faced by approximately 22.1 million women and girls in conflict and crisis contexts.

At the same time, this report shows that there is still a long journey ahead. Investments in CSOs and women's rights organizations remain unacceptably low. And despite growing evidence that violence can be prevented, we are yet to see investments commensurate with the scale of the problem.

Despite these ongoing challenges, Generation Equality has proven itself as a key pathway to progress. Preventing and eliminating violence against women and girls is not only a moral imperative but an enabler for achieving gender equality and attaining all of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). At this midpoint moment of Generation Equality, I call upon all sectors to redouble their efforts and to invest to prevent violence against women and girls once and for all.



## Sima Bahous

### UN Women Executive Director

#### UN WOMEN

UN Women is the UN organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women and girls, UN Women was established to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide. UN Women supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to implement these standards. It stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on five priority areas: increasing women's leadership and participation; ending violence against women; engaging women in all aspects of peace and security processes; enhancing women's economic empowerment; and making gender equality central to national development planning and budgeting. UN Women also coordinates and promotes the UN system's work on advancing gender equality.

#### GENERATION EQUALITY

Generation Equality is a multistakeholder initiative convened by UN Women in partnership with civil society, youth, adolescent girls, governments, the private sector and philanthropists to catalyse partners, increase investments, drive results and accelerate the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Sustainable Development Goals. Generation Equality is anchored in the UN Decade of Action. It emphasizes the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 5 on gender equality and the delivery of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to benefit women and girls in all their diversity.

View the report at: <https://commitments.generationequality.org/accountability-report>

The views expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of UN Women, the United Nations or any of its affiliated organizations. For a list of any errors or omissions found after printing, please visit our website.

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# KEY FINDINGS

Generation Equality gender-based violence commitments amount to at least **\$5.1 billion**, of which almost **11% has been secured**, and half of the secured amount has been spent to date.

Of the financial commitments reported, **\$171 million has been invested in civil society, \$67 million** in adolescent girls and **(\$1 million)** in youth-led organizations – which collectively represent **43%** of the total financial commitments secured.

**85%** of all gender-based violence reported commitments have resulted in new partnerships or strengthened existing ones and **90%** support groups or communities considered marginalized in their context.

Commitment Makers report having initiated or implemented **389 policies** and **over 600 programmes** – **46% and 26%** of the total committed by all Action Coalitions together.

According to survey respondents, **78%** of gender-based violence commitments reflect the principle of intersectionality, **69%** explicitly challenge or interrogate power dynamics and **53%** focus on building feminist leadership. However, these percentages are all below the average of all Action Coalition commitments.

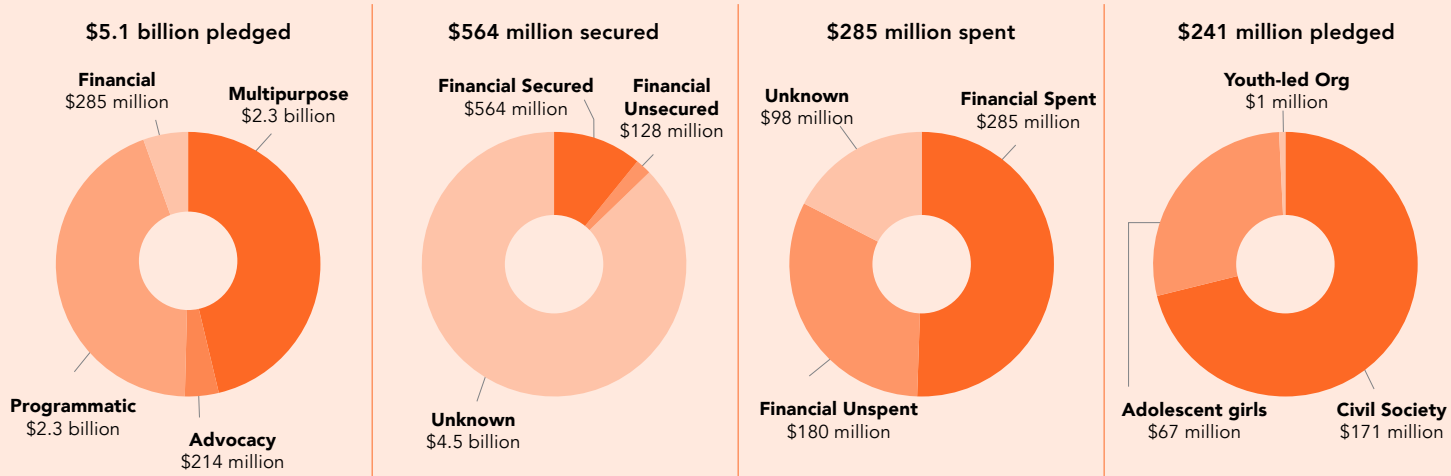
Data is available for only **10 out of 25** Action Coalition on Gender-Based Violence Blueprint indicators, underscoring the need for intensified global efforts to enhance the quality and accessibility of comprehensive data on GBV.

Only **14%** of women and girls live in areas with strong legal frameworks for combatting Gender-Based Violence.

**81%** of countries have national multisectoral action plans to address Gender-Based Violence, while **78%** have budgetary commitments for related legislation.

Only about **5%** of the total OECD DAC funding dedicated to ending gender-based violence is being allocated to CSOs in developing countries.

## BREAKDOWN OF FINANCIAL DATA REPORTED



# INTRODUCTION

Launched in 2021 in Mexico City and Paris, Generation Equality signifies a powerful commitment to hasten the pace of progress towards achieving gender equality and empowering women. It does so through tangible and measurable actions, directly contributing to the 2030 Agenda. Consisting of six Action Coalitions and the Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action Compact, these coalitions are dynamic, multi-stakeholder alliances propelling global mobilization. They are sparking conversations across generations, fostering greater

gender-responsive investments, and delivering concrete and transformative outcomes for women and girls. With a remarkable presence in 126 countries, the Action Coalitions have amassed over 2,800 commitments, including an impressive \$40 billion in financial support announced at the Paris Forum.

Among the six Action Coalitions, the Action Coalition on gender-based violence is dedicated to accelerating global efforts to eliminate violence against women and girls (VAWG) by 2026. It has united stakeholders from diverse sectors, spurring concrete financial, programmatic and policy commitments that range from expanding survivor support and prevention services to ensuring adequate resourcing for women's rights organizations and fostering grassroots solutions.

The Compact on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action (WPS-HA) includes specific actions which seek to mitigate the challenges, risks and obstacles faced by women and girls in humanitarian crises and conflict settings. The Compact Framework brings attention to the pivotal role of women human rights defenders and the urgent need for international cooperation to safeguard their rights.

Gender-based violence remains one of the most pervasive violations of human rights worldwide, its prevalence exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and compounded by the intersecting crises of climate change, global conflict and economic instability.

This challenging landscape has triggered a global backlash against women's rights. In response, partners and leaders within Generation Equality are steadfastly combating this regressive trend through the Action Coalition on Gender-Based Violence, backed by more than 800 commitments across all regions of the world.

## ALMOST 1 IN 3 WOMEN (30%) AGED 15+

has been subjected to intimate partner violence, non-partner sexual violence or both at least once in their lifetime.<sup>1</sup>



## ALMOST 1 IN 4 ADOLESCENT GIRLS (24%) AGED 15-19

has experienced physical and/or sexual violence from an intimate partner or husband.<sup>2</sup>

## 1 IN 5

young women (19%) is **married before age 18.**

And **4.8%** of girls are married before age 15.<sup>3</sup>



There has been a **50%** spike in the number of women and girls living in conflict-affected settings since 2017, with a **2.4-TIMES** higher rate of intimate partner violence compared to stable regions.<sup>4</sup>

1 World Health Organization. 2021. *Violence against women prevalence estimates, 2018*. <https://www.who.int/publications-detail-redirect/9789240022256>  
 2 Ibid.  
 3 UNICEF. 2023. "Child marriage." Available at: <https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-protection/child-marriage/>  
 4 UN Women. 2023. *Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The Gender Snapshot 2023*.

At the midpoint of the Generation Equality initiative, this report summarizes the [2023 Generation Equality Accountability Report's](#) findings on the Action Coalition on Gender-Based Violence progress on specific commitments and blueprint targets and indicators thus far, with the hope of accelerating the eradication of gender-based violence globally.

For further information on the Compact framework, please see the [WPS-HA Compact Accountability Report 2022](#).

### **The Action Coalition on Gender-Based Violence vision for success by 2026**

By 2026, progress towards eliminating gender-based violence against women and girls (VAWG) in all their diversity is rapidly accelerated through scaled-up survivor-centred global action. Priority actions include creating enabling policy, legal and resource environments; scaling up evidence-driven prevention programming; expanding comprehensive, accessible and quality services for survivors; and enabling and empowering autonomous girl and women's rights organizations to exercise their expertise.

### **Why does gender-based violence matter?**

Women and girls may experience multiple and intersecting forms of gender-based violence, including emotional, economic and sexual violence, sexual harassment, harmful practices such as female genital mutilation, child early and forced marriage and sexual exploitation linked to human trafficking. Women and girls experience violence in private and public spaces, as well as online. Women and girls in conflict, crisis and humanitarian contexts are disproportionately vulnerable, as are women facing intersecting forms of discrimination, exclusion, and oppression. Meanwhile, women human rights defenders, feminist activists, peacebuilders as well as women who participate in politics are often directly targeted.

Gender-based violence can negatively affect women's physical, mental, sexual and reproductive health, increasing the risk of injuries, depression, anxiety disorders, unplanned pregnancies, HIV, sexually transmitted infections and many other health problems, that can last well after the violence has ended. The Compact has identified that given existent structural gender inequalities, women and girls in conflict and crisis situations are at increased risk of human rights violations.

Gender-based violence has both immediate and life-long negative outcomes. Gender-based violence can restrict women and girls' access to education, reduce earnings, and dissuade them from participating in political and public life. Many women experiencing domestic violence may be absent from work, sometimes for extended periods of time. Gender-based violence also has a significant economic cost for victim/survivors, states, societies and economies. In 2021, gender-based violence across the European Union was estimated to cost around EUR 366 billion a year. Violence against women makes up 79 per cent of this cost, amounting to EUR 289 billion.<sup>5</sup>

### **What needs to change?**

Gender-based violence is deeply rooted in social and gendered norms, attitudes and beliefs that impact interpersonal relationships, family, community and institutions. The adoption of gender-equitable norms, attitudes and belief systems by both individuals and institutions through evidence-driven prevention strategies at scale is therefore key to ensuring the transformative shifts needed to end all forms of gender-based violence. The current climate of patriarchal backlash against women's rights, limited political will and regressive political decisions on women's rights, as well as insufficient financial and other investments to end gender-based violence are all significant barriers.

Severe deficits in the production, availability, accessibility and use of quality disaggregated data, evidence and statistics on gender-based violence, including data on women and girls experiencing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, impact the development, adoption, reform and implementation of relevant legislation, policies and programmes. Investments are needed to close these data gaps.

Increased awareness of, and access to, coordinated, survivor-centred, comprehensive, quality and affordable services are also key to ending impunity and supporting resilience.

Despite the scale of the problem, gender-based violence is preventable. Growing global evidence indicates that investments in sustained multi-year evidence-driven prevention strategies can significantly reduce the prevalence of VAWG within programme timeframes.

### **A Global Blueprint for gender-based violence**

Through its emphasis on partnerships that centre civil society, the Action Coalition on Gender-Based Violence is mobilizing governments, civil society, youth-led organizations, international organizations,

philanthropic organizations and the private sector to eliminate and prevent gender-based violence through [four concrete actions](#): (1) Creating enabling policy, legal and resource environments; (2) Scaling up evidence-driven prevention programming; (3) Scaling up comprehensive, accessible and quality services for survivors; and (4) Enabling and empowering autonomous girl-led and women's rights organizations to channel their expertise.

Furthermore, under the fifth thematic pillar of the Compact: Protecting and Promoting Women's Human Rights in Crisis and Conflict Contexts, the Compact seeks to achieve that women and girls in all their diversity in conflict and crisis-affected contexts experience significantly fewer violations of their human rights, and threats, attacks and reprisals against women and girls in these contexts are reduced and their consequences mitigated to the greatest possible extent.

<sup>5</sup> European Institute for Gender Equality. 2021. The costs of gender-based violence in the European Union.

# OVERVIEW OF COMMITMENTS

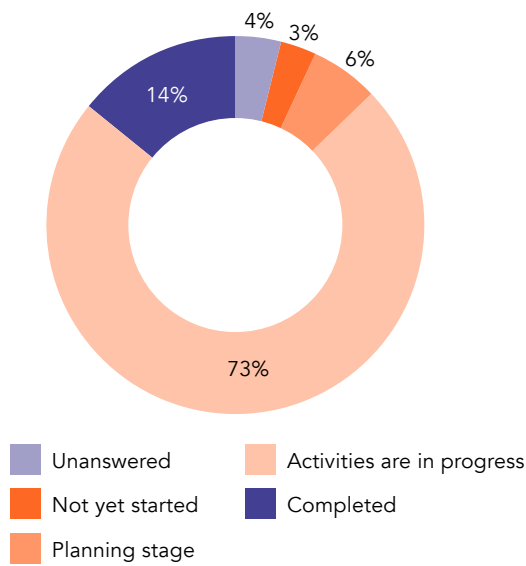
Of the 389 reported gender-based violence commitments, 14 per cent are completed, 73 per cent are in progress, 6 per cent are in the planning stage and only 3 per cent have not yet begun implementation.

Some 92 per cent of commitments that are in progress or at the planning stage are reported to be on-track and 4 per cent are off-track.

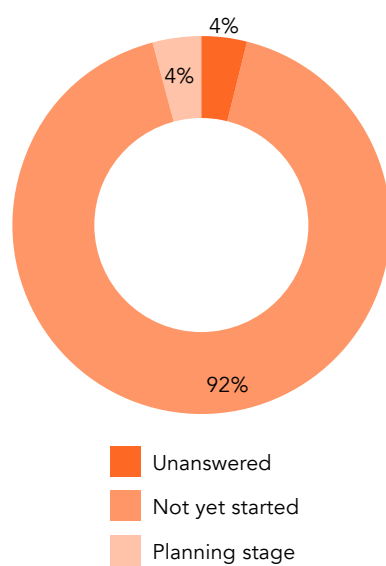
There has been a remarkable increase in the financial commitments made between 2022 and 2023, both pledged and secured. In 2022, a total of \$976 million was pledged. In 2023, that amount reached \$5.1 billion. The secured numbers also show a sizable increase, although smaller in scale: from \$301 million in 2022 to \$564 million a year later.

## IMPLEMENTATION OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE COMMITMENTS, AS OF 2023

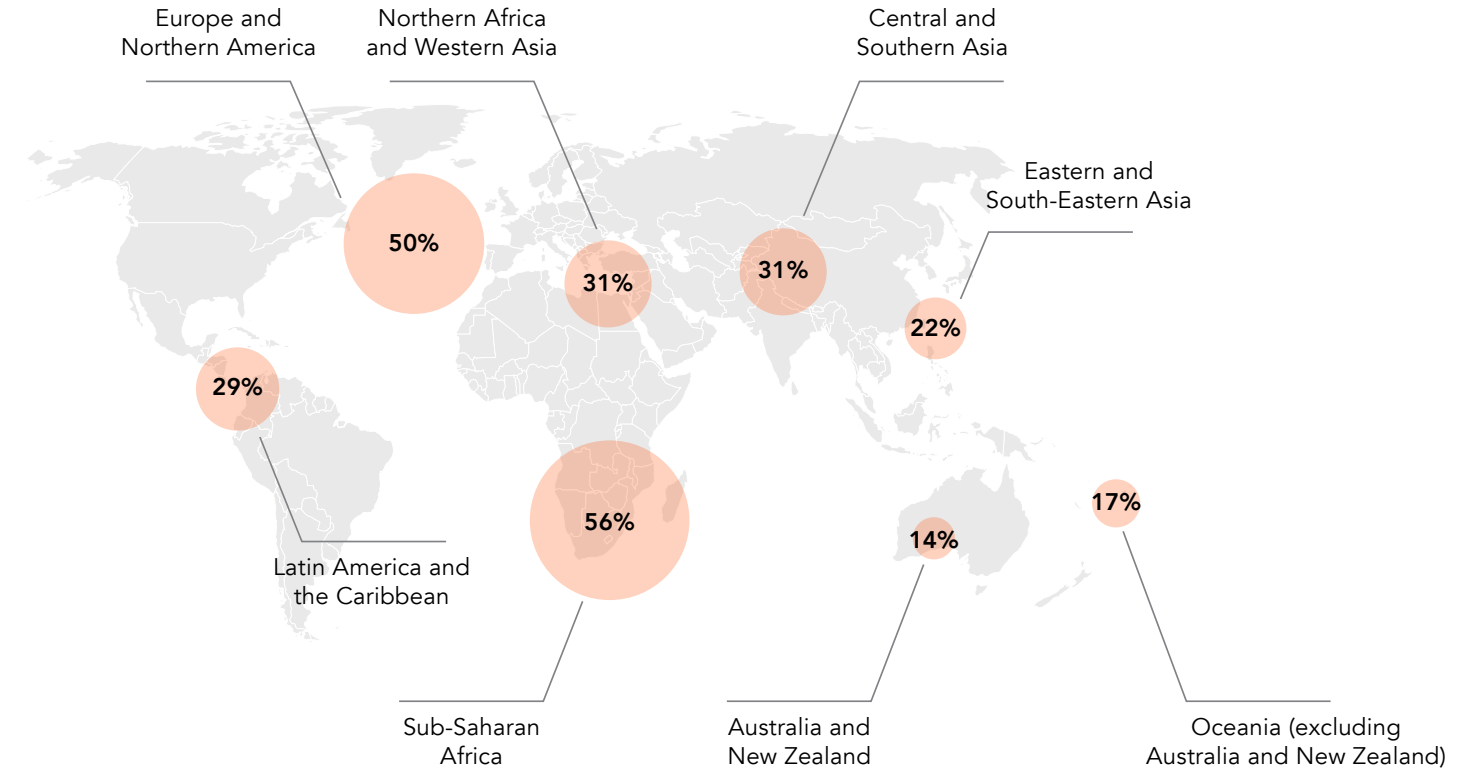
Stage of implementation



Pace of implementation



## IMPLEMENTATION REGIONS



Note: Multi-choice question. Respondents could select more than one region of implementation.

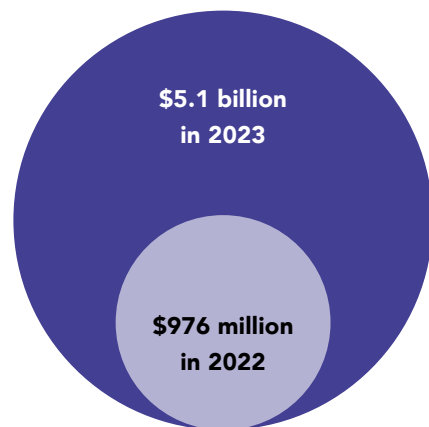
Based on survey responses, of the total \$564 million secured, half (\$285 million) has already been spent. Only \$171.6 million is being invested in CSOs, \$67.7 million in adolescent girls and \$1.9 million in youth-led organizations.

Almost 6 in 10 commitments have an advocacy (59 per cent) and/or a programmatic (57 per cent) component, 45 per cent have a policy component and 33 per cent have a financial component. All commitments except one were reported to be aligned with a priority action area.

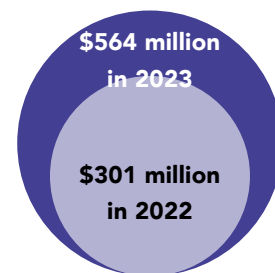
Most reported gender-based violence commitments are being implemented in sub-Saharan Africa (56 per cent) and in Europe and Northern America (50 per cent), while 9 per cent have a global scope.

## BREAKDOWN OF FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS, PLEDGED AND SECURED (IN US DOLLARS)

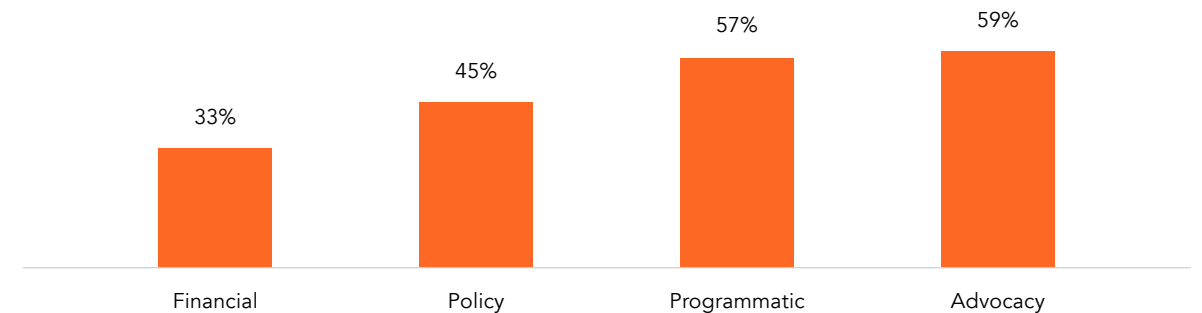
Financial pledged



Financial secured



## COMMITMENT TYPE



Commitment Makers also report 389 policies and over 600 programmes being implemented or initiated, including workplace policies addressing violence and harassment and programmes disbursing grants directed towards women's rights organizations working on ending gender-based violence.

In terms of organization type, the Action Coalition on Gender-Based Violence engages mostly with Member States, civil society and multilateral/supranational organizations. These three groupings represent 88.2 per cent of the organization types engaged in the Action Coalition on Gender-Based Violence. The remaining 11.8 per cent comprise youth-led organizations, the private sector and philanthropic organizations.

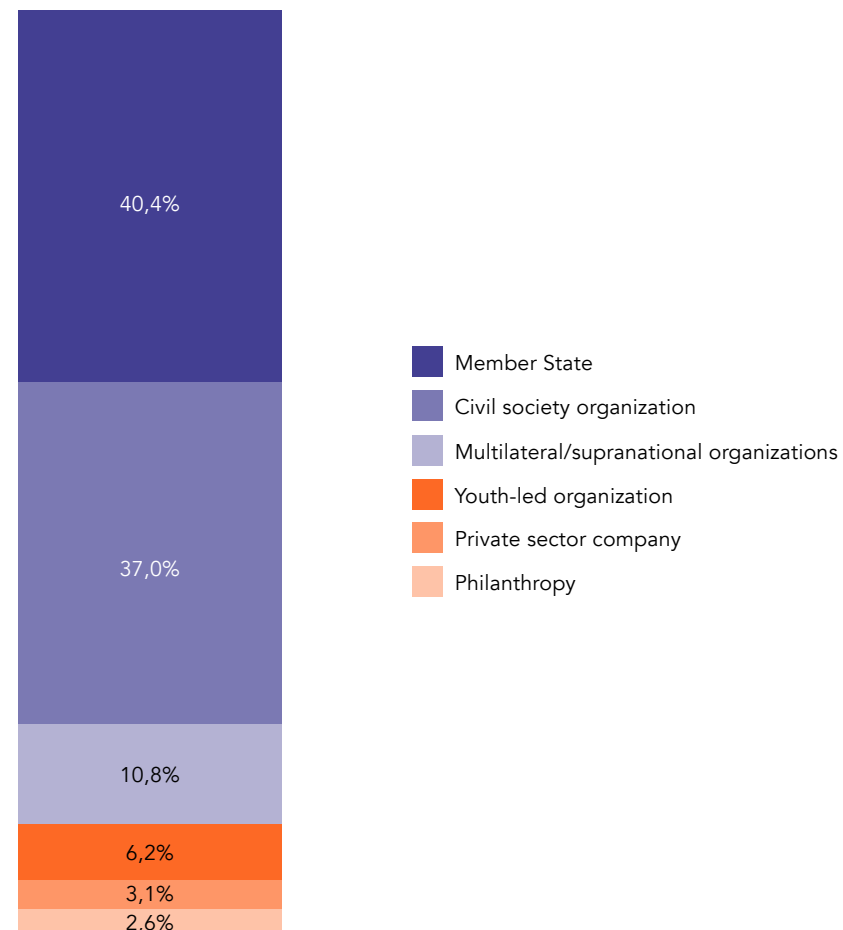
Finally, a large majority (90 per cent) of respondents in the Generation Equality survey said their

gender-based violence commitment supports groups and communities that are considered marginalized – a total of 350/389 commitments. Only 6 per cent responded “no” to the specific question and 4 per cent did not answer.

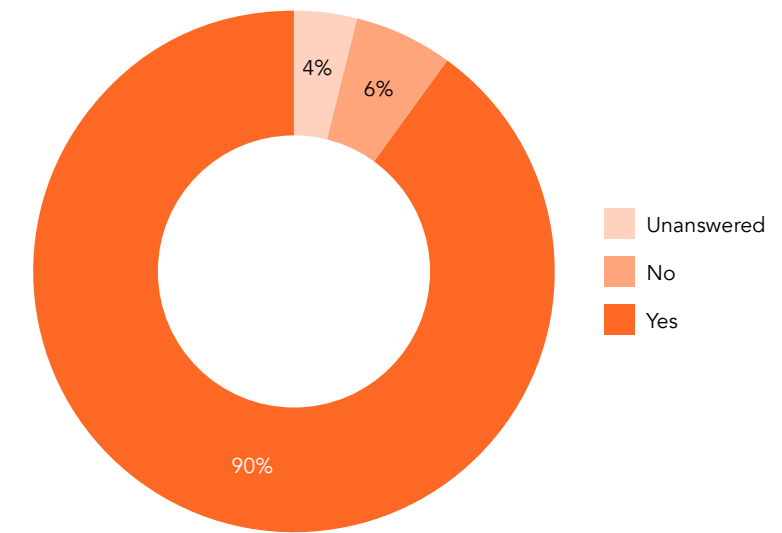
Almost 4 out of 5 (78 per cent) of commitments adhere to the Generation Equality principle of taking an intersectional lens. A lower proportion adhere to the principles of building feminist leadership (53 per cent) and challenging power dynamics (69 per cent).

When it comes to commitment alignment with specific action areas, the numbers are lower, ranging from 39.3 per cent for Action Area 4 (on funding women's rights organizations (WROs) and girl-led rights movements) to 53.2 per cent for Action Area 1 (on implementing gender-based violence related laws and policies).

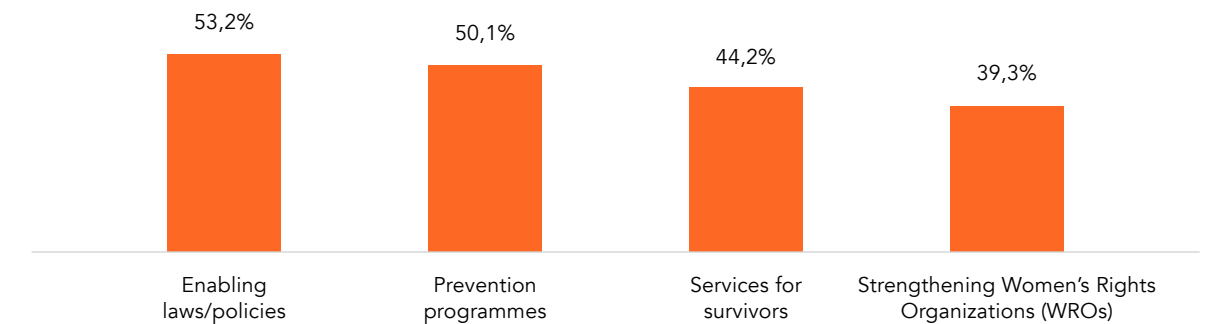
## ORGANISATION TYPE



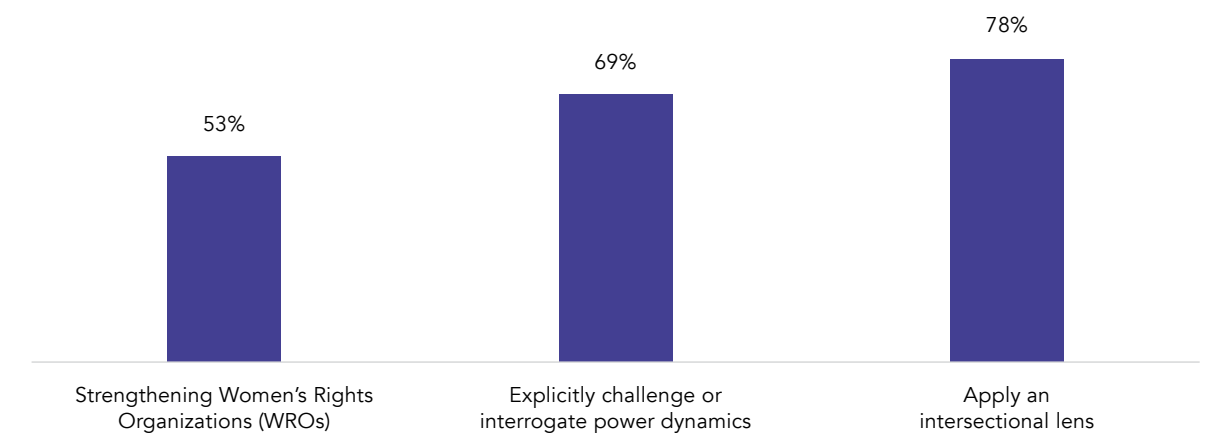
## SUPPORT TO MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES



## ALIGNMENT TO GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE ACTION AREA



## ADHERENCE TO GENERATION EQUALITY PRINCIPLES



## Examples of promising progress

At the forefront of the global campaign against gender-based violence, the Action Coalition on Gender-Based Violence has emerged as a powerful catalyst for change, spearheading a range of promising and impactful initiatives. These examples serve as powerful testaments to the collective strength and commitment, as well as the potential, of the Action Coalition on Gender-Based Violence. They underscore the Action Coalition's pivotal role in driving meaningful change and fostering a global environment that is equitable, just and free from the blight of gender-based violence.

### **Political will has increased ownership, collaboration and budget allocations**

The Government of Kenya, following President Kenyatta's announcement of the 12-point plan on gender-based violence, invested 3.4 billion Kenyan Shillings (around USD 25 million) into improving access to health care and judiciary support for victims of gender-based violence. The Government, working with CSOs, has established shelters serving victims in one place with housing, police, health and judicial support, and introduced a policy known as policare (a combination of police and care). Likewise, the sustained commitment of the European Union (EU) to prevent and combat gender-based violence has been bolstered by an allocation of 41 million Euros to actions targeting prevention, mitigation and response to GBV during emergencies, with a significant portion of the funding invested in conflict-related sexual violence. Additionally, the EU conducted an internal stocktaking of gender equality in key areas, including gender-based violence and stereotypes,<sup>6</sup> providing examples of progress by Member States and EU-funded projects that pave the way for mutual learning on gender equality. Furthermore, the EU is committed to strengthening women's rights movements. In 2022, under the EU/UN Spotlight Initiative, USD 127 million

was invested in women's organizations, an increase of 23 million compared to 2021. Under the Daphne strand of the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) programme in 2022 the Commission invested over EUR 30 million in 46 projects and organizations including grassroots groups working to address gender based violence.

### **Transformative collaborative action is heralding change at the local level**

The groundbreaking efforts of the University Feminist Coalition in Ecuador have yielded a historic bill presented to the National Assembly in March 2023. This legislative proposal seeks to comprehensively address and prevent violence against women within higher education institutions. This bill holds the promise of positively impacting the lives of over 50,000 young women currently pursuing their academic degrees in Ecuador with the potential to recalibrate the existing legal framework on violence prevention and elevate the recognition of violence within educational systems.

### **Grass-roots advocacy is providing vital support**

The activities of Red Las Niñas Lideran in western Guatemala have culminated in the successful establishment of a comprehensive psychological care unit within a local municipality that now has an installed facility, staff and prevention, care and referral programmes. Bolstered by financial support of \$150,000 from a collective of organizations, including Rise Up and Purposeful, the initiative has implemented a tailored psychological care curriculum across public and private schools in two municipalities. Moreover, the pioneering introduction of the "Club de Niñas y Club de Confidantes" (Girls Club and Confidants Club) has provided a vital support network for survivors of violence against girls.

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**"This coalition gives us visibility and enables us to better define our role as a regional network, and to get all stakeholders to speak with one voice and decide together within established frameworks."**

— Réseau Paix et Sécurité  
Pour les Femmes de  
l'Espace CEDEAO

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**"Thanks to the Generation Equality Forum, we have been able to create a project engaging six partners that are also Commitment Makers in the Action Coalitions. This project has been very inspiring and enriching and will certainly lead to the development of similar projects in the future. In general, being part of this community is inspiring and motivating thanks to the exchanges with other organizations and to the progresses shared regularly."**

— European Women's Lobby

## Examples of promising practices under the Gender-Based Violence Action Coalition Blueprint Action Areas

### **Action area 1: Creating enabling policy, legal and resource environments**

Following the submission of a bill to prohibit Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in 2022, the National Council of Chiefs and Elders in Liberia declared a permanent ban on FGM on 6 February 2023. This will be followed by a ritual with traditional practitioners of FGM to hand back tools in each county in Liberia.

### **Action 2: Scaling up prevention programming**

In India, Breakthrough (a women's rights organization) in partnership with 2 state governments is able to incorporate a gender lens in school curricula to reshape harmful norms and transform gender stereotypes that underpin discrimination and violence. The curricula is implemented across low-resource government schools in India that reaches out to marginalized communities in India.

### **Action 3: Scaling up comprehensive, accessible and quality services for survivors in all their diversity**

The Accor Group provides temporary shelter for women and children survivors of violence at their hotels. In South America, Accor and the Avon Institute support the Acolhe programme, which provides accommodation, food and psychosocial support to female survivors of violence. As of September 2023, they have offered shelter to over 500 women and 680 children across 5,500 room nights.

### **Action 4: Enabling and empowering autonomous girl-led and women's rights organizations to exercise their expertise**

The Nala Feminist Collective co-created a Feminist Accountability Process during the 2nd NalaFem Summit held in July 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya. The theme was Justice, Trust, and Accountability for gender commitments. It was attended by 219 people from 37 countries, including young women's rights organizations, activists, politicians, government officials and policymakers.

<sup>6</sup> European Commission. 2023. 2023 report on gender equality in the EU. Luxembourg: EU.

# ANALYSIS OF GENERATION EQUALITY BLUEPRINT TARGET INDICATORS

The 22 Action Coalition on Gender-Based Violence Blueprint targets include 25 indicators and sub-indicators. Baselines have been established for 3 out of 8 indicators under Action Area 1; 5 out of 7 indicators under Action Area 2; none of the 4 indicators under Action Area 3; and 2 out of 6 indicators under Action Area 4 (see Annex).

**Action Area 1:** Progress on laws and policies has been slow. In 2022, 557 million women and girls were living in countries and areas where strong legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex in the area of VAWG (Indicator 1), which represents a mere 14 per cent of all women and girls.<sup>7</sup> That means 86 per cent women and girls are living in countries without robust legal protection, or in countries for which data are not readily available, calling for urgent action to pass laws guaranteeing women's fundamental human rights. Conversely, it is promising to see that, as of 2021, 81 per cent of countries<sup>8</sup> have national multisectoral action plans for addressing VAWG (Indicator 4.1) and that 78 per cent of countries<sup>9</sup> have made budgetary commitments to address VAWG (Indicator 4.2) as of 2022. However, when it comes to services for women survivors of violence, only 42 per cent of countries have such budget allocations.<sup>10</sup>

**Action Area 2:** In terms of prevention, according to the UNDP Gender Social Norms Index (for 2010–2022) – which tracks people's attitudes on women's roles in four key dimensions (political, educational, economic and physical integrity) – 87 per cent of women and 90 per cent of men hold biases against women (Indicator 8).<sup>11</sup> This shows the need to step up efforts to address social norms change as a key strategy for gender-based violence prevention. As of 2020, 4.8 per cent of women aged 20–24 years were married or in a union before age 15 and this was the case for 19 per cent of women before age 18<sup>12</sup> (Indicators 11.a and 11.b). Despite progress made in some countries, at the current pace, the world is at least 300 years away from ending child marriage and more than 9 million girls will be married in the year 2030.<sup>13</sup> In 2021, 41 per cent of girls and women aged 15–49 years had undergone FGM/cutting, according to data from 30 countries where the practice is concentrated (Indicator 12).<sup>14</sup> Moreover, OECD data indicate that the average volume of overseas development assistance (ODA) allocated to ending VAWG (Indicator 9) was \$507 million in 2020–2021.<sup>15</sup> With overall ODA in 2022 totaling \$USD 204 billion, investment in gender-based violence prevention was a mere 0.2 per cent of overall aid and development spending, indicating that global prevention and financing need to be significantly scaled up.<sup>16</sup>

**Action Area 4:** There is still little flexible funding available for WROs/CSOs. Despite gender-based violence budgetary commitments by countries, the amount of VAWG-related ODA allocated to CSOs based in developing countries by OECD DAC members – including funding channeled through global CSOs or dedicated multilateral funds – amounted to only \$27 million (5 per cent of the total), on average (Indicator 17).<sup>17</sup> In 2020–2021, an average \$242 million of bilateral allocable ODA was committed by OECD DAC members for ending VAWG in fragile contexts, which represents just 1.1 per cent of ODA with gender equality objectives to fragile contexts (Indicator 21).<sup>18</sup> There is thus an

urgent need for all governments to increase investments in preventing and responding to VAWG in such contexts, particularly in light of the current global political and environmental instability.

The fact that data are available for only 10 of the 25 Action Coalition on Gender-Based Violence Blueprint indicators (and none under Action Area 3), indicates the urgency of strengthening methodologies and efforts by all stakeholders to increase and improve the availability of globally comparable quality data on VAWG. This is essential not only to track progress but to shape evidence-based policies, investments and interventions.

## Collective action for change

The Action Coalition on Gender-Based Violence has served as a powerful advocacy platform, generating increased momentum and leveraging global policy fora to advance Blueprint targets and achieve the SDGs. The Action Coalition has provided strategic thought leadership and a common vision on emerging and pressing issues. It has also effectively underscored

the critical need to eliminate all forms of VAWG through timely advocacy, following a strategy that prioritizes: increasing investments in prevention; calling for increased support, solidarity and financial resources to women's rights movements; and strengthening global standards, laws, policies and programmes on technology-facilitated gender-based violence.

### Securing human rights in our digital world: consultations to influence the Global Digital Compact

In **Our Common Agenda**, the UN Secretary-General calls for a Global Digital Compact (GDC) to be cemented at the Summit of the Future (in September 2024). To ensure that women's rights organizations in all their diversity feed into this process, UN Women (representing the Action Coalition on Gender-Based Violence) co-hosted<sup>19</sup> a consultation event on 6 March 2023 to provide an opportunity for WROs, CSOs and grass-roots women's groups to share their perspectives. Their **final submission** to the UN Tech Envoy emphasizes that a GDC rooted in a human-rights-based, feminist and intersectional approach would help ensure that all digital spaces uphold safety, respect, dignity and tolerance for women and girls in all their diversity.

Further to this, UN Women and the Action Coalition on Gender-Based Violence has continued working with partners<sup>20</sup> to advocate for feminist principles and gender to be included in the GDC. A set of 10 principles were agreed on and presented at a joint event on the margins of the Internet Governance Forum in Kyoto in October 2023, with strong engagement and support both from CSOs and Member States. Generation Equality and the Action Coalitions have provided a platform and network for like-minded allies across different sectors to amplify the call for feminist principles to be embedded throughout the GDC.

<sup>7</sup> SDG indicator 5.1.1, based on 120 countries.

<sup>8</sup> WHO. 2021. Addressing violence against women in health and multisectoral policies: A global status report. Based on 194 countries.

<sup>9</sup> Analysis of SDG 5.1.1 data conducted by UN Women, available at: <https://data.unwomen.org/resources/behind-numbers-good-practices-promoting-gender-equality-through-legal-frameworks>. Based on 120 countries.

<sup>10</sup> WHO. 2021. Addressing violence against women in health and multisectoral policies: A global status report. Based on 153 countries.

<sup>11</sup> UNDP. 2023. 2023 Social Norms Index. Breaking down gender biases: Shifting social norms towards gender equality.

<sup>12</sup> UNICEF estimates, based on a subset of countries with available data during the period 2015–2021.

<sup>13</sup> United Nations. 2023. The Sustainable Development Goals Report- Special edition.

<sup>14</sup> As reported by custodian agency UNICEF in UNICEF's 2022-2025 Strategic Plan Integrated Results and Resources Framework. Data are available for a subset of 30 countries in which female genital mutilation is concentrated, with the latest available data from 2004–2020. Aggregates do not represent the world. These data have been sourced since publication of the 2023 Accountability Report.

<sup>15</sup> Data provided by OECD.

<sup>16</sup> The Accelerator for GBV Prevention and the Equality Institute. 2023. What counts? *The state of funding for the prevention of gender-based violence against women and girls* (forthcoming).

<sup>17</sup> Data provided by OECD.

<sup>18</sup> Data provided by OECD.

<sup>19</sup> Together with the Alliance for Universal Digital Rights, Equality Now, Women Leading In AI and the Governments of Spain, Finland and Mexico.

<sup>20</sup> UNFPA, Equality Now, World Wide Web Foundation, APC, Derechos Digitales, Pollicy, and the Digital Rights Foundation.



# CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

At the midpoint of Generation Equality, it is heartening to see the momentum generated. Amid the current context of global crises and conflict, the rise in anti-rights movements and the backlash against gender equality, Generation Equality and the Action Coalitions have nevertheless proven to be powerful tools for maintaining progress. As this report demonstrates, the Action Coalition on Gender-Based Violence has spearheaded a diverse range of promising practices and results across all regions and action areas aligned with the core principles of intersectionality, transformational change and feminist leadership.

There has been strong progress on Generation Equality gender-based violence commitments, with the overwhelming majority (92 per cent) on track, and Commitment Makers reporting 389 new gender-based violence related policies and over 600 programmes. Between 2022 and 2023, there has been a remarkable increase in reporting by

Commitment Makers, leading to more reliable data. As a result, there has been an increase in gender-based violence related financial commitments pledged and secured.

Nevertheless, as this report highlights, global funding efforts for VAWG remain inadequate, with an average volume of ODA allocated to ending VAWG of \$507 million in 2020–2021 and only 5 per cent of this reaching local CSOs. Moreover, the fact that data are only available for 10 out of 25 indicators to monitor Action Coalition on Gender-Based Violence progress highlights the urgency of strengthening quality and comparable data as well as the methodologies for monitoring and measuring progress. In short, VAWG continues to be the most pervasive violation of human rights globally and there remains a long journey ahead to achieve the ambitious targets agreed by Generation Equality leaders and partners in 2021. As such, propelling progress will require redoubling efforts on the Action Coalition's four key Action Areas:

## Recommendations

**To create enabling policy, legal and resource environments,** efforts should include:

- repealing and reforming discriminatory laws and policies and ensure that laws prohibiting all forms of gender-based violence are in place, including new and evolving forms such as technology facilitated gender-based violence.
- greater investments in preventing and responding to violence against women including through increased ODA and through financing and implementing coordinated, comprehensive and multi-sectoral programming on gender-based violence against women and girls including harmful practices and;
- More Member State Signatories of the WPS-HA Compact signing up for actions to address reprisals by facilitating emergency support - in the

form of physical accompaniment, political advocacy, financial grants, and security arrangements, as needed - to women leaders under threat.

- Increasing and improving the availability of globally comparable quality data on VAW to track progress and inform investments and interventions.

**To scale-up evidence-driven prevention programming,** efforts should include:

- working with the Gender-Based Violence Prevention Accelerator on a global framework to track prevention funding to address current data limitations.
- increasing investments on effective prevention strategies through domestic financing, ODA and private and philanthropic financing.

- implementing a whole-of-government approach to preventing and eliminating gender-based violence through multisectoral budgeting.

- amplifying work to transform social and gender norms, attitudes, beliefs, harmful masculinities and harmful practices.

**To scale-up comprehensive, accessible and quality services for survivors,** efforts should focus on:

- increasing budgets to fund services for survivors as part of multisectoral gender-based violence action plans.
- addressing data and methodology gaps for the indicators under the Action Coalition on Gender-Based Violence Blueprint's Action Area 3 to make it possible to monitor and assess progress to enable evidence-based interventions.

**To enable and empower autonomous girl-led and women's rights organizations to exercise their expertise,** efforts should include:

- increasing long-term, sustainable investments from States, the private sector, foundations and other donors to WRO's working to end violence against women and girls in all their diversity, including by doubling the volume of ODA that reaches local WROs in the global South working on ending VAWG.
- Commitment Makers should prioritize new commitments to increase the overall proportion supporting WROs.

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*"The Generation Equality/Action Coalitions process is a precious opportunity to be in touch with different stakeholders, including States and companies with whom contact would be more difficult in other settings. It also provides the opportunity to construct actions with like-minded CSOs that are working on similar topics. These kinds of networking occasions are indispensable tools in international advocacy and fundraising."*

— Eurocentralasian Lesbian\* Community

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*"This collaboration with like-minded organizations and institutions has given us hope and motivation. We recognize the power of collective action, sharing insights and fostering alliances... Networking has amplified our impact and provided the necessary support, inspiration and global perspective for lasting change."*

— Hibiscus Foundation For Social Welfare, India

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*"Too many LGBTQI+ people face violence based on gender identity, gender expression and sexual orientation. By increasing awareness among all stakeholders, we can be more successful in eradicating the violence."*

— Maria Sjodin, Executive Director, Outright International

# ANNEX

## Action Coalition on Gender-Based Violence Blueprint Target Indicators

**Priority Action Area 1:** More States and regional actors ratify international and regional conventions and public and private sector institutions strengthen, implement and finance evidence-driven laws, policies and action plans to end gender-based violence against women and girls in all their diversity.

Target 1: 550 million more women and girls will live in countries with laws and policies prohibiting all forms of gender-based violence against women and girls by 2026.

Indicator 1. Total number of women and girls living in countries and areas where legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex in the area of violence against women.	Source: SDG indicator 5.1.1 (under area 2 VAW)	Year: 2022	Value: 557 million
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Target 2: 4,000 private sector organizations will adopt and implement GBV policies by 2026.

Indicator 2: Number of private sector organizations implementing GBV policies.	Source: TBD	Year: NA	Value: -
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Target 3: 55 more countries will have no exceptions to the legal age of marriage, along with policy measures to end the practice by 2026 and three-quarters of countries where FGM is known to be practised will have legal prohibitions and policy measures against FGM in place by 2026.

Indicator 3.1: Number of countries and areas with no exceptions to the legal age of marriage (compared to 2021 base year).	Source: TBD	Year: NA	Value: -
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Indicator 3.2: Number of countries and areas that have specific legal prohibitions against FGM (compared to 2021 base year).	Source: TBD	Year: NA	Value: -
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Target 4: 9 in every 10 countries will finance and implement coordinated, comprehensive and multi-sectoral programming on GBV against women and girls, including harmful practices, by 2026.

Indicator 4.1 Share of countries with national multi-sectoral action plans for addressing VAW.	Source: WHO 2021. Addressing violence against women in health and multisectoral policies: A global status report	Year: 2021	Value: 81% (out of 194)
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Indicator 4.2. Share of countries with budgetary commitments to address VAW.	Source: SDG indicator 5.1.1 (analysis by UN Women based on question under area 2 VAW)	Year: 2022	Value: 78% (out of 120)
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Target 5: Increase by 25% the number of countries that ratify international and regional conventions on GBV against women and girls by 2026.

Indicator 5: Percentage increase in the number of countries that ratify international and/or regional conventions on GBV (compared to 2021 base year).	Source: TBD	Year: NA	Value: -
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Target 6: 159 countries globally will have at least one survey on the prevalence of violence against women from the last 10 years by 2026.

Indicator 6: Number of countries with at least one survey on prevalence of violence against women from the last 10 years by 2026.	Source: TBD	Year: NA	Value: -
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**Priority Action Area 2:** Scale up implementation and financing of evidence-driven prevention strategies by public and private sector institutions and women's rights organizations to drive down the prevalence of gender-based violence against women, adolescent girls and young women in all their diversity, including in humanitarian settings.

Target 7: Increase by 50% the number of countries that include one or more evidence-driven prevention strategies on gender-based violence against women and girls in national policies by 2026.

Indicator 7: Percentage increase in the number of countries that include one or more evidence-driven prevention strategies on gender-based violence against women and girls in national policies by 2026.	Source: TBD	Year: NA	Value: -
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Target 8: Increase by 25% the number of people who endorse gender-equitable beliefs in every country by 2026.

Indicator 8: The proportion of people who report no gender bias, by sex.	Source: UNDP Gender Social Norms Index	Year: 2010–2022	Value: 87% women, 90% men
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Target 9: Increase investment in evidence-driven prevention strategies by USD 500,000,000 by 2026.

Indicator 9: Amount of bilateral ODA dedicated to ending violence against women and girls.	Source: OECD	Year: 2020–2021	Value: \$507 million (average)
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Target 10: 100 national governments revise and strengthen school and teacher training curricula to include effective approaches to prevent GBV and promote gender equality and respectful relationships by 2026.

Indicator 10: Number of countries with sexuality education curricula that include modules on healthy relationships, violence and staying safe, and understanding gender and values.	Source: TBD	Year: NA	Value: -
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Target 11: Prevent child, early and forced marriages and unions of 9 million girls and adolescents by 2026.

Indicator 11a: Proportion of women aged 20–24 who were married or in a union (a) before age 15.	Source: UNICEF (SDG indicator 5.3.1)	Year: 2020	Value: 4.8%
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Indicator 11b: Proportion of women aged 20–24 years who were married or in a union (b) before age 18.	Source: UNICEF (SDG indicator 5.3.1)	Year: 2020	Value: 19%
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Target 12: Prevent 8 million cases of female genital mutilation by 2026.

Indicator 12: Proportion of girls and women aged 15–49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting, by age.	Source: UNICEF (SDG indicator 5.3.2)	Year: 2021	Value: 41% (based on data from 30 countries where the practice is concentrated)
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**Priority Action Area 3:** Scale up implementation and financing of coordinated survivor-centred, comprehensive, quality, accessible and affordable services for survivors of gender-based violence against women and girls in all their diversity, including in humanitarian settings.

Target 13: Increase by 50% the number of countries with multi-sectoral action plans on GBV that include provision of police, justice, health and social sector services by 2026.

Indicator 13: Percentage increase in the number of countries with multi-sectoral action plans on GBV that include provision of police, justice, health and social sector services by 2026.	Source: TBD	Year: NA	Value: -
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Target 14: 100 countries implement training and capacity-building programmes/initiatives for law enforcement personnel on gender-responsive policing, including addressing gender-based violence against women and girls in all their diversity by 2026.

Indicator 14: Number of countries that are implementing or adopting gender-responsive policing services (compared to 2021 baseline).	Source: TBD	Year: NA	Value: -
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Target 15: Increase by 50% the number of countries whose health sector protocols, guidelines or SOPs align with WHO/international standards by 2026.

Indicator 15: Percentage increase in the number of countries whose health sector protocols, guidelines or SOPs align with WHO/international standards by 2026.	Source: TBD	Year: NA	Value: -
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Target 16: Increase by 50% the number of countries that include training programmes or curricula for health-care-providers in their health policies/protocols or in the national multisectoral plan by 2026.

Indicator 16: Percentage increase in the number of countries that include training programmes or curricula for health-care-providers on VAW in their health policies/protocols or in national multisectoral plans (compared to 2021 base year).	Source: TBD	Year: NA	Value: -
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**Priority Action Area 4:** Enhance support and increase accountability and quality, flexible funding from States, the private sector, foundations and other donors to autonomous girl-led and women's rights organizations working to end gender-based violence against women and girls in all their diversity.

Target 17: Progressively improve and increase international funding by doubling donations to women's rights organizations, activists and movements, including those working to address gender-based violence experienced by historically excluded groups that face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, by 2026.

Indicator 17: Direct bilateral ODA [share and amount] for ending VAWG that goes from OECD DAC members to local CSOs based in developing countries.	Source: OECD	Year: 2020–2021	Value: 5%, \$27 million (average)
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Target 18: Increase national funding to girl-led and women's rights organizations working to address GBV by USD 500,000,000 by 2026.

Indicator 18: Number of women's and feminist organizations and movements funded, disaggregated by type of funding (national/international), sector (funding for GBV) and by profile of leader (girl-led, etc.).	Source: TBD	Year: NA	Value: -
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Target 19: Increase the leadership and meaningful participation of girl-led and women's rights organizations and movements, particularly those led by historically excluded women and girls facing multiple and intersecting forms of violence and discrimination, in national and international decision-making, by 2026.

Indicator 19: Proportion of countries with strong and autonomous feminist movements.	Source: TBD	Year: NA	Value: -
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Target 20: Women's rights organizations are represented in all GBV sub-cluster coordination mechanisms and lead at least 25% of them by 2026.

Indicator 20: Number of women-focused and women-led organizations as GBV co-coordinators in activated clusters/coordination teams.	Source: TBD	Year: NA	Value: -
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Target 21: 30% of humanitarian funding to address GBV goes directly to women's rights organizations by 2026.			
Indicator 21: Share [and amount] of bilateral ODA dedicated to ending VAWG in fragile contexts.	Source: OECD	Year: 2020–2021	Value: 1.1%, \$242 million (average)
Target 22: 50% of countries track GBV specific national and international funding to autonomous girl-led and women's rights organizations through a dedicated budget line for that purpose.			
Indicator 22: [TBD, indicator to be finalized after baseline and data source for Target 18 are determined and finalized.]	Source: NA	Year: NA	Value: NA

