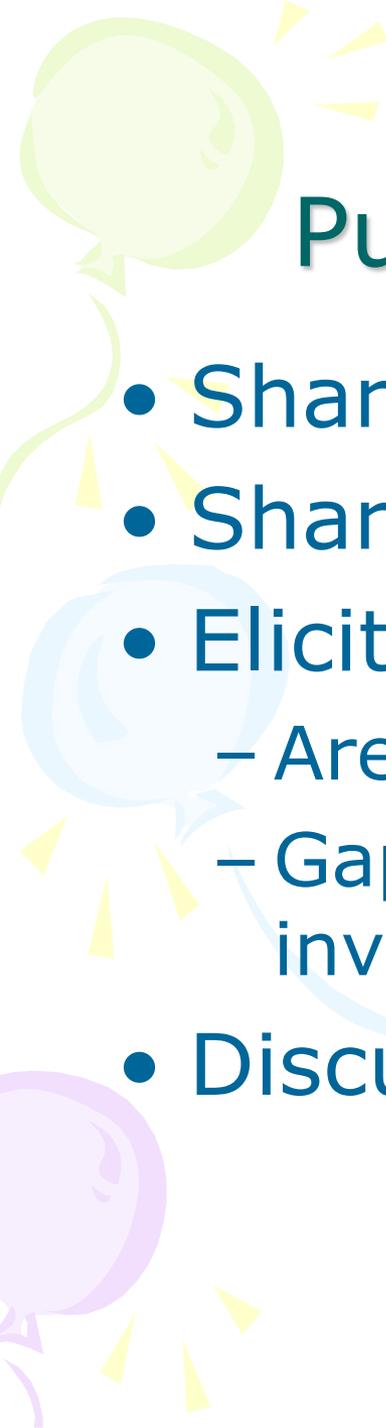


**Thematic Evaluation of
UNIFEM Action to End
VAW in the Central Africa
Sub-region**

**Preliminary Observations
February 2011**

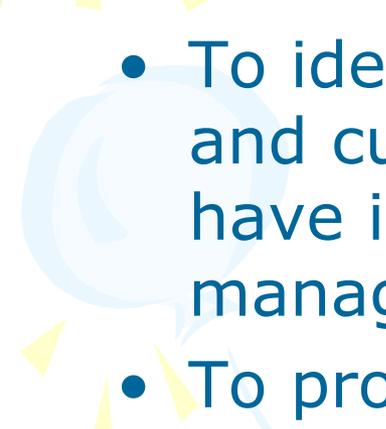
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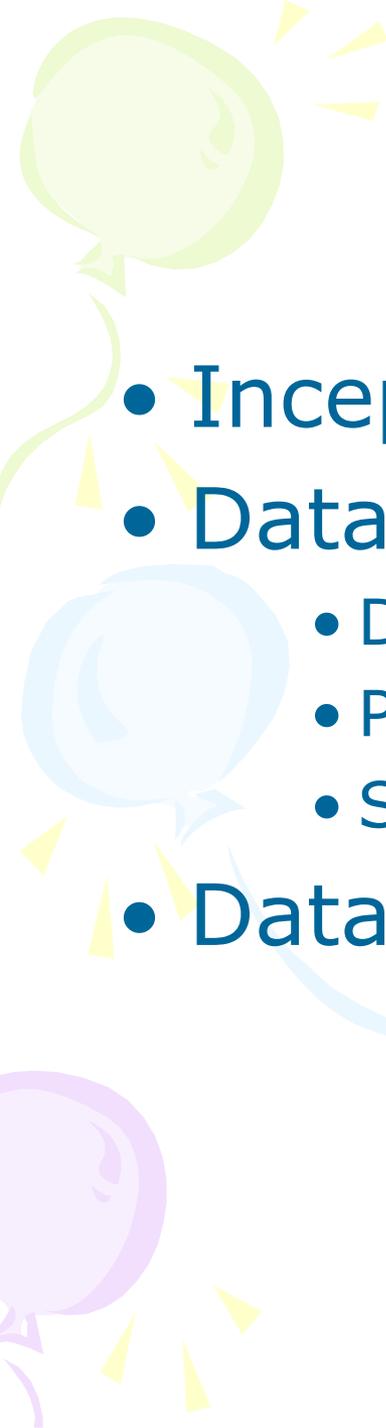
Purpose of the presentation

- Share evaluation progress to date
- Share emerging observations
- Elicit feedback from colleagues
 - Areas for clarification
 - Gaps/issues requiring further investigation
- Discuss next steps



Evaluation objectives

- To analyze the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability of UNIFEM action to end SGBV at country level
 - To identify strengths, weaknesses, challenges and current trends in UNIFEM initiatives that have implications for strengthening its future managerial, programmatic and funding directions
 - To provide forward-looking recommendations to strengthen programming in the area of SGBV in the sub-region.
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Evaluation Process

- Inception phase: **completed**
- Data collection: **mostly completed**
 - Document review
 - Phone interviews
 - Site visits to Cameroon and DRC
- Data analysis: **on-going**

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Basis for assessment

- Overarching framework: UNIFEM's corporate outcomes, outputs and indicators as referenced in the CARO Strategic Plan 2008-2010.
- Individual projects' envisaged results



Basis for assessment

Types of Outcomes	CARO's SP Outcomes	
Strengthened legal and policy frameworks	Outcomes 1 and 2	
Strengthened formal and informal justice systems	Outcome 3	
Strengthened and empowered duty bearers, rights holders and their organizations	Outcomes 5,6, and 7	
Increased numbers and relevance of community led initiatives for advancing women human rights and eliminating SGBV.	Outcome 8	

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PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS



Awareness on SGBV

- Sub-regional: **SGBV is a trans-regional concern, especially in conflict and post conflict contexts and in relation to traditional harmful practices.**
- Country level
 - DRC: **strong international commitment and significant resources to fight SGBV within stabilisation process in the East.**
 - Cameroon: **SGBV is an issue of increasing concern with a particular focus on traditional harmful practices.**

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UNIFEM context

- SGBV is one of the thematic priorities outlined in the UNIFEM Strategic Plan 2008-2011
- Ending SGBV is the main focus of CARO sub-regional strategy 2008-2010. But UNIFEM's SGBV programming varies among countries in terms of length and depth of involvement.
- In both DRC and Cameroon there has been limited and relatively recent country presence.
- Transition from UNIFEM to UN Women has created high expectations and questions about the organization's future role.

Cameroon

- **Support to MINPROFF (core resources)**
- **Short term initiatives with MINJUSTICE and various CSOS. Duration between 2 months and 1 year. Between 5,000\$ and 30,000\$ (core resources)**
- **2 UNTF Projects (2008-2009):**
 - **IMC 700,000\$**
 - **Action Aid/Plan 300,000\$**

DRC

- **Support to MinGE for National SGBV Strategy (core resources)**
- **« Community mobilisation program »: SIDA funding. 400,000\$ in total. 7 sub-Projects in 5 provinces, implemented by national and international CSOs. Contributions between 30,000\$ and 75,000\$. Duration between 3 and 8 months.**
- **2 UNTF projects (2008-2009):**
 - **SOFEPADI: 150,000\$**
 - **RENADEF : 200,000\$**

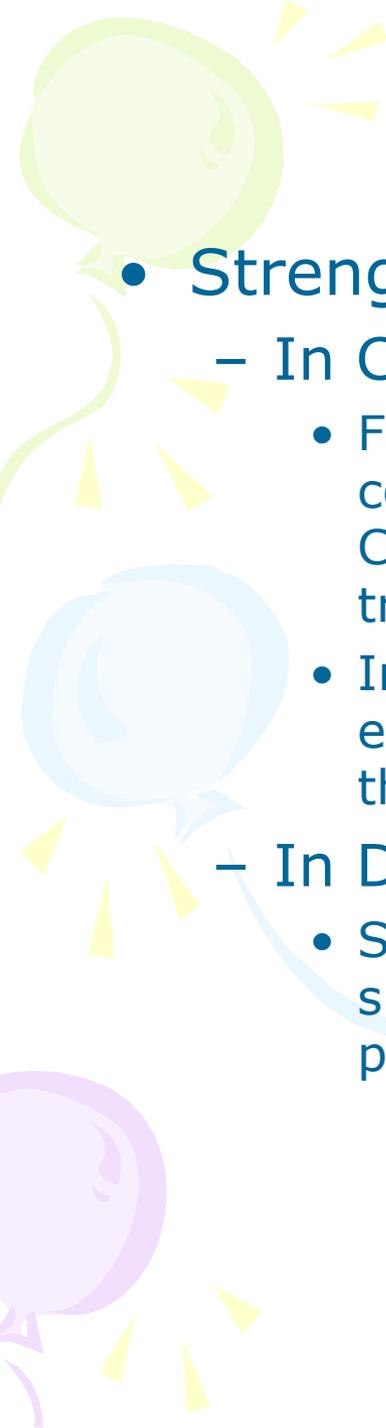


Observations

- Effectiveness: limited evidence that the **several** short term results at project level are contributing to higher level/longer term results.
- Perceptions on UNW: Varying levels of appreciation of UNW work on SGBV among partners. Overall comparatively less visibility of UNIFEM's work on SGBV than in other areas.
- Unclear relationships between UNIFEM programming and TF projects.

Results Achieved 1

- Strengthened legal and policy frameworks:
 - In Cameroon, UNIFEM contributed to efforts to put the Family Code and the VAW Law back on the agenda. However no actual changes in the legal framework thus far.
 - In DRC, UNIFEM contributed to the development of the “National strategy to combat all Forms of GBV”, by supporting the MINGE.



Results Achieved 2

- Strengthened formal and informal justice systems
 - In Cameroon:
 - Formal justice system: some evidence of UNIFEM's contribution to increased knowledge and awareness on CEDAW within the legal community. E.G. 90 magistrates trained on CEDAW application.
 - Informal justice system: some evidence of increased engagement of traditional leaders to fight against SGBV in the North West and South West regions.
 - In DRC:
 - Some evidence of increased access to justice for SGBV survivors at the community level thanks to TF Projects (In particular SOFEPADI's).

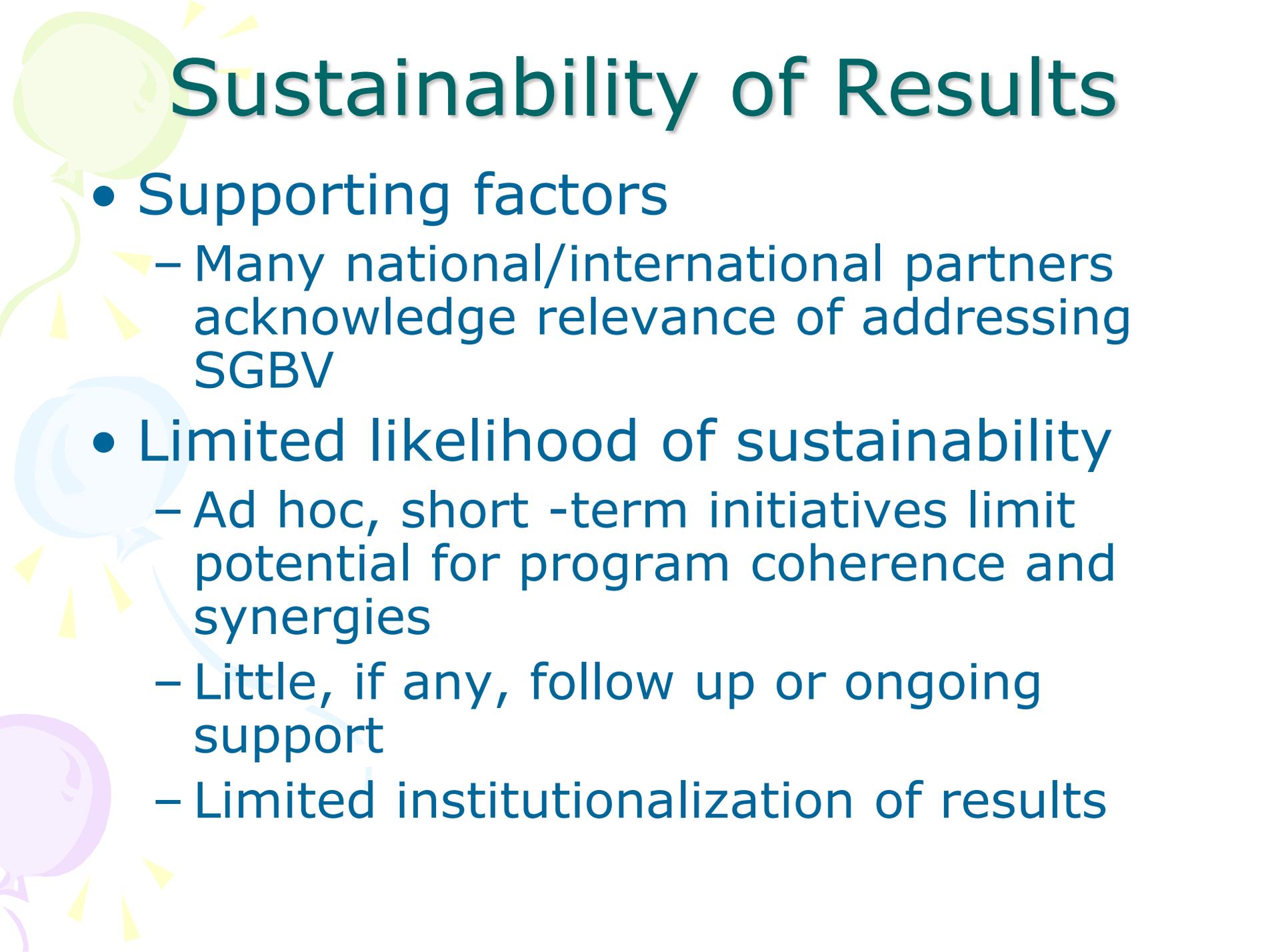


Results Achieved 3

- Strengthened and empowered duty bearers, rights holders and their organizations.
 - In Cameroon:
 - UNIFEM contributed to strengthening mobilisation for 16 days of activism: MINPROFF, CSOs, UN agencies.
 - Contribution to increased engagement of MINPROFF in the fight against FGM and Traditional Harmful Practices.
 - With UNIFEM support, CSOs produced one coordinated CEDAW shadow report.
 - In DRC:
 - MinGE has taken the lead for the implementation of the SGBV National Strategy. UNIFEM's role unclear .

Results Achieved 4

- **Community led initiatives for advancing women human rights and eliminating SGBV.**
 - In Cameroon: Reported main result = “breaking the silence” on FGMs and early marriages. Media, traditional chiefs, imams more involved in fight against SGBV. Some anecdotal evidence of initial changes in behaviors (FGMs). But results difficult to measure and fragmented.
 - In DRC: Reported examples of short-term results at community level: strengthened local capacities for psychosocial, legal, medical assistance for survivors; economic empowerment for SGBV survivors; local leaders, authorities and men mobilized. Limitations : experiences not systematically documented & monitored. No clear model emerging that can be owned/replicated by others.



Sustainability of Results

- Supporting factors
 - Many national/international partners acknowledge relevance of addressing SGBV
- Limited likelihood of sustainability
 - Ad hoc, short -term initiatives limit potential for program coherence and synergies
 - Little, if any, follow up or ongoing support
 - Limited institutionalization of results

Efficiency

- Consulted UN Women staff satisfied with achievements given very limited resources
- Yet: Are selected foci & approaches the most strategic in view of limited resources?
- No evidence of systematic approach to resource leveraging
- Some delays in disbursement of funds and reporting

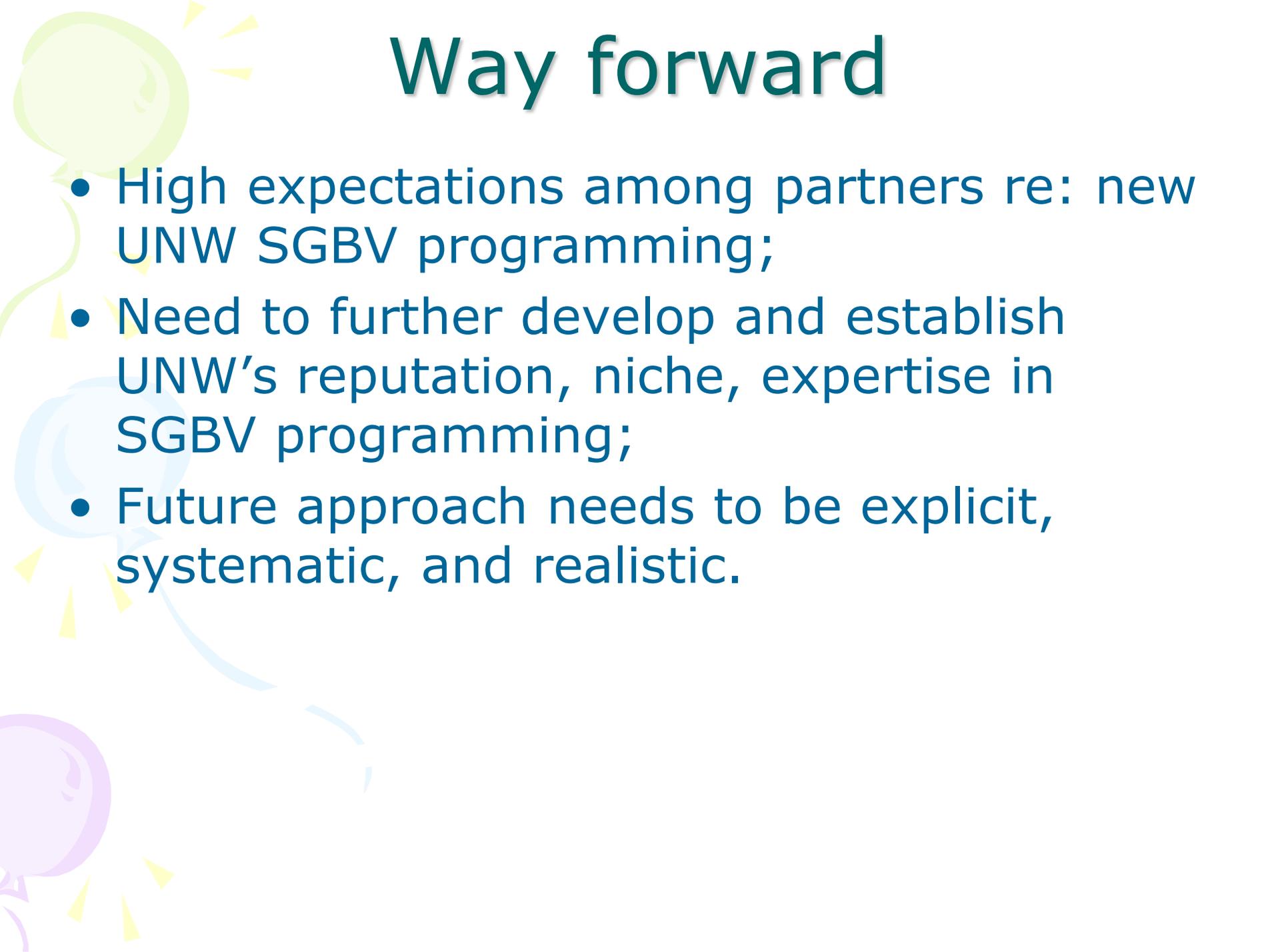
Factors influencing performance 1

- Supportive

- UN Women staff commitment and dedication
- Strong relationships with NGO and government partners
- UNIFEM known & respected for its work in other gender equality related areas

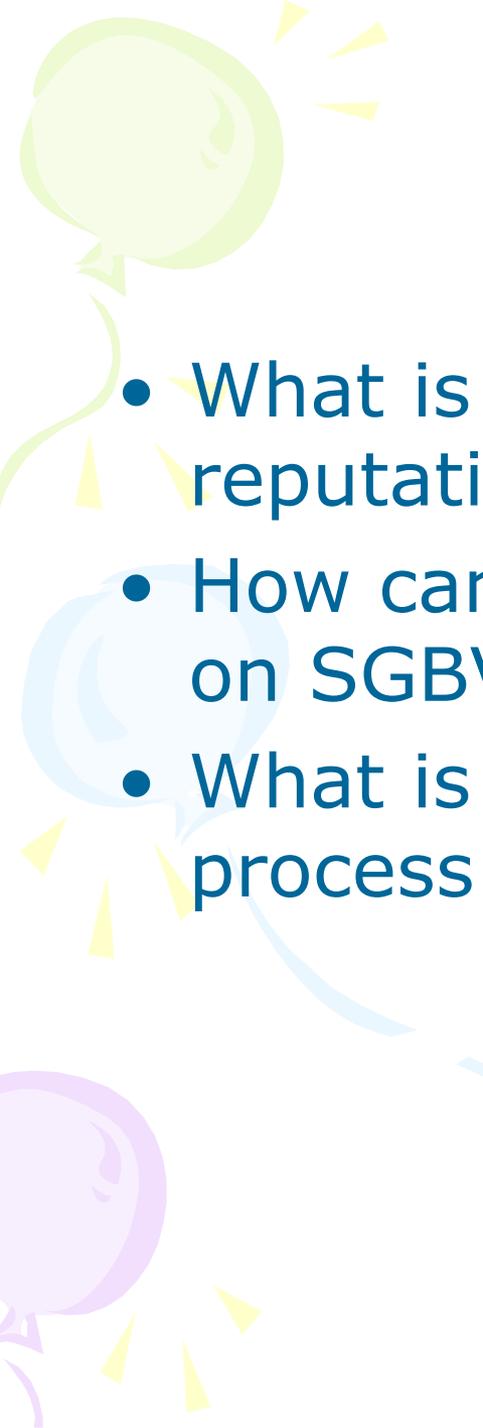
Factors influencing performance 2

- Limiting
 - Extent of strategic clarity and guidance at (sub)regional level
 - Available resources (staff, money)
 - Effectiveness of communication within UN Women and with partners
 - Extent of systematically monitoring & tracking results.
 - Clarity of criteria for partner selection
 - Challenging local environments for field work.



Way forward

- High expectations among partners re: new UNW SGBV programming;
- Need to further develop and establish UNW's reputation, niche, expertise in SGBV programming;
- Future approach needs to be explicit, systematic, and realistic.

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Questions

- What is UN Women's niche, expertise, reputation re SGBV?
- How can we make UN Women's approach on SGBV more explicit and systematic?
- What is overall experience with the process for this evaluation?