

# Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls and Delivering Essential Services to Survivors in Ethiopia

## Programme Management Response

### UN Women Ethiopia Country Office

#### Overall comments:

UN Women Ethiopia Country Office (ECO) has been implementing a Programme entitled “**Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and Delivering Essential Services to Survivors in Ethiopia**” from 2019 to 2022. The overall goal of the Programme was to ensure women and girls live a life free of violence. The Programme aimed at preventing VAWG and supporting women and girls' survivors of violence and their access to justice, protection and quality essential services. UN Women commissioned an evaluation up on conclusion of the program to assess the overall impact of the program towards ending violence against women and girls in Ethiopia and identify good practices and lessons learned to inform the next phase, including future programming and initiatives on EVAWG, to support strategic policy decisions. The evaluation provided an in-depth assessment of the results against the three outcomes of the Programme and performance in terms of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, impact, inclusiveness, coherence, participation, equality, non-discrimination, and social transformation. The findings and recommendations of the evaluation will be used for organizational learning, future programming and advocacy.

In the GATE platform, the external evaluators rated UN Women's final evaluation report of the “Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and Delivering Essential Services to Survivors in Ethiopia” programme as good. Taking this external feedback seriously, UN Women has carefully considered and either fully or partially accepted the recommendations provided. To ensure transparency and accountability, this management report outlines the key actions, timelines, and responsibilities for implementing these recommendations. Each action step is detailed below to demonstrate our commitment to continuous improvement and the effective application of external insights into our operations.

#### RECOMMENDATION 1 (for UN Women):

Increasing focus on prevention for enhanced sustainability and effectiveness: Considering the limited resources available for the response against the long-term gains and sustainability of prevention, there is need for UN Women to allocate more resources to prevention to ensure long-term sustainability and impact

#### Management response:

The recommendation is fully accepted.

UN Women will continue to strengthen its prevention work using evidence based and comprehensive strategies including RESPECT<sup>1</sup> Women Framework, community and faith-based level prevention works. The national five years strategy on prevention and response to VAWC as well as the draft GBV prevention and response policy have prevention as a priority area and UN Women will support the roll out and

Accepted

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/07/respect-women-implementation-package>

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implementation of the two documents. However, given the situation in the country, UN Women is cognizant of the huge need for the provision of essential services to survivors of violence.				
Key action	Time frame: mm/yy	Responsible party for implementation	Status	Comments
1. Roll out the RESPECT framework to key national stakeholders	05/2024	UN Women in collaboration with UNFPA, WHO, government counterparts	Initiated	Following the first cohort training organized by UN Women ESAR, ECO took the responsibility to follow up with the trainees on the roll out of the training.
2. Advocate for the adoption of GBV prevention and response policy	01/2024-12/2024	UN Women, MoWSA and CSO partners	Initiated	UN Women in collaboration with government and CSO partners have been advocating for a standalone GBV prevention and response policy. Currently, the Ministry of Planning and Development, a mandated ministry for policy development, provided feedback on the draft policy. UN Women with the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs (MoWSA) and key stakeholders is leading the revision of the policy
3. Support the roll out, implementation and monitoring of the five years strategy on VAWC	03/2024-12/2026	UN Women and MoWSA	Initiated	UN Women with MoWSA and the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and some CSO partners have been familiarizing the strategy at federal and regional levels. UN Women will continue to support the implementation of the annual level action plan which was extracted from the strategy.
<b>RECOMMENDATION 2 (for UN Women):</b>				

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Concentrating interventions in limited areas for greater impact: UN Women should concentrate interventions in one or two regions and implement pilots whose results and impact will be more visible. Based on the success of the pilots, UN Women would advocate for the government to roll out the successful interventions across the country.

**Management response:**

This recommendation is partially accepted.

UN Women acknowledges that the Programme implementation areas are dispersed and thin. UN Women started to scale down some intervention areas (for instance in 2023 pulled out from Gambela region) and plans to concentrate the different interventions (prevention and responses) in similar areas. However, there are good initiatives that needs to continue where UN Women is planning to expand at scale. Scaling down all intervention in to one or two regions will highly affect UN Women’s work as well as visibility. Further to this, the current conflict and insecurities in the countries are exposing women and girls to VAW where UN Women is expected to be flexible enough to expand.

Partially Accepted

Key action	Time frame: mm/yy	Responsible party for implementation	Status	Comments
4. During the development of the new EVAW prodoc, the unit will consider the recommendation and focus interventions for greater impact.	2024/03-06	UN Women in consultation with key government stakeholders	Initiated	UN Women, under the EVAWG unit, started scaling down intervention areas. For instance, in Gambela region. Further actions will be taken in the development of the new programme

**RECOMMENDATION 3 (FOR UN WOMEN):**

Strengthening the ToC: The current ToC is not sufficiently detailed to give guidance in implementation. For the coming programme there will be need for broader consultations with all relevant stakeholders in the development of the ToC to ensure that it captures the appropriate interventions.

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<p><b>Management response:</b></p> <p>This recommendation is fully accepted.</p> <p>UN Women is developing a new programme document, and the Theory of Change will be developed in consultation with key stakeholders and will be as comprehensive as possible.</p>	<p>Accepted</p>
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Key action	Time frame: mm/yy	Responsible party for implementation	Status	Comments
5. Work on the TOC per the recommendation during the development of the prodoc	2024/03-06	? UN Women with IPs	Not initiated	

RECOMMENDATION 4 (FOR UN WOMEN): Need for UN Women to strengthen its own M&E: Although UN Women has invested substantial resources into strengthening its own M&E system and that of its CSO partners, weaknesses have been observed in the systems that need to be addressed. There is need for a more systematic approach to identifying the gaps and ensuring that they are covered through more focused capacity building interventions.

<p><b>Management response:</b></p> <p>This recommendation is fully accepted.</p> <p>UN Women, under its EAWG unit, will internally conduct M&amp;E system assessment to see the overall UN Women and implementing partners’ M&amp;E processes. Following the findings, UN Women will work on strengthening its M&amp;E system and processes.</p>	<p>Accepted</p>
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6. Conduct internal M&E system assessment and identify key areas for improvement including meaningfully use the cost recovery policy and start building the M&E unit	2024/07	UN Women with partners	Not initiated	
7. Develop data collection tools and EAW specific M&E system for different interventions (service provision, prevention works etc) for ease of tracking results and documentation.	2024/09	UN Women in consultation with IPs	Not Initiated	Using the findings of the internal assessment, UN Women in consultation with IPs will develop the EAW M&E framework, indicator definitions, data collection tools. Further to this, UN Women will utilize existing data collection tools such as the LNOB beneficiary data and others.
8. Capacity building to implementing partners- on the job and trainings	2025/02	UN Women	Not initiated	To ensure harmonized way of data collection, analysis and use, UN Women will organize capacity building trainings including on RBM, project and financial management and M&E.
<b>RECOMMENDATION 5 (FOR UN WOMEN):</b>				
Need to strengthen women agency: UN Women should come up with strategies to strengthen women’s agency to enable women to play a more active and meaningful role in advocating for their rights. As rights holders, women are best placed to articulate their issues using their own lived experiences to make their case.				
<b>Management response:</b>  This recommendation is fully accepted.			Accepted	

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<p>UN Women will continue to strengthen its work around strengthening women’s agency in its prevention work (where women and girls are mobilized and used as change agents in community and faith settings, schools, and universities) and in the provision of services through empowering survivors to advocate for the rights of women and girls. UN Women will also engage women rights organizations through continuous capacity building and experience sharing from other countries to revitalize the women’s movement, documentation of best practices and women’s champions.</p>				
Key action	Time frame: mm/yy	Responsible party for implementation	Status	Comments
9. UN Women will organize capacity building sessions for IPs, building on the CSO harmonized capacity building strategy under the current SN	2024/08	UN Women	Not initiated	
10. Building women’s agency will be included in the new prodoc at output level	2024/03-06	UN Women	Initiated	UN Women through SASA approach and its faith-based intervention has been building women’s agency where they have become change agents and challenge power inequalities in their communities. UN Women has also partnership with NEWA on building Anti-GBV women’s movement in Ethiopia
<p><b>RECOMMENDATION 6 (FOR UN WOMEN):</b></p> <p>Engendering social media: After its success with mainstreaming gender in the mainstream media, UN Women should focus on engendering the social media, which is the fastest growing media form. The agency should identify best practices in the engendering social media and suggest sanctions that should be applied to media operators who deliberately denigrate and degrade women in their depiction of them.</p>				

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<p><b>Management response:</b></p> <p>This recommendation is partially accepted.</p> <p>The Ethiopian Media Authority (EMA) has the mandate to oversee and regulate mainstream, religious and online media (including social media). Thus far, there were efforts to engage EMA, however, its capacity to monitor every content on social media is limited. Building on existing partnerships by WILG and WPS GIHA units, the EVAWG unit will use a cross thematic approach to work with EMA. Further to this, the online violence that is increasing is perpetrated usually using social media where UN Women will also work with EMA and other media influencers.</p>	<p>Partially Accepted</p>
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Key action	Time frame: mm/yy	Responsible party for implementation	Status	Comments
11. Organize consultation with the EMA, media houses and the Editors Guild Ethiopia to better understand the authority's capacity and jointly plan follow up actions.	2024/06	UN Women	Not initiated	

**RECOMMENDATION 7 (FOR UN WOMEN):**

Empowering women economically: Given that one of the root causes of GBV is poverty, which increases women's vulnerability through their dependence on men, it is crucial to tackle poverty to reduce violence. In this regard, UN Women should advocate for the government to come up with strategies, programmes and policies that empower women economically to make them more independent. But given the current funding constraints the government is facing against other equally pressing needs, UN Women should consider launching a basket fund among key development partners to support women's IGA.

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<p><b>Management response:</b></p> <p>This recommendation is partially accepted.</p> <p>Even if UN Women has standalone Women Economic Empowerment (WEE) unit, UN Women believe that economic empowerment should be mainstreamed in the EVAWG portfolio. UN Women has been advocating for the development and adoption of the five years strategy on VAWC which includes strengthening income and economy of women and vulnerable households. UN Women will also liaise with the WEE unit to better respond and reduce the vulnerability.</p> <p>UN Women is also cognizant of the funding landscape where most funds for EVAW are dedicated for prevention and response to VAW and economic empowerment component is dedicated to survivors only. UN Women will exert efforts to also mobilize funding dedicated for women’s economic empowerment.</p>	<p>Partially Accepted</p>
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Key action	Time frame: mm/yy	Responsible party for implementation	Status	Comments
12. Include economic empowerment component in future programme development and employ cross fertilization approach between WEE and EVAWG in the ongoing as well as new projects.	2024/06	UN Women	initiated	There are efforts to collaborate with the WEE unit, particularly in crafting better economic empowerment interventions for EVAW projects, for instance the project supported by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

**RECOMMENDATION 8 (FOR UN WOMEN):**

Need to update prevention strategies to take into account new types and forms of violence: The dynamics of VAWG show that its form and types are changing rapidly. For instance, online sexual exploitation and abuse is a new form of violence, which many partners are not equipped to deal with. There is need to revisit current prevention strategies to take into account new and different forms of violence.



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<p><b>Management response:</b></p> <p>This recommendation is fully accepted.</p> <p>Efforts are being made to incorporate different forms of violence against women and girls. For instance, a new study is commissioned by UN Women on “Technology-facilitated Violence against Women and Girls” where findings will help tailor the new programme interventions. UN women will engage movements, mainstream media and social media influencers to address the issue. Cyber violence is also integrated in the national five years strategy where UN Women continue to support the implementation of the strategy. Further to this, UN Women implemented flexibility to integrate conflict related sexual violence (CRSV) in past few years and will continue to respond in this regard.</p>			Accepted	
Key action	Time frame: mm/yy	Responsible party for implementation	Status	Comments
13. Finalize and disseminate the study on “Technology-facilitated Violence against Women and Girls”	2024/06	UN Women	Ongoing	
14. UN Women will employ flexibility to address emerging types of VAWG including online and CRSV during and beyond the SN period	2025/01	UN Women in collaboration with IPs	Ongoing	
RECOMMENDATION 9 (FOR UN WOMEN):				

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Strengthening administrative data collection: There is weak administrative data in Ethiopia for legal, health and social services to enable decisions and programmes to be run from an informed and evidence-based perspective. UN Women should support the government to come up with strategies to strengthen the country's administrative data base. Such a strategy would involve strengthening the Statistical Agency to enable it to collect the data.

**Management response:**

This recommendation is fully accepted.

UN Women will continue supporting administrative data management system in the different sectors including the ongoing support to MOJ management information system. The national strategy is also having a focus on enhancing administrative data across sectors. UN Women will identify existing sector specific administrative data management system, its use for decision making, work on strengthening and linking them.

Accepted

Key action	Time frame: mm/yy	Responsible party for implementation	Status	Comments
15. UN Women will continue to strengthen the MoJ criminal proceeding Management Information System (MIS) through the procurement of IT equipment and training on the new system	2024/02-12	UN Women	Ongoing	
16. Under the new programme, UN Women will consult with key stakeholder to identify the existing administrative data	2024/10	UN Women with key sector service providing institutions	Not initiated	

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management and use to come up with workable strategies to enhance the administrative data collection, analysis and use				
17. Support the strengthening of administrative data management in the health, social and justice sectors through capacity buildings, development of tools.	2024-2025	UN Women with key sector service providing institutions	Not initiated	

**RECOMMENDATION 10 (FOR UN WOMEN):**

Supporting partners to broaden funding base: Currently shelters are being supported financially 100 percent by UN Women. UN Women should support partners to broaden their funding base by seeking funding from other donors. UN Women should also lobby the government to fund shelters and recognise them as critical elements in the rehabilitation of VAWG survivors.

<p><b>Management response:</b></p> <p>This recommendation is fully accepted.</p> <p>UN Women will continue to support the Ethiopian Network of Women Shelters (ENWS) to continue its advocacy to access land as well as government’s ownership of shelters. UN Women will also build capacities of shelters to mobilize better resources and also come up with sustainability strategies. However, due to the current funding landscape and situation in the country, the required fund might not be addressed through those efforts. Rather UN Women will advocate for government’s ownership</p>	Accepted
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Key action	Time frame: mm/yy	Responsible party for implementation	Status	Comments
18. UN Women will organize resource mobilization and grant management training to ENWS members	2019/12	UN Women in partnership with ENWS	Ongoing	
19. UN Women will also scale up its work with government owned shelters to ensure sustainability and ownership	2024/08	UN Women	Not initiated	
<p><b>RECOMMENDATION 11 (FOR UN WOMEN):</b></p> <p>There is need to address gaps in gender budgeting that are mainly the result of lack of prioritization and low institutional capacity. UN Women should support interventions to build capacity in the Ministry of Finance on gender budgeting. Support should also be provided to other government ministries to build their institutional capacity on gender budgeting. A parallel advocacy campaign should be launched on the importance of institutionalizing gender budgets.</p>				
<p><b>Management response:</b></p> <p>This recommendation is fully accepted.</p> <p>UN women has a dedicated unit on National planning and budget where ensuring gender budgeting is a priority area. The EVAWG unit will continue to support and advocate for a dedicated gender, particularly EVAW budgeting. The national cost of intimate partners violence study commissioned by UN Women identified the cost incurred by households and service providers costs and there is a huge need for budget allocation for prevention and response to VAWG.</p>			<p>Accepted</p>	

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Key action	Time frame: mm/yy	Responsible party for implementation	Status	Comments
20. The EVAWG unit will continue to share the findings of the “national cost of intimate partners violence” study for policy makers and continue to advocate for budget allocation for VAWG	2024/12	UN Women	Ongoing	UN Women conducted a workshop to share the findings of the study for key stakeholders. Experiences of the National planning unit on gender budgeting was also shared. Such discussions will continue in collaboration with the National planning and Budgeting unit.

UN Women Ethiopia Country Representative, Cecile Mukarubuga

Signature:  \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ January 19, 2024 \_\_\_\_\_