



Women from Pancak Peace Village in Indonesia  
Photo: UN Women/Eric Gourlan

# FINAL EVALUATION REPORT

## ENHANCING ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR WOMEN IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC: BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN FORMAL AND COMMUNITY-BASED SYSTEMS THROUGH WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT



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# ABBREVIATIONS

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<b>A2J/WA2J</b>	Access to Justice/Women’s Access to justice
<b>BGG</b>	BGG Bangkok General Guidance for Judges on Applying a Gender Perspective
<b>CEDAW</b>	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
<b>CPE</b>	Country Portfolio Evaluation
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organizations
<b>EMG</b>	Evaluation Management Group
<b>ERG</b>	Evaluation Reference Group
<b>FGD</b>	Focus Group Discussion
<b>GRWO</b>	Grassroots Women’s Organisation
<b>HRBA</b>	Human Rights Based Approach
<b>ICJ</b>	International Commission of Jurists
<b>KII</b>	Key Informant Interview
<b>LGBTQI+</b>	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, plus
<b>LNOB</b>	Leave No One Behind
<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring & Evaluation
<b>MSC</b>	Most significant change
<b>MTR</b>	Mid-Term Review
<b>NHRC</b>	National Human Rights Commission
<b>OECD/DAC</b>	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development/Development Assistance Committee
<b>OHCHR</b>	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
<b>PWDs</b>	Persons with Disabilities
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goal
<b>SIDA</b>	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
<b>TOC</b>	Theory of Change
<b>TOR</b>	Terms of Reference
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNEG</b>	United Nations Evaluation Group
<b>UN Women</b>	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
<b>WHRD</b>	Women’s Human Rights Defender

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Introduction

This report presents the main evaluation findings, conclusions, lessons learned and recommendations of the Final Evaluation of the Enhancing Access to Justice for Women in Asia and the Pacific: Bridging the gap between formal and community-based systems through women’s empowerment” (Women’s Access to Justice/WA2J). It is a joint evaluation between UN Women, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ).

## Purpose

The purpose of the evaluation is to feed into learning about what worked well with respect to the joint approach to gender-responsive people-centred justice, what can be improved, serve accountability purposes and feed into decision-making regarding further iterations of the project.

## Objectives

The overall objective of the joint evaluation was to assess progress made over the project period (May 2018 – June 2023) towards the attainment of the intended outcome, “*Enhanced utilization of gender-responsive and people-centred approaches in central and community-based justice mechanisms in Asia and the Pacific, that enabled and empowered women, in all their diversity, to equally access justice for the realization of their rights,*”<sup>1</sup> and the relevance/coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, human rights and gender equality, including a look into how women from vulnerable groups were engaged in the project, including disability inclusion. The evaluation is both summative, in terms of assessing the project’s results, as well as formative through the provision of utility-based, actionable recommendations to inform any potential future programming in the area of women’s access to justice.

## Intended users

The primary audience and intended users of the final evaluation are UN Women, ICJ and OHCHR, who will use the evaluation for knowledge generation and learning, strategic decision making, accountability and capacity development and mobilisation. The secondary users include UN Women IEAS and coordination partners may use the evaluation for learning and knowledge generation; project partners, national and local governments and CSO representatives who can use the evaluation for learning and knowledge generation, accountability and capacity development and mobilisation and donors and development partners who can also use it to inform strategic decision making.

## Methodology

This final evaluation employed a non-experimental, theory-based, gender-responsive methodology. In consultation with the UN Women Regional Office, OHCHR and ICJ, a reconstructed theory of change was developed and used as the basis for contribution analysis. Evaluation questions were developed using the theory of change and assessed against the criteria of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD/DAC), comprising relevance, coherence, efficiency, effectiveness, sustainability and gender equality and human rights. UN Women evaluations are gender-responsive and apply key principles of a human rights-based approach: they are inclusive, participatory and transparent; ensure fair power relations; and analyse the underlying structural barriers and sociocultural norms that impede the realization of women’s rights. Multiple sources of data were obtained, and 114 stakeholders from across stakeholder groups were consulted, which included 90 women (79%) and 24 men (21%).<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The Outcome statement was updated by the project partners (UN Women, OHCHR and ICJ), in accordance with the recommendation of the Mid-Term Review

## Key findings

The project has achieved significant progress towards meeting its objective to enhance utilization of gender-responsive and people-centred approaches in central and community-based justice mechanisms in Asia and the Pacific, that enable and empower women, in all their diversity, to equally access justice for the realization of their rights. Some of these results have the potential to be transformational. Successful strategies in accelerating progress include lobbying and advocating for the introduction of more gender responsive legislation and policies; capacity building of both centralised and community based justice actors and mechanisms to provide more people-centred and gender responsive justice; awareness raising among rights holders of their justice related rights and how to access them; and strengthening networks and linkages among all levels of justice sector actors, women's human rights defenders, civil society and grassroots women's organisations.

The project has achieved some strong results under its outputs, including the adoption and amendment of six key pieces of legislation, which are consistent with international human rights law and standards, including the Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (output 1); addressing gender discriminatory attitudes and stereotyped behaviours towards women by formal and community justice providers (output 2); and empowering grassroots women's organizations and community-based women's organizations and positioning them to document, monitor, liaise and facilitate interactions with justice providers (output 3). In particular, under output 3, the project has tested a number of models, which if scaled-up and replicated, have the potential to be transformational in enhancing people-centred and gender-responsive access to justice in the region. These need to be consolidated and replicated to have far-reaching and long-lasting impact.

The project has integrated gender equality and women's empowerment and the core principle of the SDGs – Leave No One Behind - into the project design and its implementation. It considers women's human rights a priority area and contributes to UN Women's, OHCHR's and ICJ's work on promoting gender equality and women's empowerment. The project's approach to Leave No One Behind has been robust, with evidence showing that the project is addressing complex, intersectional forms of discrimination against women accessing justice in all their diversity. This includes

women with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities, as well as women human right defenders, indigenous women and women in conflict with the law. One of the key added values of the project is its ability to reach groups of women that others cannot

The project has utilised regional approaches, to some extent, to further project results. For example, regional judicial dialogues and other regional forums have been successful in creating an enabling environment and levelling the playing field for progress at the national level. This includes securing commitment for the adoption of the Bangkok General Guidance, conducting a number of regional events with human rights bodies, such as with the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, in the context of the climate crisis, and a regional expert consultation on CEDAW's General Recommendation No. 39 on the rights of indigenous women and girls. The sub-regional approach has also proved successful and the project has enabled building networks at the regional and sub-regional levels to champion for women's access to justice. However, the project has faced challenges on creating partnerships with regional bodies nor leveraged regional partnerships and mechanisms sufficiently to drive and showcase project results. This is a common challenge for UN Women in implementing regional projects, where it is a smaller player in a crowded playing field and the evaluation team recognises the external factors that influenced this. The anticipated Regional Women's Access to Justice Strategy has yet to be finalised.

The project's efficiency was constrained by its organisational set-up, including the partnership management between UN Women and ICJ, turnover of staff, in particular among UN Women and ICJ at the start of the project and disparity between the human resources envisaged in the project's organisational structure and the human resource needs for implementing the project activities. However, efforts to overcome these constraints and strengthen the partnership between UN Women and the responsible parties, in particular after the Mid-Term Review, helped to create more of a shared vision to guide the remaining implementation period. The evaluation did not explore whether UN Women's regional and national level organisational structures, managerial support and coordination mechanisms effectively supported the coherent delivery of the project.



## Conclusions

**Conclusion 1:** The project is very relevant to the national development priorities of the focus countries in the region, with which it is closely aligned. This includes the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs, in particular SDGs 5, 10 and 16, although the project could leverage the SDGs further to strengthen project results. The project contributes to the UN and UN Women, OHCHR and ICJ priorities in the focus countries in the region including the UN Women Strategic Plan. It is aligned with the priorities of its donor, SIDA. Crucially the project is also relevant in relation to the needs and priorities of its beneficiaries – women, in all their diversity, accessing justice in the region, and in particular grassroots women. The level of knowledge and evidence the project has been able to generate in this respect makes it highly relevant for strengthening access to justice for women in Asia and the Pacific.

**Conclusion 2:** Despite the organisational inefficiencies, and at times lack of a shared vision, the strategies and approaches adopted by the project have produced results. While UN Women should be given credit for its coordinating role and desire for dialogue with the responsible parties, partnership management led to confusion between the the roles and responsibilities of UN Women and the responsible parties. The implementation of the project was hampered by its design, with an unclear theory of change, which was not directly linked to the project's activities. Indicators were not sufficiently specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and timebound (SMART).

**Conclusion 3:** The project has achieved results beyond the realisation of its activities, contributing to its overall objective to increase access to justice for women in Asia and the Pacific. It has built capacities among both centralised and community-based justice providers as well as among women accessing justice, which also lends to the sustainability of the project's results. It has developed a wealth of knowledge and evidence and piloted a number of successful models, which go beyond simply raising capacities but focus on the participation of women in co-designing justice solutions tailored to their needs. These now need to be replicated and scaled-up.

**Conclusion 4:** There are some prospects for sustainability across some of the project results. Further efforts are required to consolidate the results achieved to date and to replicate and scale-up the models that

have been successfully piloted, including the Peace Villages in Indonesia, the Judicial Committees in Nepal, the work with women in conflict with the law in the Philippines and the mediation model in Timor Leste. Not only can these models be further scaled in their implementing countries, but they can also be replicated at the regional level in comparable jurisdictions, as well as potentially in other countries globally. It is recognised by the evaluation that a longer-term approach is required to ensure the full sustainability of all the project's results. Diversifying partnerships further and convening the leveraging role of UN Women with governments, centralised and grassroots justice sector actors, CSOs and WHRDs could create greater ownership and sustainability of the project's results.

**Conclusion 5:** Gender equality is the primary focus of the project and has been well integrated into both the design and implementation of the project. Through adopting an integrated, holistic approach of strengthening the enabling environment for women accessing justice in the region, addressing gender discriminatory attitudes and behaviours and empowering women to access justice, the project has made contributions towards addressing the root causes and power dynamics around gender inequality in Asia and the Pacific. The project applied feminist principles in both its design and implementation of its activities and was guided by a commitment to dismantling gender inequalities, challenging discriminatory norms and contributing to more just and equitable justice for all women. The project has developed a recognised niche in working with groups of women that others are unable to access and ensuring that it addresses the Leave No One Behind principle. This has included addressing challenges for women with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities, as well as women human rights defenders, indigenous women and women in conflict with the law. The project was designed in accordance with the Human Rights-Based Approach, engaging with both duty bearers and rights holders .

**Conclusion 6:** The project is contributing to its objective of strengthening women's access to justice in Asia and the Pacific at both the output and outcome level. The considerable wealth of knowledge and evidence gained through the project now needs to be shared throughout the region and replicated and scaled up as appropriate.

This should also be shared corporately throughout UN Women, who could effectively become an exporter of knowledge on what works in terms of women's access to justice in other regions and globally.

## Recommendations

**Recommendation 1:** UN Women should continue to strengthen its access to justice programming in the region, as well as at the global level. Building on the wealth of knowledge and evidence gained through the regional project, UN Women should utilise its comparative advantage in access to justice programming, in particular by reaching women that others are unable to reach.

**Recommendation 2:** UN Women should leverage the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs to further drive progress towards project results and embed the SDGs in results frameworks. Future project should include global SDG 16 indicators into their results frameworks, to explicitly link project contributions to the global Goal.

**Recommendation 3:** All future projects should have a realistic and evidence-based theory of change, which is regularly reviewed and underpinned by informed risks and assumptions. This can be used to develop a corresponding results framework with SMART indicators and a strong M&E framework.

**Recommendation 4:** Any future iterations of the project should include a workable partnership management, together with an organizational set-up with clearly defined roles and responsibilities that matches the vision of the project. Coordination and communication mechanisms should be formalized to ensure the efficient implementation of the project.

**Recommendation 5:** It is highly recommended to include some dedicated M&E capacity in any future iteration of the project's organisational structure, which would strengthen the future project's M&E approach and allow for more sophisticated data collection, providing a strong evidence base for planning and programming as well as capturing results. Any future project requires standardised mechanisms for learning, which should ensure that all knowledge, evidence and lessons learned gained during the current implementation phase as well as any future project iterations are captured and fully institutionalised. This can be aided by undertaking a broad baseline assessment at the start of any future project.

**Recommendation 6:** The project should engage with regional actors more to drive project results, contribute to their work and showcase project results. UN Women should leverage its convening role between governments, centralized and community-level justice actors, CSOs, women's community based organization and WHRDSs. In parallel, there is a need to continue efforts for strengthening country-level coordination efforts concerning women's access to justice in all focus countries.

**Recommendation 7:** Results gained through the pilot model initiatives to strengthen women's access to justice should be replicated and scaled up and promoted at the regional level. The project should invest in institutionalizing its approaches through strengthening horizontal and vertical coordination mechanisms. The project should continue to ensure that it goes beyond traditional capacity development approaches when addressing women's access to justice.

**Recommendation 8:** The project has created a wealth of knowledge and evidence during its implementation period, which should be captured and institutionalised within the UN System. Consideration should be given to creating a knowledge and evidence-base hub or repository that can be accessible to all relevant stakeholders.

**Recommendation 9:** UN Women should reinforce its approach to Leave No One Behind by consolidating its efforts with some of the most marginalised groups of women in the region, including women with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities, indigenous women, LGBTIQ+ communities and women human rights defenders. In addition, efforts should be enhanced to engage with youth.

## Lessons Learnt

**Lesson Learnt 1:** Projects are hampered when there is no clear alignment between their theory of change and results framework or a comprehensive approach to M&E that systematically captures lessons learned, which are then incorporated back into the project implementation.

**Lesson Learnt 2:** A regional approach can contribute towards strengthening the enabling environment. It can drive momentum, not just at the regional level, but also pave the way for progress at the national level. Activities at the regional level can bridge the gap between the global and national level. Access to justice for women is a sensitive subject in many countries in Asia and the Pacific. However the regional approach, through engagement with regional level actors, allows for all countries to sit together at the same table and to level the playing field between them. This can push the discourse and generate discussions, which would not otherwise have taken place. It allows for the exchange of knowledge, ideas and learning between peers. Regional communication and advocacy efforts can also contribute towards this.

**Lesson Learnt 3:** As the project demonstrates, flexibility, adaptability and seizing opportunities are key to successfully delivering projects in challenging and fast-moving contexts, including during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Lesson Learnt 4:** Joint partnerships can work well when the project's enabling environment allows for this. A robust Theory of Change together with strong MEAL systems and mechanisms can help to facilitate this as well as inform programming and ensure that the project remains on-track. A joint vision on access to justice, which is regularly evaluated, is also necessary. Dedicating sufficient time and resources to cultivating and nurturing partnerships at the right level can strengthen ownership, contribute to the attainment of project results and help ensure the sustainability of the project's outcomes

**Lesson Learnt 5:** Efforts to strengthen women's access to justice need to go beyond traditional capacity development of duty bearers and/or gender training of duty bearers and rights holders. The project results show that tangible results can be gained when activities are focused at the community level in terms of strengthening community based justice mechanisms. These can become a crucial avenue for women

providing accessible and culturally sensitive justice solutions. This involves active community engagement to understand local customs, traditions and power dynamics, ensuring that justice mechanisms align with community values. Women's voices in decision-making related to justice solutions contribute to more inclusive and equitable justice outcomes.

**Lesson Learnt 6:** Mainstreaming a human rights-based approach, which combines top-down protection and bottom-up empowerment is critically important in the realisation of project results. This is particularly important for strengthening women's access to justice because a human rights-based approach empowers women to know and claim their rights. It ensures that legal systems prioritize equality, dignity and non-discrimination, leading to more comprehensive, empowering and sustainable outcomes for women. It also ensures that the legal systems and mechanisms prioritize and protect the rights of women, recognizing them as equal and autonomous individuals. It recognizes women as rights-holders with the agency to claim and exercise their rights.



Women justice champions from Nepal  
Photo: UN Women/Kabita Thapa

# 1

# INTRODUCTION

## 1. Introduction

This Evaluation Report relates to a final evaluation of the regional project, “Enhancing Access to Justice for Women in Asia and the Pacific: Bridging the gap between formal and community-based systems through women’s empowerment” (Women’s Access to Justice). It is a joint evaluation between UN Women, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) in accordance with the guidance from the UN Evaluation Group (UNEG). The Evaluation covers the entire period of project implementation from May 2018 – June 2023. It does not cover the cost extension period until March 2024.

The overall objective of the joint evaluation was to assess progress made over the project period towards the attainment of the intended outcome, “*Enhanced utilization of gender-responsive and people-centred approaches in central and community-based justice mechanisms in Asia and the Pacific, that enabled and empowered women, in all their diversity, to equally access justice for the realization of their rights*”,<sup>1</sup> and the relevance/coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, human rights and gender equality, including a look into how women from vulnerable groups were engaged in the project, including disability inclusion. The evaluation is both summative, in terms of assessing the project’s results, as well as formative through the provision of utility-based, actionable recommendations to inform any potential future programming in the area of women’s access to justice.

The evaluation’s geographical coverage and approach is multi-country - including the project’s target countries in Asia and the Pacific, namely Indonesia, Philippines, Nepal, Timor Leste, Sri Lanka and the Solomon Islands, as well as regional in scope by reviewing activities that were undertaken at the regional and sub-regional (South-East Asia, South Asia and the Pacific Islands) levels. Two country case-studies were undertaken in Nepal and the Solomon Islands.

The primary audience and intended users of the final evaluation are UN Women, ICJ and OHCHR, who will use the evaluation for knowledge generation and learning, strategic decision making, accountability and

capacity development and mobilisation. The secondary users include UN Women IEAS and coordination partners may use the evaluation for learning and knowledge generation; project partners, national and local governments and CSO representatives who can use the evaluation for learning and knowledge generation, accountability and capacity development and mobilisation and donors and development partners who can also use it to inform strategic decision making.

The Final Report is structured as per the UN Women Evaluation Handbook and GERAAS Evaluation Report template as follows:

Chapter 2 provides a brief context and background and summary of the Women’s Access to Justice Programme. It sets out the purpose, objectives and scope of the evaluation.

Chapter 3 presents the overall methodology for conducting the final evaluation. It details the design of the evaluation including the overall approach, methods of data collection and the analytical framework. It also details the sample and sampling design and provides justification for these approaches. Finally, this chapter considers the limitations of the evaluation and how the evaluation team mitigated these, as well as the overall data management plan and ethical considerations.

Chapter 4 provides the evidence-based findings, cross-referenced to the evaluation questions.

Chapter 5 provides the conclusions and lessons learned, with analysis of how they can be applied to other contexts and cross-referenced with the findings.

Finally, Chapter 6 provides recommendations, cross-referenced to the relevant findings and conclusions. These are clearly prioritised, setting out owners, time-frame and the rationale for the recommendation.

There are several annexes to the Evaluation Report, including the evaluation matrix, the data collection tools and instruments including the informed consent template, the stakeholder analysis, the evaluability assessment, a table of the MTR recommendations and how they have been addressed by the project, a list of stakeholders consulted, the list of documents consulted, progress against indicators, the gender at work analysis, the Nepal and Solomon Islands case studies and the Terms of Reference and Solomon Islands case studies and the Terms of Reference.

<sup>2</sup> The Outcome statement was updated by the project partners (UN Women, OHCHR and ICJ), in accordance with the recommendation of the Mid-Term Review.



Two university students who are involved in the Peace Village programme in Sidomulyo village, Indonesia.  
Photo: UN Women/Satu Bumi Jaya

# 2

## CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

## 2.1 Context

In recent years, there has been an expansion of women's legal entitlements in many national contexts. However, laws that are discriminatory towards women and gaps in legal frameworks continue to be serious challenges around the world. The reality remains that meaningful justice is still out of reach for an estimated 5.1 billion people—two-thirds of the world's population.<sup>2</sup> Women and marginalized groups are particularly disadvantaged in the justice system as they often face unique social and institutional barriers to accessing justice, such as biases in justice institutions, social stigma, psychological trauma of bringing claims, and lack of gender-sensitive procedures.

Although most countries in the Asia Pacific region<sup>3</sup> are parties to the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), many of these countries retain reservations that limit the application and practice of the principle in the convention. There has been progress in strengthening the promotion and protection of women's human rights, but for millions of women across the region, the reality remains that justice is still out of reach. As observed by the CEDAW Committee in its General Recommendation No. 33, the presence of plural justice systems in many States can, in itself, limit women's access to justice by perpetuating and reinforcing discriminatory social norms.<sup>4</sup> Plural justice systems exist in many countries in the Asia Pacific region. According to the CEDAW Committee, plural justice systems may co-exist with State laws, regulations, procedures and decision, but States should be aware that they are obliged under the Convention and other international human rights instruments to ensure that women's rights are equally respected and that women are protected against violations of their human rights by by all components of plural legal systems<sup>5</sup>

Other factors identified by the CEDAW Committee that limit access to justice are "illiteracy, trafficking of women, armed conflict, seeking asylum, internal displacement, statelessness, migration, women heading households, widowhood, living with HIV/

AIDS, deprivation of liberty, criminalization of prostitution, geographical remoteness and stigmatisation of women fighting for their rights.<sup>6</sup>

Furthermore, the CEDAW Committee also recognizes that additional elements limiting women's access to justice include intersectional factors such as indigenous or minority status, religious or belief, national origin, urban/rural location, health status, property ownership, and sexual orientation.<sup>7</sup> Deeply entrenched discriminatory and gender-biased attitudes, norms and practices, including by justice practitioners and by community members, prevent women from accessing justice and in many cases, women have also internalized harmful gender norms, which limits their own justice-seeking behaviour.

These limitations on women's access to justice must be addressed in order to advance SDG 5 and combat discrimination towards women. Ensuring strong legal frameworks and non-discriminatory practices in the judicial sphere is a first step towards eliminating the social and legal conditions that perpetuate gender inequality

Some specific challenges in the Asia Pacific region include:

*a) Laws and legal interpretations that discriminate against women and lack of implementation of related international frameworks*

One of the main barriers for women in accessing justice in Asia and the Pacific is the lack of implementation of laws and/or the interpretation of laws in a way that leads to discrimination against them. Many countries in the region have made reservations on Article 16 of CEDAW (including Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand in South East Asia; Maldives, Bangladesh and Pakistan in South Asia; and Micronesia in the Pacific ), which guarantees women's rights within marriage and family. These rights include, among others, equal rights to marry for men and women, to exercise free and full consent, to dissolve marriage, and to make parental decisions. The CEDAW Committee has identified these rights as central to the object and purpose of the Convention.

It is important to note a trend in the region (and globally) of more restrictive interpretations of (religious) laws, which has resulted in discrimination against women. This is an issue of serious concern that seems

<sup>2</sup> <https://worldjusticeproject.org/our-work/research-and-data/access-justice/measuring-justice-gap>

<sup>3</sup> The countries in the region that have not ratified CEDAW are Iran (Islamic Republic of), Palau, and Tonga.

<sup>4</sup> CEDAW Committee, General Recommendation No. 33 on women's access to justice, para 62.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid. at para 61.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid. at para 9.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid. at para 8.

to be growing as more fundamentalist approaches to religion spread. For example, the CEDAW Committee, in its Concluding Observations following the sixth and seventh periodic reports of Indonesia in 2012, expressed concern over the increasing number of discriminatory ordinances that are backed by religious groups at the provincial and district levels.<sup>8</sup> One such ordinance, for example, imposed a women-specific curfew allegedly for their own safety.

Laws and legal interpretations that discriminate against women also prevent women from playing a significant role in managing the environment. For instance, there are many countries in Asia that still subscribe to the patrilineal inheritance system, which denies women the equal right to inheritance.<sup>9</sup> Furthermore, in some countries, many women are unaware of their land ownership status because of sexual division of labour at home founded on gender stereotypes. Women are expected to perform their role of homemakers, while men are considered the primary breadwinners.<sup>10</sup> Women are expected to be the primary caregiver of the children, while men undertake paid work outside the home and manage the family's assets.

#### *b) Gender discriminatory attitudes and stereotyped behaviours of justice sector actors towards women*

The CEDAW Committee, in its Concluding Observations following the reports of several countries in the region, said that the lack of awareness of the Convention among the judges in these countries hinders access to justice for women. Indeed, as balanced, well-informed and unbiased judicial decision-making is an essential part of ensuring that women who go to court get justice.<sup>11</sup> This has been further corroborated through the collaboration of UN Women and ICJ on a series of dialogues on CEDAW for judges from Southeast Asian countries, as participants

recommended more trainings and workshops be held for judges on how to implement CEDAW principles in their decisions in domestic courts

The need for capacity building to eliminate gender discriminatory attitudes and stereotyped behaviours towards women goes well beyond judges, however, and includes all actors in the justice chain, including law enforcement actors. This is especially true for frontline formal justice officials (police, prosecutors and courts of first instance personnel), as they are the first point of contact with women and those who can enable or hinder women's real ability to access justice. All these actors require better understanding on the root causes of discriminatory attitudes towards women so that they are able to build more gender-responsive justice institutions.

Eliminating gender discriminatory attitudes and stereotyped behaviours of justice sector actors towards women is also especially important in the context of protecting the rights of women in the context of climate change. This region has recently experienced some of the worst environmental disasters brought about by climate change. Studies show that women, in comparison to men, are disproportionately or more adversely affected during environmental disasters. Vulnerable and dependent groups, especially from patriarchal societies, developing economies and traditional contexts, find themselves having to face violence against them exacerbated in situations of disaster and disruption. For example, both domestic violence and sexual assault were widely reported to increase in the aftermath of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. Reports have emerged from Sri Lanka revealing women experiencing domestic violence because of how they resisted their husbands' sale of their jewellery or disputed their use of tsunami relief funds.

There is a need for capacity building to eliminate gender discriminatory attitudes and stereotyped behaviours against women by justice actors so that they

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8 Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Concluding observations on the sixth and seventh periodic report of Indonesia, UN Doc. CEDAW/C/DN/CO/6-7/R.1 (27 July 2012), par. 15.

9 UN Women, CEDAW Casebook: An Analysis of Case Law in Southeast Asia, 2016, p. 49.

10 UN Women, Gender Stereotypes in Laws and Court Decisions in Southeast Asia, 2016.

11 UN Women, 2011 – 2012, Progress of the World's Women: In Pursuit of Justice, p. 120, available at <http://www.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2011/progressoftheworldswomen-2011-en.pdf>



can immediately and effectively respond and address the needs of women and enhance their access to justice during environmental disasters.

However, there are many obstacles for women accessing justice that go beyond capacity building of justice providers. This includes structural, operation and financial challenges with justice mechanisms, which impact women is well. It is crucial to have a holistic approach to justice that goes beyond simply just the provision of gender training

### *c) Women's limited access to formal and informal justice, including in plural justice systems*

Plural justice systems refer to the coexistence within a State party of State laws, regulations, procedures and decisions on one hand, and of religious, customary, indigenous or community laws and practices on the other. They may include various combinations of codified civil law, religious law, indigenous or customary legal codes, community arbitration or other dispute settlement procedures. They can be formal or informal. Some orders are recognized and sanctioned by the state, while others are not.

UN Women has been working on generating a deeper understanding of the situation of women living in the context of plural legal systems and the challenges they face when confronting the justice sector. In 2012, jointly with UNDP and UNICEF, UN Women published a study on “Informal justice systems Charting a course for human rights engagement.”<sup>1</sup> At the regional level, in 2013, UN Women initiated a research project on women's access to justice in plural legal systems in Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines, Timor-Leste, Thailand, and Viet Nam. The research revealed significant gaps in women's access to justice across the plural legal systems of these countries.

In the focus countries of the project, women face significant challenges in accessing justice. In Indonesia, the legal framework provides a foundation for gender equality, with constitutional guarantees and international commitments. However, challenges persist at the implementation level. Socio-cultural norms often hinder women from reporting violence, and the informal justice system may perpetuate gender-based discrimination. Additionally, geographical disparities in legal infrastructure and awareness further limit

women's access to justice. The Philippines has made strides in recognizing women's rights, with legislation such as the Magna Carta of Women. However, the implementation of laws is hindered by a lack of resources and persistent patriarchal attitudes. Rural areas, in particular, face challenges in accessing justice due to limited legal infrastructure. The Philippines also grapples with the intersectionality of issues, as women from marginalized communities face compounded barriers.

Nepal has witnessed progress in legal reforms and the recognition of women's rights in recent years. However, deeply entrenched patriarchal norms and societal expectations hinder the effective implementation of these laws. Rural and marginalized communities, often excluded from mainstream legal processes, face additional challenges. The intersection of caste and gender further exacerbates the disparities in access to justice for women. Sri Lanka exhibits a complex legal landscape influenced by historical and cultural factors. Despite legislative advancements, the patriarchal mindset prevails, affecting women's ability to access justice. The post-conflict context adds unique challenges, with women facing barriers such as sexual violence and displacement. The slow pace of legal proceedings and the lack of awareness exacerbate the difficulties women encounter in seeking justice.

Timor-Leste, having emerged from a tumultuous history, faces challenges in establishing a robust legal framework for women's rights. Traditional norms often conflict with formal legal provisions, making it difficult for women to exercise their rights. Limited legal literacy, especially in rural areas, contributes to the overall challenge. Post-conflict reconciliation efforts also impact women differently, often leaving their grievances unaddressed. In the Solomon Islands, customary law coexists with formal legal systems, creating a unique legal landscape. While customary practices can provide a sense of community justice, they may also perpetuate gender-based discrimination. Limited infrastructure and geographical constraints pose significant barriers for women in remote areas. The intersection of cultural and gender norms further complicates the landscape of women's access to justice.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2013/1/informal-justice-systems-charting-a-course-for-human-rights-based-engagement>

Across these diverse contexts, there are several common themes that impede women's access to justice. These include entrenched patriarchal norms, limited legal literacy, geographical disparities, and the impact of historical and cultural factors. Discriminatory attitudes, both within formal legal systems and informal community structures, contribute to the challenges women face in seeking justice.

While each country faces unique challenges, many have undertaken legal reforms and made international commitments to address gender-based discrimination. Ratification of international conventions and the development of gender-sensitive legislation demonstrate a commitment to improving women's access to justice. However, the effectiveness of these efforts often depends on their implementation at the grassroots level. Rural and remote areas consistently face greater challenges in providing access to justice for women. Limited legal infrastructure, coupled with traditional and cultural barriers, can isolate women in these regions. The intersectionality of issues, such as caste, ethnicity, and socio-economic status, complicates women's experiences with the legal system.

Countries emerging from conflict, such as Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste, face unique challenges in addressing women's access to justice. Post-conflict reconciliation efforts may not adequately consider gender-based violence, and the experiences of women during conflict may go unaddressed.

Solomon Islands is shaped by a complex interplay of cultural, historical, and socio-economic factors. While legal reforms and international commitments provide a foundation for progress, challenges persist at the implementation level. Addressing entrenched patriarchal norms, improving legal literacy, and adopting an intersectional approach are crucial steps towards creating a more inclusive and effective legal framework for women.

It is against this backdrop that the Project "Enhancing Access to Justice for Women in Asia and the Pacific: Bridging the gap between formal and community-based systems through women's empowerment and reduction of gender biases" was developed.

## 2.2 Background to the Project

The Project "Enhancing Access to Justice for Women in Asia and the Pacific: Bridging the gap between formal and community-based systems through

women's empowerment and reduction of gender biases" is a five-year programme from May 2018 – June 2023. The programme is supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), with total funding of \$11,391,985.<sup>1</sup> The project aims to strengthen gender-responsive people-centred justice and eliminate gender discriminatory laws and practices to improve women's use, access to and participation in justice systems. The project is implemented at both the regional level as well as the sub-regional level: Southeast Asia (SEA), South Asia (SA) and the Pacific Islands, with a specific focus on Indonesia, the Philippines, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste and the Solomon Islands. It is noted that the Solomon Islands component only began in November 2022 and ended in June 2023 and had a separate TOR that focused more on outcome 3 of the regional project. The project is designed to work towards that all women will be beneficiaries, without leaving anyone behind, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In realizing the goal, UN Women together with the project responsible parties - ICJ and OHCHR (both the regional offices of Southeast Asia and the Pacific) - focus on achieving one outcome and three outputs.

The original outcome for the project was amended following the 2022 Mid-Term Review (MTR) and now reads:

**Outcome:** Enhanced utilization of gender-responsive and people-centred approaches in central and community-based justice mechanisms in Asia and the Pacific, that enabled and empowered women, in all their diversity, to equally access justice for the realization of their rights.

The outputs are as follows:

- **Output 1:** Domestic laws adopted and court decisions are consistent with international human rights law and standards, including the Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).
- **Output 2:** Gender discriminatory attitudes and stereotyped behaviours towards women by formal and community justice providers are addressed.

<sup>1</sup> The original funding provided by the Government of Sweden through Sida was for USD \$9,577,585. Additional funding of \$680,000 and \$1 million for the programme was provided by Sida in December 2020 and July 2021, respectively.

• **Output 3:** Grassroots women’s organizations and community-based women’s organizations are empowered and well-positioned to document, monitor, liaise and facilitate interactions with justice providers.

Under **output 1**, the project is focusing on strengthening the normative framework, particularly in Sri Lanka, Nepal and Indonesia through strengthening women’s human rights advocates to have strengthened capacity to influence legislative discussions on the reform of laws that explicitly discriminate against women; providing technical support to lawmakers on addressing gender discrimination; and strengthening the capacity of domestic courts to use applicable international law and standards in emblematic cases related to the protection of women’s human rights.

In the Solomon Islands the project is strengthening the Family Protection Act (FPA) the only Act that addresses domestic violence in the country. This law was adopted over a decade ago but was never implemented. UN Women picked up on this and supported its amendment to make the Law implementable. This activity also fell under output 3, since UN Women’s aim was to involve the community in legislative change as well as the community-based implementation of Laws. This includes a regulation in the FPA that formalises the appointment of current Local Court Justices to become Authorised Justices (AJs). They are able to implement the FPA in rural areas by way of serving Interim Protection Orders (IPOs) on perpetrators directly since there are no courts and magistrates in the rural areas, except for the Local Courts which is responsible only for dealing with land matters including land disputes. Access to courts is therefore a major challenge for women so the AJs and community facilitators who are called Prescribed Persons (PPs) support victims/survivors to fill and serve the IPOs (AJs role) as well as to refer them to service providers (can be done by both) for counselling, medical attention, mediation, accommodation or to accompany them to the police station or getting the police to travel to the community (which is a major challenge as police are not responsive) if the case is of a very serious nature.

Under **output 2**, the project is focusing on strengthening capacities of formal and informal justice actors, both at national and local/community level, in Sri Lanka, Nepal, Indonesia, Timor Leste and the Philippines through expanding the adoption and use of the Bangkok General Guidance for Judges on Applying a Gender Perspective; building the capacity

of judges from first instance courts to incorporate a gender perspective in their decision-making; building the capacity of frontline formal justice actors to eliminate gender discriminatory attitudes and behaviours towards women; building the capacity of informal justice (community-based) adjudicators to eliminate gender discriminatory attitudes and behaviours towards women; providing platforms for dialogue between various components of plural justice systems to build consensus on how they can be more gender-responsive and promote gender-sensitive attitudes in their institutions.

Under **output 3**, the project is focusing on strengthening capacities of community-based justice actors at the local level, especially in Nepal, Indonesia, Timor Leste, Solomon Islands and the Philippines through increasing awareness of women’s rights among women and communities; and increasing female participation and representation in advocating women’s access to justice before formal and informal justice systems. Under this output, the project has implemented a series of pilots, which went beyond just capacity building and also focused on institutional change, as well as social change through the full engagement of grassroots organisations and whole communities.

### 2.3 Key Project Partners and Stakeholders

As part of the inception process, the evaluation team undertook a stakeholder mapping exercise to identify all potential project stakeholders. The initial mapping identified upwards of 200 stakeholders, both duty bearers and rights holders. The mapping was further refined to identify the most important or key stakeholders. These stakeholders were broken down into the following groups:

- Duty bearers who have decision-making authority over the intervention such as governing bodies
- Duty bearers who have direct responsibility for the intervention, such as programme managers
- Judicial representatives and community-justice providers
- Scoping mission participants
- Webinar/workshop participants
- Rights holders (individually or through the civil society organizations acting on their behalf) who are the intended and unintended beneficiaries of the intervention

Both the initial stakeholder analysis and the refined stakeholder analysis are presented at Annex II.

In addition, the evaluation team identified the project teams, the donor, the EMG and the ERG as key stakeholders in the evaluation process.

## 2.4 Theory of Change

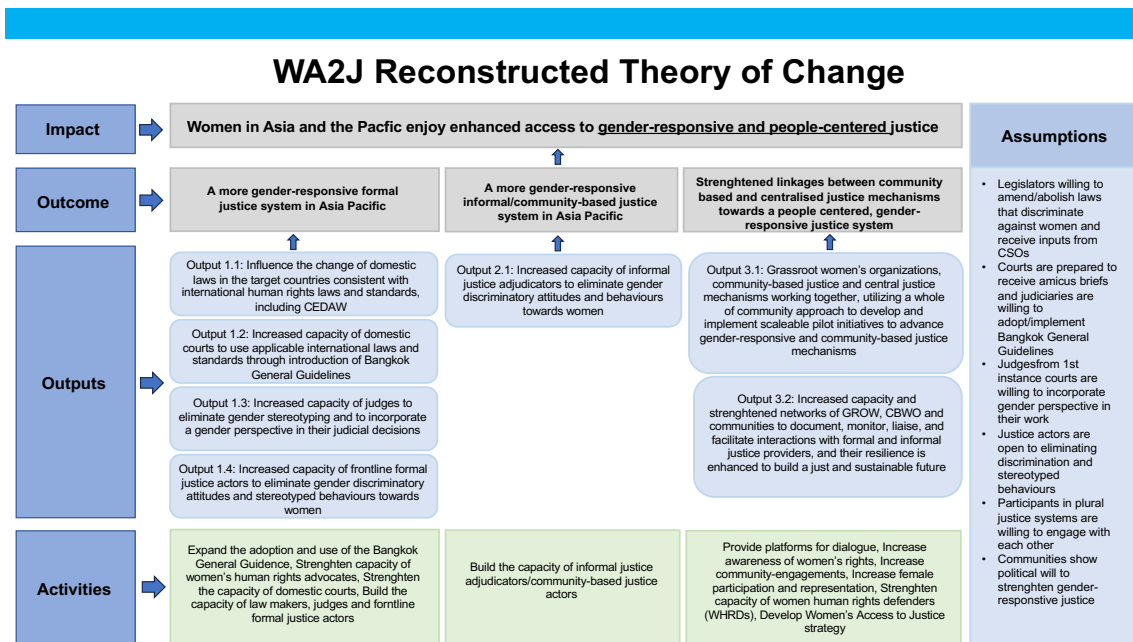
As per the project document, the project results are based on the theory of change that if: (i) A legal enabling environment for women to access gender-responsive justice is created by advocating for laws and court decisions that are consistent with international human rights law and standards, including the CEDAW;

and, (ii) Community-based justice systems are gender-responsive and have an increased understanding and awareness of women’s rights; and, (iii) Grassroots women’s organizations, community-based women’s organizations, and communities are empowered and well positioned to document, monitor, liaise and facilitate interactions with justice providers; then, women’s access to justice will be enhanced in the Asia Pacific region. There was no visualisation of the ToC in the project document.

Based on the evaluability assessment undertaken by the project team as part of the inception process, the reconstructed ToC is presented below:

**Figure 2.**

### Reconstructed Theory of Change



The evaluation team mapped onto the reconstructed ToC all of the project’s original indicators as included in the 2nd Amendment of the project document. These have been supplemented by 4 additional indicators proposed by UN Women to reflect the new ToC. Finally, the evaluation team have proposed 3 outcome level indicators (one per outcome), which have been assessed through the data collection processes, in particular, the focus group discussions. These have been used by the evaluation team to assess the progress of the project against its envisaged results. Project progress towards indicators is presented at Annex VIII.

## 2.5 Evaluation purpose, objective and scope.

The Terms of Reference (ToR – please see Annex XII) provide the framework for the evaluation, including the purpose, objective and scope of the evaluation, which the evaluation team analysed to develop the specific methodology for conducting the evaluation. The purpose of the evaluation is to feed into learning about what worked well with respect to the joint approach to gender-responsive people-centred justice, what can be improved, serve accountability purposes, and feed into decision-making regarding further iterations of the project.

While it has not yet been decided whether there will be a future phase of the project as is, the evaluation will be one of the tools in the decision-making process. The evaluation also looks at the coordination role of UN Women and the nature of the partnership with ICJ and OHCHR as well as the extent to which the project has addressed the Leave No One Behind Agenda (LNOB), which underpins the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

As per the Terms of Reference (ToR), the overall objective of the joint evaluation was to assess progress made over the project period towards the attainment of the intended outcome, *“Enhanced utilization of gender-responsive and people-centred approaches in central and community-based justice mechanisms in Asia and the Pacific, that enabled and empowered women, in all their diversity, to equally access justice for the realization of their rights”*,<sup>1</sup> and the relevance/coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, human rights and gender equality, including a look into how women from vulnerable groups were engaged in the project, including disability inclusion. The evaluation provides

an assessment of how the project has integrated the recommendations and lessons learned from the Mid-Term Review (MTR). It also provides inputs and gives guidance for potential further iterations of the project or in the thematic area of women’s access to justice.

Overall, the joint evaluation:

- Assesses the relevance of the programme to stakeholders, including rights holders with respect to programme design and implementation;
- Assesses the effectiveness and efficiency of the approaches implemented in attaining the intended results and any potential unintended consequences (positive or negative);
- Assesses the potential for sustainability, and integration of human rights and gender equality in design and implementation; and
- Produces lessons learned and issue actionable recommendations for further iterations of the project or similar programming.

<sup>1</sup> The Outcome statement was updated by the project partners (UN Women, OHCHR and ICJ), in accordance with the recommendation of the Mid-Term Review.



Young Women’s Congress in the Philippines, Mindanao 2018, speaking up about women’s active citizenship and political participation  
Photo: UN Women/ Usapang Babae



Photo: UN Women/Joser Dumbrique

# 3

## METHODOLOGY

### 3. Methodology

The main reference for the evaluation methodology was the OECD/DAC Evaluation Criteria as well as the UN Evaluation Group (UNEG) Norms and Standards, and the UNEG Guidance on Integrating Human Rights and Gender Equality in Evaluation. Furthermore, the evaluation was designed to be gender-responsive, follow a human-rights based approach, and reflect utilisation-focused, empowerment and feminist approaches. These approaches are elaborated further below.

The evaluation was conducted in line with UNEG's Evaluation Guidelines and Norms and Standards for Evaluation as well as the OECD-DAC evaluation criteria - (a) relevance/coherence; (b) effectiveness; (c) efficiency; and (d) sustainability. In addition, the evaluation assessed the project's integration of two cross-cutting themes - gender equality and the human rights-based approach (HRBA).

#### 3.1 Evaluation criteria and elaboration of key questions

As per the ToR, the evaluation team was asked to consider a number of key questions shaped around the OECD-DAC evaluation criteria and the additional criteria of gender equality and the HRBA. The evaluation team analysed the questions included in the ToR and developed five over-arching key questions to guide the evaluation, with the questions included in the ToR being used as sub-questions. This ensured that all areas included in the ToR were analysed and addressed in the final evaluation. The key questions and sub-questions are presented in Chapter 4, together with the corresponding findings.

The key evaluation questions and sub-questions were synthesized into an Evaluation Matrix (see Annex I), which provided the analytical framework for conducting the evaluation.

#### 3.2 Evaluation Design

##### 3.2.1 Overall approach

The evaluation was multi-faceted and the methodological approach used mixed (qualitative and quantitative) methods, as the best vehicle for meeting the evaluation's needs. The evaluation team ensured that the evaluation was conducted through a participatory and consultative process, which included all relevant national and regional stakeholders and the

project beneficiaries. The methodological approach promoted inclusion and participation by employing gender equality and human rights responsive approaches with a focus on utilisation-focused, empowerment and feminist approaches. These approaches and how they have been incorporated into both the design of the evaluation and its conduct are detailed below:

##### (i) Gender Equality and Human Rights Based Approach

As per the [UN Women Good practices in gender-responsive evaluations](#), the [UNEG Guidance on Integrating Human Rights and Gender Equality in Evaluation](#) and the [UN Women Evaluation Handbook](#), gender equality and the human rights-based approach aspects were integrated into both the evaluation scope and methodology and incorporated into the evaluation matrix and evaluation questions.

##### (ii) Utilisation Focused Approach<sup>1</sup>

The evaluation team adopted a utilisation focused approach that promotes the usage of the evaluation report and seeks to enhance learning among all stakeholders.

##### (v) Participatory storytelling and most significant change approach

In particular for the case studies, the evaluation employed a participatory storytelling and most significant change approach (MSC).<sup>2</sup> (Please see Annex X for the Nepal Case Study and Annex XI for the Solomon Islands Case Study). The MSC approach contributed to the evaluation through providing data on impact and outcomes which was used to help assess the performance of the programme as a whole. In Nepal and the Solomon Islands, the national consultants collected significant change stories emanating from the field level and systematically selected the most important of these through consultation with the evaluation team and ultimately the EMG and ERG. The MSC approach goes beyond the assessment of the project against its indicators by capturing more results at outcome and impact level.

1 <https://www.betterevaluation.org/methods-approaches/approaches/utilisation-focused-evaluation>

2 The Most Significant Change (MSC) technique is a form of participatory evaluation. It is participatory because many project stakeholders are involved both in deciding the sorts of change to be recorded and in analysing the data.

### 3.2.2 Usage of previous evaluations and assessment of how lessons learned have been addressed

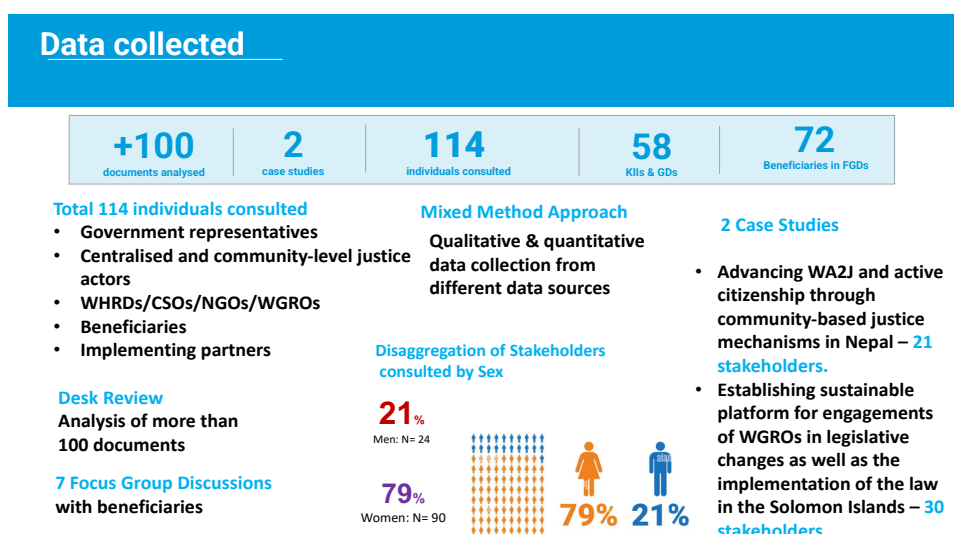
The MTR of the WA2J project undertaken in 2021/2022 included three national level MTRs undertaken in Nepal, the Philippines and Indonesia. A Country Portfolio Evaluation (CPE) was finalised in Nepal in 2022<sup>1</sup> and a CPE has recently been finalised in Indonesia. The evaluation team relied to the greatest extent possible on the materials already gathered through these processes and avoided “evaluation fatigue” by repeatedly targeting the same stakeholders for participation. In the case of Nepal, a greater reliance was placed on the desk review and document research process, with a smaller number of stakeholder meetings and FGDs conducted. Those that were conducted focused on recent developments in the programme (August 2022 – onwards) and tried to include stakeholders not already included as part of the previous reviews/evaluation. For stakeholders who had already participated in the Indonesia Country Programme Evaluation, in order to avoid overlap and duplication, the evaluation team consulted with the Indonesia Country Programme Evaluation Team to obtain their insights and discuss their findings and conclusions. These stakeholders did not participate directly in this evaluation.

### 3.3 Data collection methods and instruments and analytical framework

A number of different data collection methods and instruments were utilised by the evaluation team in order to collect as much primary and secondary,

quantitative and qualitative data as possible to ensure the integrity of the evaluation. This allowed for the maximum reliability of data and validity of the evaluation findings, as well as generating feedback loops and insights to inform future planning. These methods are detailed in the Inception Report and included desk research and document review whereby over 100 documents were reviewed (please see Annex VI); key informant interviews/group discussions whereby 114 stakeholders – 90 women, 24 men were consulted during 48 key informant interviews and 10 group discussions; 7 focus group discussions with 72 of the project’s beneficiaries; two case studies for Nepal (Annex X) and the Solomon Islands (Annex XI); as well as analysis of the project’s financial documents. Nepal and Solomon Islands were identified as case study countries based on criteria related to relevance and strategic focus, feasibility and scope for capturing lessons learned and richest learning opportunities. The project management team selected these countries in consultation with the evaluation team. The rationale for the selection was also to avoid delays in the evaluation process. The focus group discussions were designed to emphasise participants as experts of their own experiences and of the communities in which they live. The structure of the key informant interviews was designed to empower the participants to guide the direction of each interview according to their insights, opinions, and priorities. A summary of the data collected is provided below and a full, anonymised list of stakeholders consulted is provided at Annex V.

<sup>1</sup> <https://gate.unwomen.org/EvaluationUnit/FullDetails?EvaluationUnitId=169>





### 3.4 Analytical methods

In order to analyse the collected data, the following analytical methods were applied by the evaluation team:

#### *Contribution Analysis*

In the complex development context in Asia and the Pacific and in the specific countries in which the WA2J project is being implemented, it was difficult for the final evaluation to attribute the observed results solely to the project. This is partly because of the number of stakeholders involved, partly because of other exogenous factors, and partly because of the complex nature of the project itself. For this reason, the evaluation team adopted a contribution analysis approach, which does not firmly establish causality but rather seeks to achieve a plausible association by analysing the project's reconstructed ToC and results framework, documenting the project's successes and value added, applying the "before and after" criterion, i.e. what exists now that did not exist before and what has changed since the start of the project, and through considering the counterfactual – what would have happened without the WA2J project.

#### *Political Economy Analysis*

A political economy approach recognises the local and regional contexts and the incentives faced by the actors engaged in it, i.e. the internal and external factors that determine success. This helped the evaluation team to understand who seeks to gain and lose from the WA2J project, as well as to identify who has vested interests and the social and cultural norms that need to be taken into account.

#### *Quantitative and Qualitative Data Analysis*

Most of the primary data collection methods (interviews, FGDs and site visits) collected qualitative data. These were analysed using a code structure, aligned to the key evaluation questions, sub-questions and indicators. The NVivo software was used to assist in this process. The qualitative data from the primary data collection methods was cross-referenced with other sources such as documents. The quantitative data produced descriptive analysis (rather than more complex regressions).

#### *Triangulation*

Triangulation is the process of using multiple data sources, data collection methods, and/or theories to

validate research findings. The evaluation team used more than one approach (data collection method) to address the evaluation questions in order to reduce the risk of bias and increase the chances of detecting errors or anomalies. Wherever possible all data gathered, both qualitatively and quantitatively was triangulated, through cross verification from two or more sources. For interviews, this was done through posing a similar set of questions to multiple interviewees. For the document review it was accomplished through crosschecking data and information from multiple sources to increase the credibility and validity of the material. The evaluation team applied three approaches to triangulation: methods triangulation (checking the consistency of findings generated by different data collection methods); interrogating data where diverging results arise; and analyst triangulation (discussion and validation of findings, allowing for a consistent approach to interpretive analysis).

#### *Data Synthesis*

Data synthesis is the process of bringing all the evidence together to synthesize the data and formulate findings and conclusions. Multiple lines of evidence fed into the contribution analysis. An evidence map was utilized to map information obtained from different sources on the same results area and evaluation questions, including UN Women reports (annual report, partners' reports, donor reports, evaluations, and audits) and information collected through interviews and case studies. The evaluation team synthesized data in two ways. The first was the process of articulating the key findings and cross-checking the strength of the evidence for each. Based on this, the conclusions were developed and cross-checked for their relevance to the findings

#### *Verification and Validation*

The above steps incorporate verification and validation of evidence during the data collection and data analysis processes. In addition, the evaluation team presented their preliminary findings and recommendations at an evaluation de-brief and preliminary findings presentations held with the EMG and ERG and the draft report will be shared widely amongst the project team and other key stakeholders, allowing for review and comments. These processes provide an opportunity to share key findings, offer mutual challenges, and discuss the feasibility of and receptiveness to draft recommendations.

They also provide an important opportunity to foster buy-in to the evaluation process particularly for the stakeholders who will have responsibility for implementing recommendations.

### 3.5 Evaluation Governance and Quality Assurance

As per the Terms of Reference, the joint evaluation was jointly managed by UN Women, OHCHR and ICJ. UN Women, OHCHR and ICJ supported the evaluators in the evaluation process, including preparation, conduct and reporting, although they not interfere with the impartiality of the evaluation. UN Women, OHCHR and ICJ jointly engaged in the planning and reporting stages, including the Theory of Change workshop, inception Presentation, De-brief and presentation of preliminary findings and recommendations and the final presentation. The joint evaluation had an Evaluation Management Group (EMG) and an Evaluation Reference Group (ERG) to facilitate the management of the evaluation.

#### 3.5.1 Evaluation Groups

The joint evaluation had the following groups:

**Co-managers:** UN Women Regional Evaluation Specialist, Independent Evaluation Service, took the lead in co-managing the evaluation in close coordination and consultation with the OHCHR Independent Evaluation Office and ICJ. The evaluation co-managers ensured the independence and impartiality of the evaluation process given that they were not engaged in the management or implementation of the programme. They provided guidance on methodology and oversaw the quality assurance; and served as the main contact with the evaluation team, but also worked closely with the Evaluation Management Group to manage the logistics.

**Evaluation Management Group (EMG):** the EMG included the evaluation managers and programme personnel from project partners. It oversaw the day-to-day management of the evaluation, also providing logistics and other types of support. The EMG was responsible for providing overall quality assurance on the evaluation process and deliverables.

**Evaluation Reference Group (ERG):** In addition, the joint evaluation required an Evaluation Reference Group (ERG) to ensure that the voices of stakeholders were heard and responded to through the evaluation process. The ERG reviewed evaluation products for

factual correctness, possible misinterpretations or major gaps.

### 3.6 Challenges and Limitations of the Evaluation and Mitigation Responses

The greatest challenge facing the evaluation team was the timeline for the evaluation, which was extended on multiple occasions in part due to recruitment delays with regards to the national consultants and in part due to the availability and responsiveness of stakeholders to participate in the evaluation. The evaluation team mitigated this to the extent possible by adopting a very flexible approach and trying to accommodate and respond to external factors beyond the control of the evaluation team. A second limitation faced by the evaluation team was potential selection bias. Beneficiaries provided by the project and its partners could mean that the evaluation team heard only from people who had positive experiences. However, the evaluation team mitigated this potential bias through using multiple sources of data and questions eliciting specific examples to mitigate the risk of this bias. In addition, a wide variety of stakeholders participated in the evaluation and a large number of documents were reviewed, which allowed for additional triangulation. Finally, conducting interviews online introduced certain limitations. Firstly, arranging interviews became more challenging in the virtual environment. Secondly, establishing rapport, which is typically facilitated by in-person interactions, presented difficulties in online interviews. To partially mitigate these limitations, the evaluation team ensured to interview organizations and other relevant stakeholders who have had direct engagement with the beneficiaries. This approach aimed to solicit their feedback and insights, helping to compensate for the challenges associated with online interviews.

### 3.7 Data management plan, informed consent and ethical considerations

The evaluation adhered to international best practices and standards in evaluation, including the OECD DAC ethical considerations for development evaluations<sup>1</sup> and [UNEG Ethical Guidelines and Code of Conduct](#).<sup>2</sup>

1 <https://www.oecd.org/development/evaluation/qualitystandards.pdf>

2 United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG), [UNEG Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation- UNEGFN/CoC](#), 2008.

In addition, the consultants signed the UNEG Pledge of Ethical Conduct at the start of the evaluation process as well as the [UN Women Evaluation Consultants Agreement Form](#). All stakeholder information was handled with confidentiality and in accordance with UN Women's Rules on Personal Data Protection. All data collected by the evaluation team members has been submitted to the evaluation manager in Word, PowerPoint or Excel formats and is the property of UN Women. All interview notes that were submitted were de-identified and all names were changed into a code

The evaluation was conducted in an ethical and legal manner, taking into account the well-being of those

involved in and affected by the evaluation. The evaluation was conducted in accordance with professional ethics and standards to minimize risks to evaluation participants, including the principle of 'do no harm', and a protocol was in place to ensure that the clearly defined informed consent of all evaluation participants was obtained – please see Annex IV for the informed consent protocol. All stakeholders were informed the evaluation was being conducted independently and that their participation in the evaluation was entirely voluntary as well as being confidential and anonymous



Justice champion from the Solomon Islands  
Photo: UN Women/Patrick Rose



Women presenting during a community awareness initiative in Nepal  
Photo credit: UN Women / Gunjan Jha

# 4 FINDINGS

## 4. Findings

This chapter presents the analysis and findings of the final evaluation grouped around each of the evaluation criteria and cross-cutting issues and based on the analysis of the qualitative and quantitative data collected. Each of the key evaluation questions is answered within the narrative and the analysis and findings are also informed by the guiding questions provided in the ToR, which are included at the start of each sub-section.

### 4.1 Relevance and Coherence

**Key Evaluation Question 1:** To what extent has the Women’s Access to Justice project aligned itself to the needs of stakeholders and priorities of the participating countries and contributed to outcome level results as defined in the project’s reconstructed ToC?

- **Sub-question 1.1:** To what extent was the design and expected results of the project informed by beneficiaries’ requirements, countries’ needs, priorities of international frameworks on gender equality, human rights and justice, and Sida’s policies?
- **Sub-question 1.2:** To what extent is the project complementing/creating synergies between project partners and other development partners with respect to gender responsive people centred justice?
- **Sub-question 1.3:** To what extent has the project adapted to the evolving context, including the COVID-19 pandemic?

#### Finding 1

**The project is well aligned to the regional and national development policies of the priority countries as well as with the regional development priorities of UN Women, OHCHR, ICJ and the project’s donor, SIDA. It is aligned with international commitments and global priorities, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,<sup>1</sup> to ensure access to justice for marginalized individuals and communities. The**

**project contributes towards achievement of the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals and in particular SDGs 5, 10 and 16, although commitment to the SDGs could be leveraged more to drive progress towards the project’s objectives. Most importantly, the project is relevant to its beneficiaries – women, in all their diversity, accessing justice in Asia and the Pacific. Moreover, the project is of particular relevance to communities and grassroots women who need to access justice. The level of knowledge and evidence the project has been able to generate in this respect makes it highly relevant for strengthening access to justice for women in Asia and the Pacific.**

The overall goal of the WA2J project is to enhance access to justice for women in formal and community-based systems in Asia and the Pacific. The project contributes to reducing the justice gap for women by promoting a people-centred, gender-responsive approach to justice at the national and community levels. Acknowledging intersectionality and women’s diverse needs, the project applies the leave no one behind principle to tailor people-centred approaches to reach marginalized women, including those with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities, from sexual minorities and indigenous women. Under UN Women’s Asia and the Pacific Strategic Note (2019-2022), the project contributes to promoting a comprehensive and dynamic set of global norms, policies and standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. It supports country priorities such as legislative change, the gender-responsive decentralization of justice and the stronger capacities of justice providers to apply international women’s human rights norms.

The project is working at the regional (Asia and the Pacific), sub-regional (South East Asia, South Asia and the Pacific Islands) and national level with a focus on Indonesia, Philippines, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste and the Solomon Islands.<sup>2</sup> The evaluation finds that the project contributes to the national development priorities of its beneficiary countries, as well as the national strategic frameworks of UN Women, ICJ and OHCHR, as informed by various national level actors and country-level representatives. For example, UN Women Country and Programme Office strategic notes in Indonesia, Philippines, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste and the Pacific Island Countries, place a strong emphasis on supporting initiatives that promote

<sup>1</sup> The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA) defines 12 areas of concern that must be addressed to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women. UN Member States adopted the BPfA at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995

<sup>2</sup> OHCHR and ICJ were also working in Fiji although these activities have not been a focus of this evaluation.

CEDAW and strengthen governance initiatives. By working to support government actors in the judiciary and frontline legal and security spheres to eradicate discriminatory laws and practices, UN Women is implementing its mandate to advance women's normative rights. Additionally, each of the country notes focuses on UN Women's role in building civil society capacities to advocate for women's human rights, including to increase women's access to justice. The project was first reflected in the countries' Annual Work Plans in 2019 as well as in subsequent years thereafter.

The project is in line with the regional development priorities of its donor, SIDA, and the evaluation team was informed that SIDA provided inputs into the development of the project document and were consulted throughout the development process. The project is highly relevant for Sweden's Strategy for Regional Development Cooperation with Asia and the Pacific Region 2016 – 2021<sup>1</sup> as well as its Strategy for 2022 – 2026,<sup>2</sup> and in particular its strategic priority on human rights, democracy, the rule of law and gender equality. The project contributes directly to result areas 3 and 4: *“strengthened capacity of regional actors to promote greater accountability and increased democratic space”* and *“strengthened capacity of regional actors to promote human rights and gender equality”* through building the capacity of formal justice officials, community-based justice actors, women's rights organizations, policy makers to contribute to greater accountability, promote human rights, and gender equality in the region.”

It is also relevant in relation to the Swedish Government Strategy for Human Rights, Democracy and Rule of Law in Foreign Policy,<sup>3</sup> where violence and impunity for acts of violence are identified as areas that need to be addressed. However, there was a discrepancy between the Strategy for Sweden's Regional Development Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific region 2016 – 2021,<sup>4</sup>

which had a strong regional focus, and the project document and its indicators that are more country-focused. This is discussed further under Finding 2.

Through its outputs, the project contributes towards UN Women's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific's (ROAP) Strategic Note 2018, impact area 1, Strategic Plan Outcome 2: *Women lead, participate in and benefit equally from governance systems*; and Outcome 1.2., which mirror UN Women's Strategic Plan 2018 - 2021 Output 7: *More justice institutions are accessible to and deliver for women and girls*.

The project contributes to a number of the SDGs, principally SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions and SDG 5 on gender equality. In particular, Goal 16.3 identifies as a target for the promotion of the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensuring equal access to justice for all. Further, Goal 16.b emphasizes the promotion and enforcement of non-discriminatory laws and policies as requisites for sustainable development. SDG 5 provides that ending all forms of discrimination against women and girls is not only a basic human right, but it is also crucial to accelerate sustainable development. The project is also contributing to SDG 10 on inequalities. However, while the links between the project and the SDGs are strong, there are opportunities to leverage the SDGs further to drive policy coherence and to bring more stakeholders on board. Access to justice in the region, in particular for women and other vulnerable groups is a very sensitive area, yet with country-level commitment to the SDGs, UN Women, OHCHR and ICJ could leverage this commitment towards furthering the goals of the project.

Moreover, the project is effectively aligned with international commitments and global priorities, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,<sup>5</sup> to ensure access to justice for marginalized individuals and communities.

1 <https://www.government.se/contentassets/4be274e3951b4c269553956c442214db/strategy-for-swedens-regional-development-cooperation-in-asia-and-the-pacific-region-20162021.pdf>

2 <https://www.government.se/contentassets/be4452ea86fc4b6c98bdbce3701c2474/strategy-for-swedens-regional-development-cooperation-with-asia-and-the-pacific-region-in-20222026.pdf>

3 <https://www.government.se/legal-documents/2018/03/skr.-20161762>

4 <https://www.government.se/international-development-cooperation-strategies/2016/09/>

[strategy-for-swedens-regional-development-asia-and-the-pacific-region-20162021/](https://www.government.se/contentassets/strategy-for-swedens-regional-development-asia-and-the-pacific-region-20162021/)

5 The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA) defines 12 areas of concern that must be addressed to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women. UN Member States adopted the BPfA at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995

Crucially, the project is highly relevant to its beneficiaries. Their needs and demands were well reflected in the project design, which was informed by analyses and consultations conducted under previous projects. This is further evidenced by the high level of interest and participation by its beneficiaries in the project's activities. For example, in Timor Leste, UN Women worked with the Ministry of Interior in strengthening the capacity of mediators. In this country, due to challenges in accessing the formal justice system, women prefer to resolve their dispute through community based mechanisms, such as mediators. And in the Philippines, for example, detained women expressed that the project was relevant to their needs and had increased their awareness of their rights, enabling them to access, and in many cases receive, justice. In the Solomon Islands the project aligns to Gender Equality and Human Rights Policies such as the Gender Equality and Women's Development Policy; Eliminating Violence Against Women and Girls Policy; and the Women Peace and Security National Action Plan. It also contributes towards the Solomon Islands National Development Strategy 2016 – 2035, which is the country's blueprint for the implementation of the SDGs. The Project therefore contributes to the national development priorities in terms of violence against women and the implementation of the FPA in collaboration with service providers including the police; gender equality, social inclusion disasters and climate change.

### **Finding 2**

**The project document envisaged close cooperation between UN Women, OHCHR and ICJ across all output areas but did not create the requisite enabling environment for them to consistently work effectively together. While there are some examples of good synergies between the three organisations producing high-quality results, for example in Indonesia, Nepal and Timor Leste, often the organisations were operating in siloes without systemic coordination and communication mechanisms in place to facilitate greater complementarities and joined-up working. The challenges with the theory of change and the lack of joint vision meant that the approach and priorities on how to advance access to justice were not fully aligned between the organisations. The comparative advantages that each organisation brought to the project were not sufficiently leveraged. Overall, the**

**project could have achieved greater internal and external coherence.**

The project document envisaged close cooperation between UN Women, OHCHR and ICJ across all output areas. This included promoting increased access to justice for women in Asia and the Pacific through advocating for domestic laws and jurisprudence that enhance access to justice for women, bridging the gap between frontline formal justice actors and informal justice adjudicators by building their capacities and empowering grassroots women's organisations so that they are able to record and present examples of cases engaging with formal and informal justice systems for further discussions and advocacy. However, the prodoc did not create the requisite enabling environment, which would facilitate close cooperation, rather it created a platform for sharing experiences. Due to these challenges as well as the lack of a joint vision, the approaches and priorities on how to advance access to justice were not fully aligned between the organisations. This meant that overall, the approach of the three organisations has been somewhat siloed. This could have perhaps been overcome through conducting regular reviews of the project's Theory of Change.

However, when the three organisations were able to identify synergies and cooperate closely, key results have been achieved. For example, in Indonesia the partners worked closely on the Law on Sexual Violence, each working to their own strengths, with project reports showing that ICJ built the capacities of judges, UN Women engaging with the grassroots women's organisations and OHCHR bringing in the treaty bodies. This joined up work resulted in the CEDAW Committee recommending the adoption of the Law. Other areas where the three organisations have worked successfully together include the work in Nepal with the Judicial Committees (JC) and in the Philippines working on the issue of women in conflict with the law. The results of these activities are discussed further under the effectiveness section. In the Solomon Islands the activities were implemented by UN Women Solomon Islands without OHCHR or ICJ but with two key government ministries in country, the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs (MWYCFA) and the Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs (MJLA). However, overall, the evaluation finds that the UN Women and the responsible parties did not find ways to consistently leverage their comparative advantages.

More efforts could have been made to strengthen internal and external coherence. Internally, within UN Women, the project was placed in the regional team, however there is no evidence from the project documentation or reports, or from interviews conducted of how this strengthened internal coherence. The evaluation team did not find evidence of any linkages with other regional initiatives conducted by UN Women, such as on Ending Violence against Women and Girls (EVAW), however it was informed that in December 2022 a joint story-telling event was conducted between EVAW and the WA2J project. The evaluation team was also informed that joint work on legislative change had been conducted in China, Indonesia, Korea and Nepal. There was less coherence with the Women's Economic Empowerment team and no evidence of how the project interacted with UN Women's Women, Peace and Security initiatives.

Externally, the evaluation was informed that OHCHR has been working with UNEP on the protection and promotion of environment and HRDs. UN Women collaborated with the regional UNODC Asia Pacific as leading UN sister agency working on law enforcement and women in conflict with the law. A joint UN working group on Access to Justice for women and girls with disabilities was established between UN Women, UNFPA and UNICEF. With UNFPA there are also reciprocal informal exchanges and support on SRHR and justice for women with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities. The ESCAP has been also identified for potential as the project has been briefing ESCAP member states on women's access to justice at intergovernmental meetings, expert group meetings, and CSO consultations.

Perhaps greatest coherence within the UN system has been achieved with UNDP. At the country level, UN Women works with UNDP, specifically in Nepal, Indonesia and Timor-Leste. At the regional level, UN Women and UNDP jointly implement a "Behavioural Insights and Gender Justice" pilot initiative and the evaluation was informed that joint discussions have been on-going regarding the development of a joint Gender Justice Programme. Both UN Women and UNDP are members of the Justice Action Coalition and through this, have a joint vision regarding WA2J, which being used to drive the development of the potential Gender Justice Programme. However, after two years of discussion, the initiative has yet to materialise.

### Finding 3

**The project was able to adapt quickly to changes in its operational context, including political changes, natural disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic. It has also been able to adjust well to the evolving global discourse on access to justice and approaches on how to close the justice gap.**

Throughout the project implementation period, the project has been able to respond to changes in its operational context in a swift and coherent manner. This has included political changes and political challenges in countries such as Indonesia and Sri Lanka, as well as responding to the global COVID-19 pandemic, whereby all countries faced limitations in terms of in-person meetings and gatherings.

With regards to political changes, as well as changes among key stakeholders including government and line ministry personnel and changes among the higher echelons of the judiciaries, the project consistently proceeded with a cautious approach being cognisant of the need to "do no harm" to its beneficiaries – women in all their diversity who access justice in Asia and the Pacific. For example, due to the political challenges in Indonesia,<sup>1</sup> the project enhanced its partnerships with the Bappenas (Ministry of Planning) and Komnas Perempuan (National Commission on Ending Violence

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<sup>1</sup> Indonesia concluded the world's biggest elections in 2019. While President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo has won the election, a rise in religious intolerance and conservatism has become apparent. The work on amending the draft penal code by the Indonesian parliament was put on hold because of the elections and massive public protests on the proposed amendments. There was a public clamour against proposed amendments to the penal code that would carry adverse human rights consequences, such as on the right to privacy, freedom of speech, and freedom of association. There were also proposed amendments that discriminate against women and LGBTIQ individuals. The passing of a Bill on the Elimination of Sexual Violence which has been deliberated on by the House of Representatives since 2014 was once more delayed because it was rejected by Muslim conservative groups who consider it to be "pro-adultery" and "pro-LGBT". In late 2019, the Attorney-General's Office openly discriminated against sexual minorities by listing criteria for job vacancies that said applicants could not have "physical or mental disorders, including sexual orientation deviations and behavioural deviations." Indonesia's Human Rights Commission condemned the Attorney General's Office for barring LGBTIQ people from applying for these posts. Homosexuality is not a crime in Indonesia, except in the conservative Islamic province of Aceh, but some religious groups have called for it to be banned. Many members of the LGBTIQ community are not open about their sexual orientation. The programme has responded to the shifting landscape with additional support to the Indonesian human rights movement and advocacy for legislative and policy change.



the project enhanced its partnerships with the Bappenas (Ministry of Planning) and Komnas Perempuan (National Commission on Ending Violence against Women) to ensure continuation of the project activities. Similarly, the developments surrounding the leadership changes in the Supreme Court of the Philippines also posed a significant challenge and delayed implementing the training for judges in the country. This was also the case regarding the decision to work with women in conflict with the Law in the Philippines, where it was too challenging for civil society to engage due to political risks. Throughout the project implementation period, Sri Lanka has been facing its worst crisis since independence in 1948, caused by several governance and political factors as well as the COVID-19 pandemic. The crisis has led to widespread protests and spurred a sharp increase in poverty and unemployment. This has caused significant delays in the implementation of the project activities, however these constraints have been largely overcome by the project through the creation of a strong partnership with the Sri Lanka Judges Institute.

Stakeholders valued the project's adaptability and flexibility in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic. During this time, the three organisations fully utilized their networks to address women's access to justice from different angles. This included the partnership and trust ICJ established with the judiciary to explore new and safe avenues to provide access for women to formal justice systems. Legal advocacy provided by ICJ kept the focus on specific women's rights that came under threat during the pandemic. OHCHR engaged with human rights bodies and special procedures to provide guidance and to maintain focus on women human rights standards. In addition, the organizations network worked with WHRD to provide support and protection in Asia and the Pacific. Given the importance of community-based justice providers and women's grassroots organisations (GWO) during the crisis, UN Women scaled up support to these actors and ensured regular communication and the alignment of work in and across the communities to maximize the protection of women's human rights. These efforts were greatly appreciated by the project's stakeholders.

For example, in Nepal the project supported the establishment of the Violence Against Women and Girls Relief fund for survivors. This included the provision of relief items, hygienic kits and nutritious food. Service

seekers were made aware of radio programmes and utilized online legal aid services and counselling during the pandemic. Regular follow-ups were conducted to monitor the progress and updates of the project with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and their partners. GWOs used cell phones to reach women in the community, facilitating their access to justice. In Indonesia, an open letter to the COVID-19 Mitigation Task Force, encouraged the government to take actionable steps to implement basic needs support (i.e., work opportunities for women, GBV services, online counselling and mental health support). To reach legal professionals and human rights activists with information on the impact of the pandemic on women's rights, a post was published on *OpinioJuris*. Governments and CSOs need to lean on normative frameworks to advance gender equality, particularly in times of crisis; a CEDAW video was developed that recalls the essence of the Convention for advocacy.

Other responses to the pandemic included the development of a video animation calling on States to adopt gender-sensitive responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. This was translated into Tagalog, Nepalese and Bahasa Indonesia and posted on Facebook. A feature article urging States to use gender-responsive measures in addressing the spread of the COVID-19 virus was also published and translated into Sinhalese, Tamil, Nepali and Bahasa Indonesia.

Since 2018, when the project was initiated, the global discourse on access to justice and closing the justice gap has evolved considerably. This was sparked by the first global report on the status of justice. Developed by the World Justice Project, the *Global Insights on Access to Justice 2019 report*<sup>1</sup> proposed putting people at the centre of justice systems and justice at the heart of sustainable development. In response to the changes in the global discourse, the project increased its efforts to close the justice gap, including by supporting the diversification of justice mechanisms, specifically by working with community-based justice mechanisms and whole communities to provide protection and prevent legal and social problems. For example, the project reportedly devised a platform for over 1,800 women to engage with formal and community-based justice mechanisms.

1 <https://worldjusticeproject.org/our-work/publications/special-reports/global-insights-access-justice-2019>

Whole communities took part in justice dialogues to prevent discrimination and provide protection for women justice seekers and in Indonesia, successful use of the reporting cycle around CEDAW led to legislative change in early 2022.

The project's response to the challenges it faced were captured in an amendment to the project document, which expanded the activities mainly under output 3, working with community level justice providers.

#### **Finding 4**

**The project has utilised regional approaches, to some extent, to further project results. For example, regional judicial dialogues and other regional forums have been successful in creating an enabling environment and levelling the playing field for progress at the national level, for example with regards to securing commitment for the adoption of the Bangkok General Guidance. The sub-regional approach has also proved successful and the project has enabled building networks at the regional and sub-regional levels to champion for women's access to justice. However, there were challenges with creating partnerships with regional bodies nor leveraged regional partnerships and mechanisms sufficiently to drive and showcase project results. This is a common challenge for UN Women in implementing regional projects, where it is a smaller player in a crowded playing field and the evaluation team recognises the external factors that influenced this. The anticipated Regional Women's Access to Justice Strategy has yet to be finalised.**

The project has successfully combined regional and national approaches, to some extent to further project results. One example of this is with regards to the regional judicial dialogues, which had a specific focus on the implementation of the Bangkok General Guidance (BGG) for Judges in Applying a Gender Perspective.<sup>1</sup> Stakeholders consistently informed the evaluation that the regional judicial dialogues provided a unique opportunity to bring countries together and to allow them to share experiences and learn from their neighbours in comparable jurisdictions. It also provided an opportunity to secure the buy-in from senior level judges and judicial leadership. This was

then followed-up with national training of first tier judges and frontline actors at the national level, which allowed for the addressing of country-specific challenges in women's access to justice. When combined, the regional and national level approach proved successful. One particular added value of the national training was bringing together judges with women from the communities who had experienced barriers in accessing justice. The women were able to explain to the participants the specific challenges and barriers they faced in accessing justice, leading to a greater understanding and commitment among the participants to address these challenges. These efforts led to several judiciaries formally adopting the BGG (Indonesia through a judicial order and India through a case decision) or informally through incorporation of the BGG in judicial training curriculum (Sri Lanka by virtue of the case decision and the Philippines through the Supreme Court Memorandum on the Guidelines on Gender Fair Language and Courtroom Etiquette).

The project enabled building and strengthening networks at the regional level between the judiciary, women's human rights defenders, National Human Rights Institutions, academia, community based justice organisations and civil society. These has allowed for the sharing of best practices and experiences in a safe space. Given the differing complexities and challenges in the region, the project also adopted a sub-regional approach encompassing the sub-regions of South Asia, South East Asia and the Pacific. A good example of this approach has been the establishment of the Pacific Human Rights Network, which links grassroots organisations with UN Treaty Bodies and mechanisms. The Network was launched in July 2019 with the support of the project. The Network allows women human rights defenders to jointly lobby for gender-responsive climate justice as well as protecting the rights of LGBTIQ+. Since its establishment, the network has expanded and in 2022 for example, brought together 40 Pacific human rights defenders to exchange good practices and challenges in promoting and protecting women's human rights. They also elaborated and agreed on recommendations for a Pacific Strategy to protect human rights defenders. The evaluation was informed by a number of stakeholders that the Network has been highly successful, especially at the grassroots level, which fuels into treaty bodies' reviews and therefore their concluding observations, which governments are obliged to respond to.

<sup>1</sup> The Bangkok General Guidance were adopted by Judges from Indonesia, the Philippines, Timor Leste and Thailand in 2016, following a workshop facilitated by ICJ and UN Women. A subsequent decision was made to develop specific Guidance for the South East Asia Region.

The project document envisaged combining both regional and national approaches in addressing women's access to justice in Asia and the Pacific. It envisaged wide-ranging partnerships with a number of regional actors, which would contribute to the achievement of the project's outcome. This included the Asia Pacific Forum on Women Law and Development, the Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development, the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact and the International Women's Rights Action Watch. Partnerships with sub-regional actors including the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR), the ASEAN Commission on Women and Children (ACWC) and the Council of ASEAN Chief Justices (CACJ) were also planned. However, the evaluation finds little evidence that these partnerships were mobilised by the project. While there have been pockets of success, for example, the Philippines Representative to the ASEAN Committee for the Protection of the Rights of Women and Children accepted membership to the Technical Working Group on Women in Conflict with the Law and has offered to leverage her regional advocacy to gain national government support for the policy agenda on women in conflict with the law, and Commissioner Nahla Haider commended the efforts of the Philippine judiciary during CEDAW deliberations in the Philippines, in large part regional partnerships were not maximised. This has been a missed opportunity by the project to drive and showcase the project's results. The evaluation was informed that this was largely due to UN Women spreading themselves too thin at the regional level and focusing more closely on national level results. This is a common challenge for UN Women in implementing regional projects, where it is a smaller player in a crowded playing field and the evaluation team recognises the external factors that influenced this.

The project has made good progress in developing a Regional Women's Access to Justice Strategy. The Strategy aims to engage governments in developing a long-term vision and implementing it systematically by integrating core concepts into the justice sector strategies and development plans of individual countries. The strategy aims to unify UN support through adoption by country teams and contribute to the Justice Action Coalition goal to advance implementation of SDG16. It will consolidate approaches at the local, national and regional levels to strengthen sustainability prospects and impact to advance women's

access to justice in the region. However, despite conducting consultations with civil society organisations and other UN agencies, the Strategy has yet to be finalised.

Overall, the regional approach could have been used further to de-sensitise the issue of women's access to justice for individual countries and states and to help encourage the race to the top and friendly competition among neighbours, as well as be used to share the project's wealth of knowledge and showcase results.

## 4.2 Organisational Efficiency

**Key Evaluation Question 2:** To what extent has the Women’s Access to Justice project been efficient in its technical and organisational approaches including regionalism and national approaches, adherence to AWP, cost-efficient, flexible and responsive?

- **Sub-question 2.1:** To what extent have the project partners used their human and financial resources efficiently? Were funds received/disbursed on time? Why or why not?
- **Sub-question 2.2:** Have project partners regional and national level organizational structures, managerial support and coordination mechanisms effectively supported the coherent delivery of the project?
- **Sub-question 2.3:** What are the strengths and weaknesses of the M&E system, and the extent to which it has been used for decision-making? To what extent has there been cross-learning between countries and how effective as this been?

### Finding 5

**The project implementation was evidence based and informed by a solid consultation process. The project design was informed by the needs of its beneficiaries and was developed based on extensive analysis of previous work undertaken by UN Women, OHCHR and ICJ. However, the project document has an unclear theory of change that did not accurately reflect the operational context and its indicator framework is not consistently SMART (specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and time-bound), resulting in institutionally, some of the results not being fully captured.**

The project was designed in 2017 and 2018 and was extensively informed by previous results, lessons learned and evidence from UN Women, OHCHR and ICJ’s previous work on access to justice in the region. All three organisations had approached SIDA with project proposals (UN Women and OHCHR jointly) and it was SIDA that suggested that the partners merge the proposals into one comprehensive project, which would work both top-down and bottom-up to address the access to justice needs for women, in all their diversity, in Asia and the Pacific. It was envisaged that each organisation’s role would play to its strengths and comparative advantages, with UN Women focusing on community-based justice solutions and working more at the grassroots level, ICJ bringing

in a more institutional approach to justice through working with the judiciary and other justice sector actors and OHCHR providing access to a number of UN Treaty Bodies and mechanisms. However, the reality of translating this onto paper proved challenging and there were a number of gaps in the project’s theory of change (ToC) and results framework (RF).

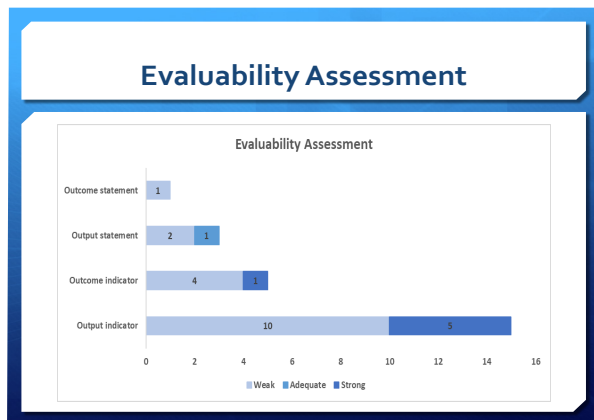
In addition, the evaluation was informed that in-country scoping missions<sup>1</sup> and country-specific mapping reports were undertaken during the project’s Inception Phase to further inform the development of the project’s activities. This also allowed for activities to be tailor made to the specific operational context in each of the project’s target countries. Further, special efforts were made to align the programme activities to ongoing initiatives implemented by ICJ, OHCHR and UN Women to ensure the highest possible results.

The theory of change of a project should articulate strategies, approaches and interventions that when implemented successfully and coherently along the envisaged causal “development pathways” will lead to the achievement of the project’s planned results. There should be coherence between the ToC and the RF. In the case of the WA2J project, the project’s ToC did not accurately capture the operational realities of the project or take into account the changing context. It does not present a clear causal pathway between outputs, outcomes and impact and the relations between each project component. It is worth noting that this was also identified as an issue in the MTR, although beyond rewording the outcome statement, there were no additional changes to the ToC following the MTR. The gaps in the results framework included having only one outcome statement to combine all elements of the project, weak outcome and output statements as well as significant gaps in the indicator framework.

While the WA2J project team were increasingly aware of these gaps, there was no consensus on revising the ToC during the project implementation period. The evaluability assessment identified that of the five outcome indicators four were weak while one was strong. Regarding the 15 output indicators, 10 were assessed as being weak, while five were assessed as strong. The indicators at all levels were exclusively quantitative, which do not allow for showing changes in mindsets and behaviours

<sup>1</sup> These were undertaken by OHCHR in the seven Pacific island countries.

. Assumptions and risks underpinning the ToC were also not clearly articulated. A snapshot of the evaluability assessment is provided below and the full evaluability assessment is provided at Annex III.



It is standard M&E practice to periodically review the ToC and test causal assumptions in the light of any changes in context during the implementation of a project. In the case of the WA2J project, such a review has not been conducted since the start of the project implementation, beyond the changes to the outcome statement pursuant to the MTR recommendations. Meanwhile, the context in the Asia-Pacific region relating to WA2J, as well as globally, has evolved considerably with a global move towards more people-centred and community based justice, as well as changes in the operating context due to the global COVID-19 pandemic and changes in the geo-political context and political contexts in the implementing countries. This was in part perhaps due to a sense among the project team that the ToC and RF could not be changed because it was perceived as a strict commitment to the donor, although it should be noted that the donor adopted a flexible approach and that greater efforts could have been sought to address this issue. As found during the MTR, the project partners reported the use of the ToC and ownership of the project document as being limited.

### Finding 6

**The project’s efficiency was constrained by its organisational set-up, including the partnership management between UN Women and ICJ, turnover of staff, in particular among UN Women and ICJ at the start of the project and disparity between the human resources envisaged in the project’s organisational structure and the human resource needs for**

**implementing the project activities. However, efforts to overcome these constraints and strengthen the partnership between UN Women and the responsible parties, in particular after the Mid-Term Review, helped to create more of a shared vision to guide the remaining implementation period. Further, despite the constraints, the project was able to adapt to changing circumstances, including the evolving global discourse on access to justice, and effectively implement activities. The evaluation did not explore whether UN Women’s regional and national level organisational structures, managerial support and coordination mechanisms effectively supported the coherent delivery of the project.**

While the day-to-day implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the WA2J project has been jointly managed by UN Women, ICJ and OHCHR, UN Women is responsible for the overall project and financial management. At the start of the project, the team had some difficulties to align their activities and communicate efficiently. In part this was due to the turnover of staff, particularly within UN Women and ICJ. The evaluation team was informed that previous cooperation between UN Women and ICJ had been conducted on the basis of a memorandum of Understanding and that this modality had worked well. However, the partnership management for the WA2J project, with UN Women as the lead partner and ICJ as a responsible party, led to some confusion. This led to a lack of clarity about the roles and responsibilities of each of the organisations. UN Women’s financial rules and procedures also caused delay and confusion – again a corporate level issue unrelated to the project team. After continuous discussions and the fine-tuning of activities under output 3, the programme team established a better understanding and road map on how to implement this comprehensive programme based on each organisation’s comparative advantage and how to better build on each other’s work. Various attempts were made, including after the MTR, to strengthen the partnership and to create a joint vision, including a mini-retreat, enhanced communication and planning workshops and sessions. These were largely successful in overcoming the previous challenges. The staffing structure as envisaged in the project document, did not accurately reflect the implementation realities or the planned activities in the focus countries. In particular this affected the planned implementation of OHCHR’s activities. For example, the evaluation was informed

that while there were funds allocated for a OHCHR project staff member in the Pacific region, there were not funds allocated for conducting activities in the region. This meant that there were project staff where there were no activities and no staff where activities were envisaged. The project tried to address these gaps through additional fundraising while additional human resources gaps were largely filled with the appointment of a UN Women project coordinator in 2020.

OHCHR and ICJ consistently acknowledged UN Women’s role in coordinating the project and its success with this, despite the challenges circumstances. It was acknowledged by all partners that UN Women made great efforts in terms of coordination and dialogue.

There evaluation did not explore the project partners’ regional and national level organisational structures, managerial support and coordination mechanisms to assess whether these effectively supported the coherence delivery of the project. However, each organisation has its own organisation structure, reporting lines and staffing needs, which resulted in some disconnect between the workplan and the resource allocation. A lack of regular, systematised coordination mechanisms with country-level staff led to issues and gaps pertinent to the work plan and allocation of resources that did not correspond to what was needed in the field. This lack of clarity of a joint approach and a common/regional goal often resulted in the three organisations working in siloes, on their chosen issue and countries, without the clarity of the goal they wanted to achieve as a joint regional project.

### Finding 7

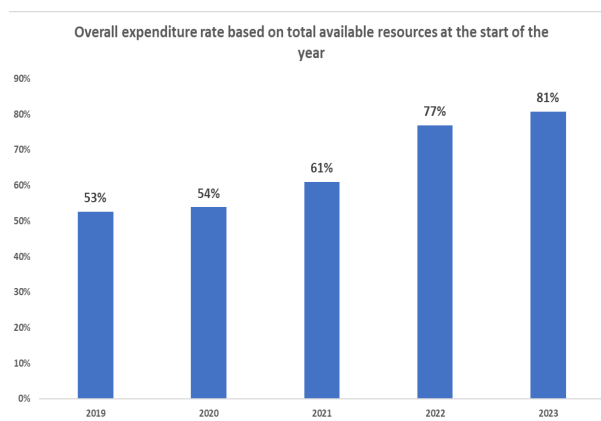
**While there were initial delays in the project’s delivery during 2018 -2021, this could be attributed to the initial start up of the project and then the COVID-19 pandemic. Since 2021 delivery has been back on track and the project may need supplementary funds in addition to the cost extension approved by the donor in 2023. There were delays in financial payments to both responsible partners and Country teams, which caused delays in the project implementation.**

Based on the financial data provided to the evaluation team (summary of interim financial report and breakdown of expenditure up to 2021), the project started rather slow in its first year, with an overall delivery rate based on the available resources of 53% and 54%

in 2019 and 2020 (Figure 1) with the highest delivery rate in 2019 (Figure 2) and direct management cost (figure 3) across all outputs. The delivery rate gradually increased from 2021 – 2023 and by the end of June 2023 only 200,459.18 USD are available (9% of the available resources at the start of the year). Based on the breakdown by output, during 2019-2021, 7% is allocated for output 1, 35% is allocated for output 2, and 58% for output 3. The overall expenditure rate based on total AWP budget 2019 – 2021 is 93% for output 1, 63% for output 2 and 79% for output 3 (Table 1).

**Figure 1.**

**Overall expenditure rate based on total available resources at the start of the year**



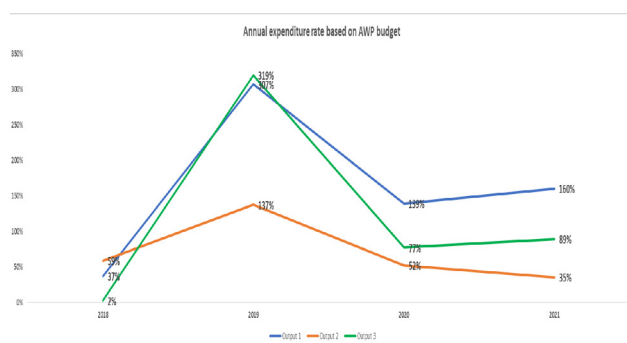
**Table 1.**

**Overall expenditure rate by output 2019 - 2021**

	Overall annual budget 2019-2021	Overall expenditure 2019-2021	Over expenditure rate 2019-2021
Output 1	474,640.00	439,517.59	93%
Output 2	2,413,397.00	1,509,470.55	63%
Output 3	4,055,658.00	3,193,136.71	79%

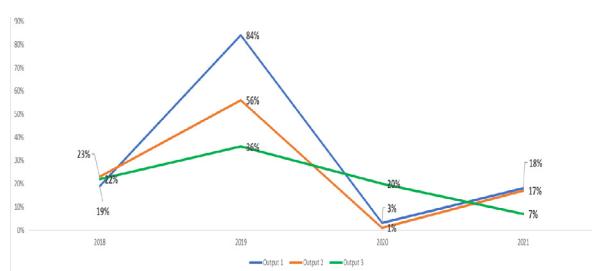
**Figure 2.**

**Annual expenditure rate based on AWP budget**



**Figure 3.**

**Direct management cost based on total expenditure by output**



The evaluation team was also consistently informed about delays with payments due to UN Women’s complicated procurement processes. Not only did this cause delays to both OHCHR and ICJ but it also caused delays to the implementation of activities at the country level. For example, in the Solomon Islands, on-going delays with payments caused serious inconvenience to both the resource team and vendors providing the service. It is very important that payments are prepared and released well in advance of activities taking place to avoid delays. At community level where upfront payments are required for transport costs, accommodation and catering; ensuring funds are available on time is critical. Delays with funding has been the biggest constraining factor to the implementation of this component including the other deliverables.

## Finding 8

**The project did not have a sufficiently robust system of monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEAL) that allowed it to use MEAL for decision-making. Cross-learning between countries seems to have been done on an informal, ad hoc basis and was largely personality driven rather than there being organisational systems and mechanisms in place to facilitate this.**

Apart from the project document logframe, there is no additional monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEAL) framework in place for the project. Each organisation used its own procedures and requirements bringing some elements of a MEAL framework. The Workplan for the project has been the best tool to ensure that elements were there permitting to monitor, evaluate, assess and learn from the project. This document that is drafted for the year is often referred to in minutes of meetings, emails and other documents, and as such, is the closest document in the project that is used as a MEAL framework. The limitations of this are that it covers activities but not how the outcome is achieved, it is therefore difficult for the project management (all three Consortium partners) to assess to what degree and what contribution is given to the overall Goal without the Outcomes that are the intermediate step, and the project's contribution to the overall goal.

In addition, the results framework is not regularly updated or supplemented with metadata. There are no common or standardised data collection instruments that are used by the three organisations to record results. Evaluation at the output level is not clear, for example, pre and post test data is collected but is not always analysed or fed back into the project implementation. For example, key informant interviews with implementing partners, show that, by the time of the evaluation, even though pre and post training data has been reported, thorough analysis of the data has not been conducted. Key informants mostly refer to the participants reactions, such as testimony, to judge the efficacy of the trainings.<sup>1</sup> There are no regular or planned learning sessions envisaged by the project either at the regional or national level. There

<sup>1</sup> ICJ's monitoring system is based on its RBM and tool pack. Each post event survey is analysed and results/ recommendation fed back into the project implementation. However, the evaluation team was unable to assess the extent to which this had been fed back into implementation of the WA2J project.

is no evidence that the project used MEAL to feed into decision-making processes, although the MTR did provide an opportunity for the project to take stock and reassess. The MTR process did help to bring UN Women, OHCHR and ICJ back together and to create a more shared version of the project going forward. However, there is no evidence that this produced a significant change.

There were no organisational systems or mechanisms in place to capture or facilitate cross-learning between countries. Instead, where this has taken place, it has largely been informal and personality driven, where colleagues knew each other and shared their knowledge and experiences or asked for specific project related information.

The independent Mid-Term Review of the project was undertaken in 2021. The MTR resulted in a package of nine recommendations that the project was suggested to address. Of these nine recommendations, seven were addressed and completed and two were de-prioritised. A summary of the recommendations, the action taken and their status is provided at Annex VII.

## 4.3 Effectiveness

**Key Evaluation Question 3:** Has the Women's Access to Justice project achieved the anticipated (reconstructed) outputs and have these contributed to the attainment of the project's outcomes?

- **Sub-question 3.1:** To what extent has the project contributed to the achievement of the intended outcomes?
- **Sub-question 3.2:** What strategies were the most effective in accelerating progress? What factors have affected performance (hindered or facilitated the achievement of results)?
- **Sub-question 3.3:** Were there any negative/ positive unexpected results?



## Effectiveness of the Project

In order to assess the effectiveness of the project to date, the evaluation reviewed the project's technical as well as operational approaches, the regionalism and deliverables, the quality of results and any preliminary indications of their impact, alignment with national priorities and the level of response to the needs of the stakeholders. This was done by assessing the results achieved, the partnerships established as well as issues of capacity. In order to answer the key evaluation questions, the analysis of the effectiveness of the project has been broken down into each of the three reconstructed outcomes and output areas.

### Finding 9

**The project has achieved significant progress towards meeting its objective to enhance utilization of gender-responsive and people-centred approaches in central and community-based justice mechanisms in Asia and the Pacific, that enable and empower women, in all their diversity, to equally access justice for the realization of their rights. Some of these results have the potential to be transformational. Successful strategies in accelerating progress include lobbying and advocating for the introduction of more gender responsive legislation and policies and adoption of six key pieces of legislation or policy; capacity building of both centralised and community based justice actors and mechanisms to provide more people-centred and gender responsive justice; awareness raising among rights holders of their justice related rights and how to access them; and strengthening networks and linkages among all levels of justice sector actors, women's human rights defenders, civil society and grassroots women's organisations.**

Despite the complexities of the project being implemented by three partners and the challenges with regards to the discrepancies between the project document and the operational context, the project has achieved significant progress across all three reconstructed outcome areas – (i) a more gender-responsive formal justice system; (ii) more gender-responsive informal/community based justice systems; and (iii) strengthened linkages between community-based and centralised justice mechanisms towards a people-centred, gender-responsive justice system.

The project successfully adopted a number of different approaches that contributed to it achieving its outcomes. These approaches and strategies have been successful, for example, in passing domestic laws that

are consistent with international human rights laws and standards, including CEDAW. This includes revisions to the 1974 Marriage Law in Indonesia to increase the minimum age requirement for women to marry from 16 to 18; the adoption of the 21-point Dharan Declaration in 2019 by the Nepal Bar Association; adoption of the Ministerial Decree (law no. 47/2020) in Timor Leste to formalise gender-responsive mediation procedures; the Nepal Act to Amend the Law related to Sexual Violence (2022) and the adoption of the Family Protection Act Regulation 2022 in the Solomon Islands. In addition, the project has supported for legislative change in Indonesia to the draft Penal Code and the Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Bill. Commitments have also been made at a high-level forum in Nepal to revise the Local Government Act to address the coordination mechanisms of Judicial Committees with other justice actors and local stakeholders.

Based on the project's annual progress reports, the project has facilitated the interaction of 4,261 women with centralised and/or justice mechanisms. This includes 1,535 women in community dialogues with local Judicial Committee members in Nepal; 318 women in community dialogues with Pokjas to implement village peace plans in Indonesia; 60 women in conflict with the law in the Philippines; 146 women who accessed gender-responsive mediation in Timor-Leste; 544 women through community-based mechanisms; 277 women who have received services related to gender-based violence and 330 women who have been represented through project lawyers in courts. The remaining women participated in community dialogues and sessions with justice providers, across the focus countries. The evaluation notes that this well exceeds the project's target of reaching 1,600 women. This was in part, possibly due to under-ambitious target setting during the project design.

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With regards to the adoption of the Bangkok General Guidance, the project has had some degree of success. Based on the stakeholder consultations conducted, anecdotally, the BGG is being applied in many of the focus countries, even if it has yet to be formally adopted. Six of the eight target countries have formally committed to working towards adopting the Guidance, even if it has yet to be adopted. For example, in Sri Lanka the BGG has been introduced into the initial training programme for judges and the Philippines referenced the BGG in its Guidelines on Gender Fair Language and Courtroom Etiquette. In addition, in the Supreme Court of India civil appellate jurisdiction special leave petition (C) D. No. 20318 of 2020 in the matter of: Aparna Bhat vs.the State of Madhya Pradesh and others led to the inclusion of the BGG in the India judicial training curriculum. Many of the judges who participated in the training on the BGG and gender-responsive justice are now being used as resource persons within their jurisdictions. An unforeseen, positive result of the project has been the adoption of the BGG in two non-focus countries, who have participated in some of the project's regional level activities – the Maldives and Pakistan. As more countries formally adopt the Guidance it is anticipated that this will lead to a

snowball effect and encourage others to follow.

According to the project's progress reports and confirmed by stakeholders who participated in the evaluation, the project's capacity building efforts have been instrumental in strengthening the capacities of centralised and community-based justice providers, including 557 women, 649 men and 2 non-disclosed persons. This includes judges and representatives from judicial training institutes from Malaysia, Philippines, Indonesia, and Timor-Leste (20 female/19 male); 557 lawyers in Nepal (289 female/268 male); 15 judges from Nepal (2 women, 13 men); 20 lawyers from the Philippines Integrated Bar (12 women, 8 men); 16 judges from the Philippines, Nepal, Indonesia, Malaysia and Sri Lanka at Webinar on COVID-19 and SGBV (10 women, 6 men); 32 police officers from Indonesia (14 women, 18 men); 177 judges, magistrates and local judicial committee members (74 women, 108 men, 2 non-disclosed) and 185 high court judges 55 local judicial committee members. The total of 1,374 justice providers whose capacities have been strengthened far exceeds the project's target of 610, perhaps also due to under-ambitious target setting. In addition, at the outcome level, the project has supported 131 formal justice providers to agree on modalities to enhance women's access to the formal justice system in Malaysia, the Philippines, Nepal and Timor Leste. This has exceeded the envisaged 120.

While the project did not include any qualitative indicators at the outcome level, the evaluation team introduced two new outcome level indicators looking at the perception of women of the gender responsiveness of both the centralised and community based justice systems. Anecdotally, women who participated in the series of focus group discussions confirmed that they perceive the justice systems to be more gender responsive now. However, there is no empirical evidence to support this and the evaluation team were unable to conduct a survey to measure this more reliably.

Overall, amongst the five outcome targets, the project has over-achieved three, one is on-track and one remains off-track. Please see Annex VII for the progress against indicators.

### **Finding 10**

**The project has achieved some strong results under its outputs, including the adoption and amendment of six key pieces of legislation, which are consistent with international human rights law and standards,**

**including the Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (output 1); addressing gender discriminatory attitudes and stereotyped behaviours towards women by formal and community justice providers (output 2); and empowering grassroots women's organizations and community-based women's organizations and positioning them to document, monitor, liaise and facilitate interactions with justice providers (output 3). In particular, under output 3, the project has tested a number of models, which if scaled-up and replicated, have the potential to be transformational in enhancing people-centred and gender-responsive access to justice in the region. These need to be consolidated and replicated to have far-reaching and long-lasting impact.**

Under output 1, the project has supported advocacy efforts to promote the adoption of domestic laws in line with international standards including CEDAW; addressed gender discriminatory attitudes and stereotyped behaviour; connected national and community actors with international human rights instruments and co-designed solutions to advance access to justice for women.

The project has had some key successes at the output level, which have contributed to achievement of its outcomes and overall objective that women in Asia and the Pacific enjoy enhanced access to gender responsive and people-centred justice. For example, reportedly, 425 judges (target 160) were trained and introduced to the BGG; 369 (target 150) police and prosecutors; and 1,929 (target 150) informal justice actors. According to the project progress report, of those who have participated in the training provided by the project, over 80% report having an increased knowledge and understanding of both the BGG and gender discriminatory attitudes and stereotyped behaviour.

The project successfully connected national and community level actors with international human rights instruments, including the UN Special Rapporteur on VAWG. For example, the project organized two sub-regional consultations on violence against women and girls in the context of the climate crisis. The consultations specifically addressed environmental degradation, disaster risk mitigation and responses, aligning with the thematic report presented by the Special Rapporteur to the United Nations General Assembly in September 2022. The discussions centred on various forms of gender-based violence experienced

by women and girls in relation to or exacerbated by the climate crisis, environmental degradation and displacement. Participants included representatives from civil society organizations and indigenous communities as well as academic experts and representatives of national human rights institutions from Asia and the Pacific.

The project also conducted expert consultations on CEDAW's General Recommendation No. 39 on the rights of indigenous women and girls. The consultation was attended by 18 experts working on the rights of indigenous peoples. They provided insights, examples and priority recommendations to inform the final draft of the General Recommendation and strengthened countries' capacities to participate in the UPR process, including Indonesia and Singapore. Country team reports and submissions addressed significant concerns and highlighted areas where States need to take further action to fulfil their treaty obligations. The efforts focused on raising specific gender issues, such as the protection of indigenous women's rights to access natural resources and lands, access to basic services, the protection of women human rights defenders and environmental human rights defenders, and the rights of LGBTIQ+ people. The final recommendations incorporated these issues, evidencing the contribution that the project has made to these processes. The project has also supported the engagement of LGBTIQ+ activities with UN human rights experts and mechanisms included linking LGBTIQ+ activists with the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. They highlighted barriers and best practices to enable access to education, housing, health, employment and access to justice for LGBTIQ+ and gender-diverse persons in the region. Virtual workshops were also conducted with LGBTIQ+ groups and defenders on enhancing engagement with and knowledge of the Universal Periodic Review process ahead of State Party reviews (Indonesia 2022 and Malaysia 2023). Over 40 representatives from the LGBTIQ+ community attended the workshops, including LGBTIQ+ people with disabilities.

In October 2022, OHCHR collaborated with UN Women, the ASEAN SOGIE Caucus and the Independent Expert to organize a regional dialogue and workshop in Bangkok. The event aimed to enhance the knowledge and engagement of human rights defenders working on LGBTIQ+ issues with United Nations human rights

mechanisms. Reportedly, the workshop gathered 48 LGBTIQ+ human rights defenders from Brunei, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, Philippines, Singapore and Viet Nam. This regional dialogue provided an opportunity for LGBTIQ+ advocates to interact with the mandate of the Independent Expert and to discuss concerns at the local, national and regional levels in South-East Asia.

Under output 3, the project has been working to co-create and design solutions with women trying to access justice in the region, through the testing of different models. While disparate in approaches, these models or pilots were linked together through the common goal of decentralising justice, ensuring women's participation and co-creating solutions to ensure both a high level of ownership as well as that the interventions specifically target and are tailored to the beneficiary needs. For example, UN Women started addressing the issue of women in conflict with the law in the Philippines. This support started during COVID-19 and included the provision of training for both jail wardens and women in conflict with the law in three pilot women detention centres. The training supported jail wardens to become jail paralegal officers and women in conflict with the law to become paralegals. This was achieved through the provision of both knowledge and training. For example, the women strengthened their knowledge of their rights, the rules and procedures of arrest and detention, their rights whilst in detention and procedures with regards to probation and release, while at the same time, they learnt practical skills including how to draft statements and affidavits. The evaluation had opportunity to meet with 32 women paralegals who had been trained through the project. They all informed the evaluation of the value and practical use of the training provided. Particularly noteworthy, is that the women are not only able to use their new knowledge and skills to help themselves but are also able to use it to help other women in detention. The trainings led the project to recognise the need among women in conflict with the law for psychosocial support. In response to this, in 2022, UN Women partnered with the Balay Rehabilitation centre to provide services to 60 women in detention and 15 jail wardens. The training focused on improving coping abilities; enhancing relationships; raising awareness of gender, trauma and well-being; promoting self-care; and facilitating self-development programmes. While only 60 women received direct training, working groups formed

and an additional 180 women were reached with training material in Cebu City Jail, Mandaue City Jail and Lapu-Lapu City Jail. The evaluation did not have opportunity to meet with participants from the psycho-social training. The efforts in the Philippines were complemented by ICJ who have been training the judiciary and other judicial actors on the international framework and standards and gender-responsive access to justice, including the application of the BGG. In addition, ICJ's publication of a briefing paper on women deprived of liberty can be seen as a contributing factor to the initiation of a legislative bill aimed at enhancing conditions and acknowledging the human rights of women in detention. Further, in partnership with the University of the Philippines and the Institute of Human Rights, the project team conducted three webinars on the issues of women in conflict with the law before detention, during imprisonment and after detention. By addressing the issue from multiple angles and with differing stakeholders, the project has anecdotally sensitised what was previously a taboo subject in the Philippines.

Similarly, in Timor Leste, the project has achieved considerable results with regards to the introduction on gender-responsive, non-adversarial dispute resolution. Working with the National Directorate on Community Conflict Prevention under the Ministry of Interior, the project has supported the development of guidelines and legislative changes to institutionalise mediation and increase the number of women mediators in Timor Leste. The number of women mediators has increased from 32% of 31 mediators in 2019 to 47% of 40 mediators in 2022. In addition, the project has supported the adoption of Standard Guidelines for Gender-Responsive Mediation, the capacity development of mediators, village police and village mediators and has formalised the National Mediators Network, which now includes eight line ministries and one representative from civil society. In a FGD with mediators, the participants shared that the Guideline has been implemented by the mediators and resulted in a higher degree of people satisfaction with the mediation services to resolve their cases and has also increased the level of trust between the community and the mediators. For example, in 2022 due to increased capacities, mediators received around 450 cases and resolved at least half of these cases, with 156 cases involving women. Sometimes these cases were already reported to the court too, but after mediation, the cases were withdrawn from the court. This

decreases the burden on the courts and brings justice closer to the community and faster. The project also supported institutionalising a gender-responsive case management system which was formalised through the Ministerial Decree no.47/2020. These efforts have not only reduced the case backlog in the formal courts, but also contribute towards the achievement of Timor Leste's Action Plan on UNSCR 1325.

Since the start of the project in 2018, the project has supported the establishment of 10 Peace Villages in Indonesia, including the establishment of community-based conflict and justice mechanisms, known as Pokjas. The evaluation was informed that Pokjas are a local mechanism based on traditional leadership to prevent and address conflict in the communities. However, for the first time, these mechanisms are guided by international standards and are governed with women's full participation. The support has included the development of community-based guidelines for the prevention of VAWG; the development of procedures for community-based protection mechanisms for women and girls seeking justice; a draft training package for incoming Pokjas members and community volunteers; an M&E system to document women's human rights concerns and outcomes of formal and informal justice procedures concerning women; and four individual Peace Village implementation plans. The project has also provided support to empower pokjas members to implement the Anti-Sexual Violence Act in pilot communities. In addition to empowering the pokjas members, the project has also provided capacity building for police officers, judges and service providers. The evaluation was told that next steps include the development of referral guidelines for sexual violence cases, slated for finalization and implementation in 2023.

The Country Portfolio Evaluation (CPE) for Indonesia undertaken in 2023, found that the Pokjas' awareness of violence within the community and the need to support these cases has been enhanced as identified through discussion groups with rights holders. However, it cautioned that moving forward, tracking how the community is handling these cases and whether Pokja members can effectively address violence against women and girls by using appropriate reporting, mediation and referral mechanisms will be important. It also reported patriarchal attitudes being expressed in five of the seven villages it consulted as well as limited awareness of, and weak linkages

between the informal justice mechanisms through the Pokja at the community level with formal justice mechanisms. Assessment of training participants' understanding of informal and formal justice mechanisms pre/post-training (including within six months) and how participants' knowledge was applied should be collected. Additionally, as identified in the mid-term review of the Access to Justice Project in Indonesia, strategic partnerships, including with the Ministry of Villages and the Ministry of Home Affairs will be necessary to ensure sustainability.<sup>1</sup>

As found by the Nepal Case-Study undertaken as part of this evaluation, the project effectively promoted gender-sensitive justice, bridging the gap between formal and informal justice systems, and raising awareness about women's rights in Nepal through a combination of approaches including capacity building, community outreach, awareness campaigns, and advocacy efforts. It also contributed to a commitment from the judiciary to internalise the Bangkok General Guidance to the country's context and the BGG has been incorporated into Nepal's strategic planning and judicial education. The project focused on enhancing the skills and knowledge of justice service providers, including judicial committees, mediators, and informal justice actors, enabling them to deliver gender-responsive justice. Outreach initiatives were conducted to increase awareness of justice services and promote help-seeking, especially among women. Grassroots women's organizations played a role in advocating for women's access to justice. Awareness of available justice services and sensitizing community members to gender discriminatory norms and behaviours, aimed to prevent discrimination and injustice. Initiatives were undertaken to promote behavioural change among women, reducing biases through reflective dialogues and storytelling. This encouraged women's active participation and reduced gender stereotypes. Engaging Formal Justice Actors like judges, lawyers, and police to change their mindset and behaviour towards women seeking justice. Dialogues and workshops were organized to sensitize them to gender issues. Various advocacy efforts were made, including meetings, workshops, webinars, and the development of briefing papers, to promote domestic laws and eliminate gender-discriminatory attitudes among formal justice actors.

In the Solomon Islands, the project has continued to address Section 9 of the Family Protection Act. This is the only Act in the Solomon Islands that addresses domestic violence. This law was adopted over a decade ago but was never implemented. UN Women picked up on this and supported its amendment to make the Law implementable. The project completed drafting the instructions of the regulation and is awaiting its endorsement from the Minister of Justice and Legal Affairs after which the roles of the AJs and the PPs will be formalised although they are now conducting these roles. The Minister's endorsement of the regulation will also see the AJs and PPs remunerated compared to the current voluntary nature of their work. The project enabled women and people in the two target communities including church and traditional leaders from two provinces in the Solomon Islands, to meet during two community dialogues with representatives from the courts, including local courts, the police, court and justice officials, authorised justices, prescribed persons, health workers, church leaders, national and provincial women's organisations that provide counselling, referrals, legal representations and shelters for victims and survivors of domestic violence. The service providers were able to speak about their roles and the services they provided and women and the people asked questions on how to access the formal justice system, the challenges they experience and how to mitigate these challenges. A full day was also dedicated to individual one-on-one engagements between the service providers and the women and community people.

When effectiveness is looked at through the lens of achievement of the project's targets, it can be seen that the project has over-exceeded on 12/19 of its targets. An additional five are in-progress and are anticipated to be met by the end of the project extension period. Largely the delays to the achievement of these targets has been caused by COVID-19. There are two indicators where the project is off-track. The first is with regards to the number of amicus briefs or expert legal opinions submitted to courts at the domestic level in countries in Asia and the Pacific on emblematic cases that impact women's access to justice. The evaluation was informed that there have been a number of procedural obstacles regarding this, which only became apparent in mid-2022. For example, in South Asia it is not possible for a non-governmental organisation to submit amicus briefs to the court and in cases where ICJ made efforts to submit amicus briefs this proved to be unsuccessful. In Indonesia there was no buy-in

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<sup>1</sup> Country Portfolio Evaluation: Indonesia, UN Women, 2023

from the women litigants and in Malaysia the case in question (the Sisters of Islam) was stayed. The second indicator which is unlikely to be met is regarding the number of women involved in documentation of women's access to justice through grass-roots women's organizations in the Asia Pacific region. The target for this was 750 women and while the project has supported 294 to date, it made a conscious decision to continuously support the same CSOs within the pilot communities so that it can monitor and document women's human rights organisations, instead of expanding to more women.

#### 4.4 Sustainability

**Key Evaluation Question 4:** Have the results of the Women's Access to Justice Project been institutionalised and what is the likelihood of positive results/benefits continuing beyond the lifespan of the project?

- **Sub-question 4.1:** Is there evidence that the benefits from the project will continue after the project ends in 2023 (or continuation during further iterations of the project)? What is the probability of continued long-term benefits?
- **Sub-question 4.2:** To what extent have the capacities of duty-bearers and rightsholders been strengthened through the project?

#### Finding 11

**The project was designed with sustainability in mind from the outset and the approaches it has adopted have contributed to the longer-term sustainability of the project's results. While there are key indications of the sustainability of many of the project's results, there is also a need to continue to reinforce their sustainability. For this, a longer implementation period or Phase II of the project is required.**

The project document clearly considered and outlined the envisaged sustainability of the project results and the approaches adopted by the project contributed towards this. This included gender-responsive legislative and policy change in line with international norms and standards including CEDAW; gender-inclusive institutional reform; increasing access to justice through support to community-based and gender-responsive justice mechanisms; and elevating voices from the region to champion women's access to justice.

There are key indications of the sustainability of the project's results. For example, the project has contributed towards gender-responsive legislative and policy change, which will continue to have impact beyond the lifespan of the project. This includes Gender-Responsive Conflict Prevention and Resolution Decree no. 47/2020 Timor-Leste; Doha Declaration on Women's Rights 2021 Nepal, and National Judicial Strategy, Nepal, 2021; Anti-Sexual Violence Act 2022 Indonesia; and the Family Protection Act- regulation 2023, Traditional Governance Bill, Solomon Islands. The project has increased access to justice by supporting community-based justice mechanisms in Timor-Leste, Nepal, Solomon Islands, and Indonesia to be gender-responsive, in line with CEDAW General Recommendation no.33 on women's access to justice. Many of the evidence-based pilots have the potential to be replicated and scaled up and all show potential sustainability prospects. For example, in Nepal, the project provided capacity-building support, interactions and dialogues that raised awareness about gender-sensitive justice, women's rights GBV, and gender-related issues. Peer group mentoring between former and new Judicial Committees within Local Governments was institutionalized. While its long-term impact is still unfolding, it is expected that JCs will realize the benefits of this knowledge-sharing in the future.

In Timor Leste the provision of mediation is now fully funded by the state budget and the project activities and results are fully owned by the Ministry of Interior. In the Philippines, the pilot with women in conflict with the law has sustainability elements. This includes assigning paralegal aids in every dorm in the three pilot detention centres as well as the jail paralegal aids becoming institutionalised through a Memorandum of Understanding. The model now needs to be replicated and scaled-up to all jails to ensure that results are not lost. The Peace Villages in Indonesia have been publicly recognised as a successful model for peaceful and just communities by the Indonesian Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In September, the Directorate of the Handling of Post-Conflict Areas of the Ministry of Villages, Development and Disadvantaged Regions took the acknowledgement a step further and launched its own Cultural Peace Village, which is an adaptation of the original Peace Village initiative, intending to prevent social conflicts to promote

peace and tolerance in communities. In the Solomon Islands despite the adoption of the Law, there are concerns about the on-going sustainability of the activities, due to the financial constraints of the government. Stakeholders informed the evaluation that greater prospects for sustainability could have been achieved if UN Women had collaborated with Safenet,<sup>1</sup> which is the Solomon Islands Government's formal referral system made up of both government and non-government organizations/agencies to provide coordinated, frontline services and support to victims/survivors of gender based violence (GBV) and violence against women (VAW). It aims to streamline the assistance being provided to survivors and help them access more timely and necessary services. Safenet is led by the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs, Solomon. However, this was outside the current project scope, which was on community-based legislative change and implementation of law within communities. Safenet is very important for WA2J and UN Women should consider supporting it, if funding allows.

There are strong indications that the Women Human Rights Defenders Network established through the project will continue to function after the project's close as well as the HRD course, which was introduced at the University of the Pacific. The Network has a defined and operational organisational structure and has strong participation. The evaluation was informed that it is highly welcomed by its members and the Network is very active. This indicates to its continuation beyond the lifespan of the project

An emerging area that has the potential for strong sustainability is the project's work with some of the furthest left behind – women with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities. The evaluation was informed that the project partnered with 10 organisations of persons with disabilities, and academics, to conduct the world's first legal needs survey for women with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities. The survey was co-designed and co-implemented with women with disabilities and disability rights self-advocates in Nepal, the Philippines and Indonesia as well as Fiji.

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1 The Solomon Islands SAFENET is a referral network made up of organisations that provide essential services to victims/survivors of sexual and gender-based violence. It aims to streamline the assistance being provided to survivors and help them access more timely and necessary services. SAFENET is led by the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs, Solomon.

Following on from this, the project received requests for briefings from ministries of women, national disability agencies, and regional organisations of persons with disabilities, on the outcome of the survey. This has led to the development of policy guidance and advocacy material, which has been provided to them during briefings to take the recommendations forward.<sup>2</sup> UN Women further received a request from the Vice Chair of the Committee for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to conduct a briefing on the legal needs survey results for the Committee in August 2023, to inform the Committee's dialogues with States Party to the CRPD, and establishment of a Working Group on Article 13 (access to justice) of the CRPD. Furthermore, in partnership with OHCHR, briefing sessions will also be conducted for the Working Group on Discrimination against Women, and the CEDAW Committee (October/November 2023). The briefings aim to enhance the focus on rights for women with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities in constructive dialogues between Human Rights Committees with UN Member States.

The results of the legal needs survey and associated justice mapping can inform targeted action by governments, and advocacy by organisations of persons with disabilities, underpinned by commitments made at the regional level by ESCAP Member States in the Jakarta Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities 2023–2032 (adopted October 2022), as well as the Plan of Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities 2023–2032, to be developed during 2023. The project adapted the OECD legal needs survey methodology for women with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities, which can be promoted at a regional and global level to encourage wide use and duplication or adapted for other groups of women. All of these efforts have strong sustainability prospects.

Overall, the evaluation finds that the project has created a wealth of knowledge throughout its implementation period and gained considerable evidence on how to advance women's access to justice. It has considerably built the capacities of both centralised and community-based justice providers as well as of women who are accessing justice.

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2 Briefings and recommendations on next steps will be linked to commitments made by ESCAP Member States in the Jakarta Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities 2023–2032, adopted in October 2022.



The knowledge and evidence gained through the project now needs to be fully transferred, and pilots replicated and scaled-up, to ensure the further sustainability of the project's results. It is recognised by the evaluation that a longer-term approach is required to ensure the full sustainability of all the project's results. For example, capacity building of judges will need to be continued and institutionalized to ensure that new judges will have the same understanding of the Bangkok General Guidance and how to apply it, mediators will still need to be trained on how to operationalize the Guidance, women at community level will still need some guidance and support to be able to apply their skills as mediators etc.

#### 4.5 Gender equality and Human Rights

**Key Evaluation Question 5:** Has the project brought about any transformative changes to address the root causes of gender and other inequalities – including prevailing stereotypes, social norms, attitudes and behaviours and discrimination in particular with regards to WA2J?

- **Sub-question 5.1:** To what extent are the results contributing to the realization of international human rights and gender equality norms and agreements (e.g. CEDAW, UDHR, CRPD), as well as national and local strategies to advance human rights and gender equality?
- **Sub-question 5.2:** To what extent has the project engaged and reached the most marginalized groups, including women in remote locations, women from low socio-economic groups, women with disabilities and persons with diverse SOGIESC?
- **Sub-question 5.3:** To what extent is the project addressing underlying social norms and structural barriers to achieving gender-responsive people-centred justice?

#### Finding 12

**The project has integrated gender equality and women's empowerment and the core principle of the SDGs – Leave No One Behind - into the project design and its implementation. It considers women's human rights a priority area and contributes to UN Women's OHCHR's and ICJ's work on promoting gender equality and women's empowerment. The project's approach to Leave No One Behind has been exemplary, with evidence showing that the project is addressing complex, intersectional forms of discrimination**

**against women accessing justice in all their diversity. One of the key added values of the project is its ability to reach groups of women that others cannot. The project could have engaged further with youth and young women to further the goals of the project.**

The evaluation finds that the project has integrated a gender perspective into both the design and implementation of the project, as well as the core principle of the SDGs to Leave No One Behind and to reach the furthest behind. (Please see Annex IX for the Gender@work Analysis). This extends from the overall goal of the project – to strengthen access to justice for women in Asia and the Pacific – through each of the project's outcomes, outputs and all of its activities. This has built trust and given the project access to groups of women that others are unable to access. In particular, the project has succeeded to carve out a niche for itself in working with vulnerable and marginalised groups that others are not working with, including women with psychological and intellectual disabilities, indigenous women, environmental women human rights defenders, the LGBTIQ+ community and women journalists.

For example, OHCHR has elevated diverse voices from the region to champion women's access to justice, including women journalists, environmental and indigenous rights defenders, and the LGBTIQ+ community. Through engaging with indigenous women, OHCHR has ensured their inclusion and representation on the UN-wide CSO Advisory Group in Indonesia. OHCHR's engagement with the UN's Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) has helped to break the binary definition of gender in the region, which is an extremely sensitive issue. Through this work, OHCHR has provided a safe space to host regional activities on this issue.<sup>1</sup>

Countries in South-East Asia regularly rank amongst the highest in the world for killings of Environmental Human Rights Defenders (EHRDs). The project has been successful in linking stakeholders, particularly CSOs and human rights and environmental defenders with international human rights mechanisms and Special Procedures, including bringing cases to the attention of Special Rapporteurs and supporting wider stakeholder engagement in UPR processes and Treaty Committee processes and follow-up.

<sup>1</sup> Stories of gender justice from women journalists across Asia Pacific.

Complementary to this, the ICJ made an intervention at the fiftieth regular session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, focusing on the impact of climate change on women and girls in Fiji and the Philippines. The oral statement emphasized the challenges faced by women and girls in these countries and stressed the importance of adopting a holistic approach when addressing climate change.

In 2021, UN Women and OHCHR conducted a one-year training programme for journalists, leading to the establishment of a regional network of journalists to advance women's rights. The team collaborated in co-creating advocacy material, supporting writing efforts and offering opportunities to publish women's rights on UN Women's regional and global social media platforms and webpages. The evaluation was informed that this process produced a booklet highlighting stories of gender justice from women journalists across the Asia and the Pacific, cross-regional co-creations by women journalists on CEDAW Article 16 on Marriage and Family Relations, and the development of a common understanding of what a gender-responsive justice system would require, known as a utopian justice system. UN Women created knowledge pieces on women trailblazers in using technology to expand access to justice and highlighted the important link between the rights of indigenous women and the rights of nature.

The project has also extensively addressed the issue of gender biases and stereotypes in the region. Gender discriminatory attitudes and stereotyped behaviours towards women have been acknowledged and addressed by both centralised and community-based justice providers in the target countries. The evaluation was informed anecdotally that these changes are already being seen and felt by women in the region. For example, many of the judiciary who have participated in the regional and national level judicial dialogues organised by the project are now being used as resource persons in their countries for promoting women's access to justice and over the past five years, 1,208 judges have enhanced their capacity to apply gender-responsive principles in courts. As reported by the project, over 80% of judges, as well as front-line justice actors (police and prosecution) and informal justice adjudicators, who have participated in capacity building through the project say that they understand more the root causes of discriminatory attitudes and behaviours towards women commonly manifested in

court decisions and they are willing to work towards eliminating this gender discriminatory attitudes. These changes in attitudes and behaviours also have good potential to be sustainable and continue beyond the lifespan of the project.

The project has also addressed the issues of violence against women and girls in the context of the climate crisis. For example, in 2022, OHCHR, in collaboration with UN Women and the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, organized two sub-regional consultations on violence against women and girls in the context of the climate crisis. The consultations specifically addressed environmental degradation, disaster risk mitigation and responses, aligning with the thematic report presented by the Special Rapporteur to the United Nations General Assembly in September 2022. The discussions centred on various forms of gender-based violence experienced by women and girls in relation to or exacerbated by the climate crisis, environmental degradation and displacement. Participants included representatives from civil society organizations and indigenous communities as well as academic experts and representatives of national human rights institutions from Asia and the Pacific.

The project has made some efforts to engage with youth, for example in Indonesia through the Peace Villages. Other examples include regional workshops for youth HRDs to enhance their capacity to engage with international human rights mechanisms including the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief and the UN Expert Mechanisms on Tights on Indigenous Peoples. However, overall the evaluation finds that the project did not capitalize fully on the potential benefits of engaging with youth to further women's access to justice in the region and there should have been a stronger presence of and profile for youth voices in project activities. In particular, stakeholders felt that opportunities were not capitalised to engage with the UN Youth Envoy at the regional level.



A meeting of community members in Doti, Nepal in 2019.  
Photo: UN Women/Babita Sewa

# 4

## LESSONS LEARNT

## 5. Lessons Learnt

### Lesson Learned 1

**Projects are hampered when there is no clear alignment between their theory of change and results framework or a comprehensive approach to M&E that systematically captures lessons learned, which are then incorporated back into the project implementation.**

In project design, coherence between the ToC and RF is critically important to create a logical results chain that can clarify and improve attribution of results. It is equally important that the ToC is seen to be a living document that is reviewed and fine-tuned periodically, in order to remain relevant as a guiding strategy to achieve the desired change. A metadata of the result framework should have been developed to ensure clear definition and methodology. In term of process and output monitoring, it is important to develop standardized instruments to collect data at activity and output level. Data quality assessment and outcome monitoring should be embedded into the M&E system. Learning should also be embedded into the project at every stage. Pre-post test data, for example, were collected, but often not analysed, which indicate that the data collected was not consistently used to inform project implementation. Prioritising learning in M&E increases understanding of project impacts and improves results.

### Lesson Learned 2

**A regional approach can drive momentum not just at the regional level but can also pave the way for progress at the national level.**

A regional approach can contribute towards strengthening the enabling environment. It can drive momentum, not just at the regional level, but also pave the way for progress at the national level. Activities at the regional level can bridge the gap between the global and national level. Access to justice for women is a sensitive subject in many countries in Asia and the Pacific. However the regional approach, through engagement with regional level actors, allows for all countries to sit together at the same table and to level the playing field between them. This can push the discourse and generate discussions, which would not otherwise have taken place. It allows for the exchange of knowledge, ideas and learning between

peers. Regional communication and advocacy efforts can also contribute towards this.

### Lesson Learned 3

**As the project demonstrates, flexibility, adaptability and seizing opportunities are key to successfully delivering projects in challenging and fast-moving contexts, including during the COVID-19 pandemic**

Despite the challenges faced by the project in the project design, due to fast-changing political contexts, as well as the additional challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic, the project has been highly successful at the activity level as a result of its ability to be flexible and to respond to opportunities as and when they arose. Taking more risks, in particular with regards to partnerships could lead to even more tangible and coherent results.

### Lesson Learned 4

**Joint partnerships can work well when the project's enabling environment allows for this. A robust Theory of Change, which is regularly reviewed and tested, together with strong MEAL systems and mechanisms can help to facilitate this as well as inform programming and ensure that the project remains on-track. A joint vision on access to justice, which is regularly evaluated, is also necessary. Dedicating sufficient time and resources to cultivating and nurturing partnerships at the right level can strengthen ownership, contribute to the attainment of project results and help ensure the sustainability of the project's outcomes.**

When a project's responsible parties come together and work to their comparative advantages, progress can be made and results achieved. However, the project needs to ensure that it creates an enabling environment for this, including through the development of a robust theory of change and corresponding results framework, which is regularly reviewed and evaluated, together with a strong MEAL system. This will allow projects to learn by doing, help feed into decision-making and ensure that the project remains on track.

The project has successfully developed a partnership architecture that has contributed to the attainment of project results, including with centralised justice sector actors, civil society organisations, grassroots women organisations and women human rights defenders

Calibrating this further with more partners at the regional level and with a broader and more diverse partnership base will help ensure the sustainability of the project's outcomes.

### **Lesson Learned 5**

**Efforts to strengthen women's access to justice need to go beyond traditional capacity development of duty bearers and/or gender training of duty bearers and rights holders.**

The project results show that tangible results can be gained when activities are focused at the community level in terms of strengthening community based justice mechanisms. These can become a crucial avenue for women providing accessible and culturally sensitive justice solutions. This involves active community engagement to understand local customs, traditions and power dynamics, ensuring that justice mechanisms align with community values. Women's voices in decision-making related to justice solutions contribute to more inclusive and equitable justice outcomes.

### **Lesson Learned 6**

**Mainstreaming a human rights-based approach, which combines top-down protection and bottom-up empowerment is critically important in the realisation of project results.**

This is particularly important for strengthening women's access to justice because a human rights-based approach empowers women to know and claim their rights. It ensures that legal systems prioritize equality, dignity and non-discrimination, leading to more comprehensive, empowering and sustainable outcomes for women. It also ensures that the legal systems and mechanisms prioritize and protect the rights of women, recognizing them as equal and autonomous individuals. It recognizes women as rights-holders with the agency to claim and exercise their rights. By empowering women through the legal system, the HRBA contributes to dismantling structures that perpetuate discrimination and inequality. In the context of women's access to justice, this means involving women in the development, implementation and evaluation of legal policies and mechanisms. Inclusivity ensures that diverse perspectives are considered in the pursuit of justice. Women's access to justice is often influenced by various intersecting factors such as gender, socio-economic status, ethnicity, and more. A human rights-based approach recognizes these

interconnections and advocates for holistic solutions that address the complex and interrelated challenges faced by women. It increases the ability of institutions – both centralised and community level – to fulfil their human rights obligations. It also creates solid accountability mechanisms so women can seek remedies when their rights are violated. Combining top-down and bottom-up approaches is crucial for the achievement of sustainable project results. The project has been able to achieve considerable results by working with both rights holders and duty bearers. By keeping the focus on its main beneficiaries – women in all their diversity who are accessing justice in Asia and the Pacific, the project has been able to be more effective and responsive to identified needs at the output level.



Active members of of the Peace Village working group (Pokja) in Candirenggo, Indonesia.  
Photo: UN Women/Satu Bumi Jaya

# 5

# CONCLUSIONS

## 5. Conclusions

Evaluation Criteria	Evaluation Conclusion
<p>Conclusion 1: Relevance <i>Based on findings 1, 2, 4 and 5</i></p>	<p>The project is very relevant to the national development priorities of the focus countries in the region, with which it is closely aligned. This includes the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs, in particular SDGs 5, 10 and 16, although the project could leverage the SDGs further. It contributes to the UN and UN Women, OHCHR and ICJ priorities in the focus countries in the region including the UN Women Strategic Plan. It is aligned with the priorities of its donor, SIDA. Crucially the project is also relevant in relation to the needs and priorities of its beneficiaries – women, in all their diversity, accessing justice in the region. The project is particularly relevant to grassroots women who need to access justice, in all their diversity. The level of knowledge and evidence it has been able to generate in this respect makes it highly relevant for strengthening access to justice for women at the regional level.</p>
<p>Conclusion 2: Organisational Efficiency <i>Based on findings 5, 6, 7 and 8</i></p>	<p>Despite the organisational inefficiencies, and at times lack of a shared vision, the strategies and approaches adopted by the project have produced results. While UN Women should be given credit for its coordinating role and desire for dialogue with the responsible parties, the partnership management led to some confusion, in particular during the early stages of the project, between the roles and responsibilities of UN Women and the responsible parties. The implementation of the project was hampered by its design, with an unclear theory of change, which was not directly linked to the project’s activities. Indicators were not sufficiently specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and timebound (SMART).</p>
<p>Conclusion 3: Effectiveness <i>Based on findings 9 and 10</i></p>	<p>The project has achieved results beyond the realisation of its activities, contributing to its overall objective to increase access to justice for women in Asia and the Pacific. It has built capacities among both centralised and community-based justice providers as well as among women accessing justice, which also lends to the sustainability of the project’s results. It has also contributed towards reshaping the mindsets of judges and other centralised and community-based justice actors with regards to women’s access to justice. The project has developed a wealth of knowledge and evidence and piloted a number of successful models, which go beyond simply raising capacities but focus on the participation of women in co-designing justice solutions tailored to their needs. These now need to be replicated and scaled-up.</p>
<p>Conclusion 4: Sustainability <i>Based on finding 11</i></p>	<p>There are some prospects for sustainability across some of the project results. Further efforts are required to consolidate the results achieved to date and to replicate and scale-up the models that have been successfully piloted, including the Peace Villages in Indonesia, the Judicial Committees in Nepal, the work with women in conflict with the law in the Philippines, and the mediation model in Timor Leste.</p>

Evaluation Criteria	Evaluation Conclusion
	<p>Not only can these models be further scaled in their implementing countries, but they can also be replicated at the regional level in comparable jurisdictions. It is recognised by the evaluation that a longer-term approach is required to ensure the full sustainability of all the project's results. Diversifying partnerships further and convening the leveraging role of UN Women with governments, centralised and grassroots justice sector actors, CSOs and WHRDs could create greater ownership and sustainability of the project's results.</p>
<p>Conclusion 5: Gender Equality and Human Rights <i>Based on finding 12</i></p>	<p>Gender equality is the primary focus of the project and has been well integrated into both the design and implementation of the project. Through adopting an integrated, holistic approach of strengthening the enabling environment for women accessing justice in the region, addressing gender discriminatory attitudes and behaviours and empowering women to access justice, the project has made contributions towards addressing the root causes and power dynamics around gender inequality in Asia and the Pacific. The project applied feminist principles in both its design and implementation of its activities and was guided by a commitment to dismantling gender inequalities, challenging discriminatory norms and contributing to more just and equitable justice for all women. The project has developed a recognised niche in working with groups of women that others are unable to access and ensuring that it addresses the Leave No One Behind principle. This has included addressing challenges for women with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities, as well as women human rights defenders, indigenous women and women in conflict with the law. The project was designed in accordance with the Human Rights-Based Approach, engaging with both duty bearers and rights holders.</p>
<p>Conclusion 6: Overall conclusion <i>Based on findings 1-12</i></p>	<p>The project is contributing to its objective of strengthening women's access to justice in Asia and the Pacific at both the output and outcome level. The considerable wealth of knowledge and evidence gained through the project now needs to be shared throughout the region and replicated and scaled up as appropriate. This should also be shared corporately throughout the three organisations who could effectively become an exporter of knowledge on women's access to justice in other regions and globally.</p>





Women promoting peaceful and resilient communities in Indonesia  
Photo: UN Women/Satu Bumi Jaya

# 6

# RECOMMENDATIONS

## 6. Recommendations

The following section provides a set of forward-looking recommendations for UN Women, which are practical and actionable. They may also be useful for OHCHR and ICJ. Each recommendation is linked to the relevant finding and conclusion upon which it is based and provides an indication as to the timescale to address the recommendation. The recommendations are provided in the same order as the evaluation criteria and questions, and as per the order of the findings, rather than in order of priority. Each recommendation also indicates whether this is a short-term priority, mid-term priority or both and contains some recommended next steps on how they should be actioned. Short-term priorities refer to the remaining implementation period, mid-term to the design of future iterations of the project and long-term towards implementation of future iterations of the project and their implementation.

As a decision has already been made not to continue with the project it is current set up at the end of the project extension period in February 2024, the evaluation has developed over-arching recommendations that can be applied by UN Women, as well as by OHCHR and ICJ, either when implementing together or individually in future guises of the project.

### Recommendation 1

**UN Women should continue to strengthen its access to justice programming in the region, as well as at the global level. Building on the wealth of knowledge and evidence gained through the regional project, UN Women should utilise its comparative advantage in access to justice programming, in particular by reaching women that others are unable to reach.**

*Recommendation targeted at UN Women, short/mid/long-term priority, based on findings 1, 3, 5, 6, 9 and 10 and conclusions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 – high priority*

UN Women has established itself as a key player in access to justice programming in the region. It has built momentum as well as a considerable wealth of knowledge around women's access to justice, which should be capitalised on going forward. UN Women has built the trust and confidence of stakeholders and in particular of its beneficiaries. Expectations have been raised, which it should aim to meet. In particular, UN Women should utilise its comparative advantages in reaching women that others are unable to reach. Strategic partnerships, such as with the current responsible parties,

but with more effective partnership management, and with new partners, such as UNDP, should be leveraged to further strengthen UN Women's access to justice offer going forward.

### Recommendation 2

**UN Women, ICJ and OHCHR should leverage the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs to further drive progress towards project results and embed the SDGs in results frameworks. Future projects should include global SDG 16 indicators in their results frameworks, to explicitly link project contributions to the global Goal.**

*Recommendation targeted at UN Women, ICJ and OHCHR, short/mid-term priority, based on findings 1, 2, 9 and 10 and conclusions 1 and 5 – high priority*

The evaluation recommends that UN Women, ICJ and OHCHR in any future iteration of the project, increase leverage of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs to further project results. All countries in the region have signed up to the SDGs and this can be used to drive momentum as well as to strengthen ownership of project activities and commitment towards project results, thereby contributing towards sustainability. The SDGs can also be used to strengthen policy coherence amongst decision-makers. Similarly, mainstreaming the SDGs further can also strengthen CSO capacities for advocacy and report writing. Going forward, it is recommended that UN Women embed the SDGs into any future project's results framework to be able to fully capture the contribution of the project towards furthering the SDGs and to drive progress.

### Recommendation 3

**All future projects should have a realistic and evidence-based theory of change, which is regularly reviewed and underpinned by informed risks and assumptions. This can be used to develop a corresponding results framework with SMART indicators and a strong M&E framework.**

*Recommendation targeted at UN Women, ICJ and OHCHR, mid-term priority, based on findings 2, 3, 6, 7 and 8 and conclusions 1 and 3 – high priority*

Going into any future iterations of the project, UN Women, ICJ and OHCHR should ensure a strong, evidence-based theory of change closely linked to a corresponding results framework, that will enable them to report against results and contributions towards higher level goals and outcomes.

A combination of SMART<sup>1</sup> qualitative and quantitative indicators should be developed to capture behavioural and attitudinal change as well as quantitative progress. This should include indicators at the output, outcome and impact level, which will be able to capture all results of the project, including those at the higher level. A greater use of qualitative indicators that measure perceptions and behaviours at the outcome level, as opposed to quantitative indicators that measure activities at the output level, will likely better capture the project's progress and results, as well as contributions towards the project outcomes and impact. These will also allow for capturing the voices of people, which cannot be captured through quantitative indicators, in particular when measuring change on sensitive issues. The project's outcomes can be linked to and show a causal pathway between the project's results and its contribution towards corporate level outcomes as well as regional and donor development priorities and the SDGs.

#### **Recommendation 4**

**Any future iterations of the project should include a workable partnership management, together with an organizational set-up with clearly defined roles and responsibilities that matches the vision of the project. Coordination and communication mechanisms should be formalized to ensure the efficient implementation of the project.**

*Recommendation targeted in particular to UN Women (the project, regional office and headquarters), mid/long-term priority, based on findings 3, 6, and 8 and Conclusions 1 and 2 – medium priority*

The project was constrained by its organizational set-up and the partnership management, which led to confusion regarding the roles and responsibilities of each of the organisations. Any future project should contain an organizational set-up with clearly defined roles and responsibilities for any future iterations of the project, with human resources and allocation of funding matching the implementation realities. The management of partnerships should be a key priority throughout the project design and implementation. Given the challenges of implementing jointly with an International NGO, it is recommended that the partners revert to their previous modality of cooperating through a Memorandum of Understanding.

#### **Recommendation 5**

**It is highly recommended to include some dedicated M&E capacity in any future iteration of the project's organisational structure, which would strengthen the future project's M&E approach and allow for more sophisticated data collection, providing a strong evidence base for planning and programming as well as capturing results. Any future project requires standardised mechanisms for learning, which should ensure that all knowledge, evidence and lessons learned gained during the current implementation phase as well as any future project iterations are captured and fully institutionalised. This can be aided by undertaking a broad baseline assessment at the start of any future project.**

*Recommendation targeted at UN Women, ICJ and OHCHR, short/mid-term priority, based on findings 6 and 8 and Conclusion 2 – medium priority*

It is highly recommended that for any future iteration of the project consideration is given to include some dedicated M&E capacity into the project's organisational structure. Different modalities can be considered dependent upon resources, including a dedicated M&E officer at the project level; sharing an M&E officer with other projects; having M&E capacities at the programme level, which could be utilised on a percentage basis within the project or contracting a consultant to provide M&E support. Other possibilities could be explored including engaging a UN Volunteer (UNV). Many UN projects have had excellent experiences using this approach, which is highly cost effective, while producing effective results.

Standardised and systematic mechanisms for monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) should be introduced, which can be reflected in the project implementation, as well as feed into the country/regional programmatic cycle. This will also increase capacity for adaptation. More adaptive programming, based on robust MEL, combined with strong and measurable indicators would allow for a shifting of priorities and resources where results are not being achieved. Stronger MEL would also provide opportunity for review, reflection and adaptation as required.

<sup>1</sup> Specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and time-bound

A stronger MEL framework would also allow for better communication of results.

At the start of any future project, consideration should be given to undertaking a broad baseline assessment, against which future progress can be tracked. This can not only be used to inform future planning and programming but can also be used to assess the impact of the project's interventions and contribute towards capturing higher level results. Any M&E framework developed must be gender sensitive. Developing a rigorous, scientific based monitoring framework that would generate gender and human rights sensitive evidence for showing the progress and the change resulting from the WA2J project implementation is of high relevance for future project stages.

### **Recommendation 6**

**The project should engage with regional actors more, to drive project results, contribute to their work and showcase project results. UN Women should leverage its convening role between governments, centralized and community-level justice actors, CSOs, women's community based organization and WHRDSs. In parallel, there is a need to continue efforts for strengthening country-level coordination efforts concerning women's access to justice in all focus countries.**

*Recommendation targeted at UN Women, ICJ and OHCHR, mid-term priority, based on findings 5, 9, 10 and 11 and Conclusions 2, 3 and 6 – medium priority*

UN Women should continue to foster regional networks and platforms for collaboration among participating countries, national and regional organisations, and stakeholders working on women's access to justice in the region. Irrespective of any future iteration of the project UN Women and the responsible parties should continue to organise regular regional forums, conferences, and exchanges to facilitate dialogue, knowledge sharing, and joint learning.

Deepening the engagement with regional level organisations<sup>1</sup> and recognising their valuable expertise,

<sup>1</sup> This could include, for example, the Asia Pacific Forum on Women Law and Development, the Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development, the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact and the International Women's Rights Action Watch. Partnerships with sub-regional actors including the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR), the ASEAN Commission on Women and Children (ACWC) and the Council of ASEAN Chief Justices (CACJ).

resources, and commitment to promoting women's access to justice could further future results, while also providing an opportunity to share knowledge and experiences and showcase results from this phase of the project implementation. Collaborative efforts can include joint initiatives, knowledge-sharing, and capacity-building programmes. By forging strategic partnerships, UN Women partners can leverage additional expertise, resources, and networks, fostering long-term collaborations that contribute to the sustainability of strengthening women's access to justice efforts.

At the country level, there is a need to continue support for further scale-up and replication of the project's pilot models as well as strengthening capacities to enhance coordination and collaboration among stakeholders involved in addressing women's access to justice. The evaluation recommends fostering partnerships and knowledge sharing between UN Women and other initiatives, organizations, and projects on women's access to justice in the region.

### **Recommendation 7**

**Results gained through the pilot model initiatives to strengthen women's access to justice should be replicated and scaled up and promoted at the regional level. The project should invest in institutionalizing the approaches through strengthening horizontal and vertical coordination mechanisms. The project should continue to ensure that it goes beyond traditional capacity development approaches when addressing women's access to justice.**

*Recommendation targeted at UN Women and ICJ, short/ mid-term priority, based on findings 9, 10 and 12 and Conclusions 3, 5 and 6 – high priority*

The scalability of pilot initiatives, as well as the sustainability of results achieved by the Project, has been a priority throughout the project implementation. While some of the pilot initiatives have already commenced adoption and/or scaling by national governments, including gender-responsive National Judicial Committees in Nepal, the joint network on non-adversarial justice providers bound through digital case management in Timor-Leste and informal justice and protection-mechanisms in the Peace Villages in Indonesia, these models need to be further replicated and scaled up as well as promoted at the regional level. In total, the project established 35 pilot promoting gender-responsive, community-based

promoting gender-responsive, community-based justice mechanisms utilising a feminist and whole of community approach across 4 countries. By linking the community mechanisms to the central justice system, referral and sustainability were ensured and the justice gap for women lessened. The approach, methodology, results and lessons learned should now be utilised cross-country and at the regional level in similar jurisdictions.

In addition to bringing justice closer to the people, the project also worked with centralised justice systems to address the justice gap. In particular, the project enhanced the capacities of judges to apply gender-responsive principles in courts. During the extension phase, the project should undertake a mapping of judicial decision-making to assess the level that these increased capacities are being applied in courts. Similarly, an additional push should be made to advocate for other countries to adopt the Bangkok General Guidance to advance gender responsive decisions. The evaluation was informed that both of these steps are envisaged during the extension phase

### **Recommendation 8**

**The project has created a wealth of knowledge and evidence during its implementation period, which should be captured and institutionalised within the UN System. Consideration should be given to creating a knowledge and evidence-base hub or repository that can be accessible to all relevant stakeholders.**

*Recommendation targeted at UN Women, mid/long-term priority, based on findings 9-12 and Conclusions 3-6 – high priority*

The Project created a vast pool of knowledge through its scalable pilots,<sup>1</sup> innovative research, as well as partnerships and joint work with women's civil society organisations, governments, regional

intergovernmental bodies, academic institutions, and justice experts. The extensive and long-term partnerships with women grassroots organisations, civil society, organisations of persons with disabilities, government bodies, including the judiciary, as well as national and international human rights mechanisms, allowed the Project to gain considerable knowledge and experience on creating a gender-responsive and people-centred approach to justice, and created an enabling environment for the full realisation of women's human rights.

In the short-term, this knowledge should be codified and shared at the regional level as mentioned in findings 5 and 6. However, long-term UN Women might consider establishing a knowledge and evidence-base hub on strengthening women's access to justice in Asia and the Pacific. This would contain knowledge products (policy guidance, fact sheets, guidelines and recommendations) and pilot initiative insights, best practices and lessons learned. This could assist UN Women and other UN Agencies as well as government bodies, the judiciary, regional bodies, CSOs and WGROs and WHRDs in furthering access to justice for women at the national, regional and global levels.

### **Recommendation 9**

**UN Women and OHCHR should reinforce their approach to Leave No One Behind by consolidating their efforts with some of the most marginalised groups of women in the region, including women with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities, indigenous women, LGBTIQ+ communities and women human rights defenders. In addition, efforts should be enhanced to engage with youth.**

*Recommendation targeted at UN Women and OHCHR, mid-term priority, based on findings 10 and 12 and conclusions 5 and 6 – medium priority*

<sup>1</sup> Pilot examples: (1) Advancing WA2J and active citizenship through community-based justice mechanisms in Nepal, (2) Addressing and preventing discrimination against women through informal grievance mechanisms in Indonesia, (3) linking community-advocacy, poverty-reduction and gender-responsive reintegration to address increased number of women in conflict with the law, (4) advancing decentralized non-adversarial, civil case solutions within communities by using gender-responsive legal technology in Timor-Leste, (5) establishing sustainable platform for engagements of women grassroots organizations in legislative changes as well as the implementation of the law (land rights, environmental rights and GBV) in the Solomon Islands.



Petra Angelina is a self-advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities.

Photo: UN Women/Lauren Rooney

The project has brought to the fore the justice gap for some of the furthest behind women in Asia and the Pacific - women with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, indigenous women, LGBTIQ+ communities and women human rights defenders and any future iterations of the project should continue to engage with these groups. UN Women and OHCHR need to continue to address the justice gap for these groups of women and reinforce and expand results gained. For example, the results of the legal needs survey for women with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities and associated justice mapping can inform targeted actions by governments and advocacy by organisations of persons with disabilities, underpinned by commitments made at the regional level<sup>1</sup>. Further, the adaptation of the OECD legal needs survey methodology for women with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities can be promoted at a regional and global level to encourage wide use and duplication.

In addition to continued engagement with these groups of women, UN Women and OHCHR should expand its efforts to engage with youth as potential agents of change. Tapping in further the potential of youth is particularly important when addressing entrenched gender stereotypes and discriminatory behaviours in the region.

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<sup>1</sup> This includes commitments by ESCAP Member States in the Jakarta Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities 2023–2032 (adopted October 2022), as well as the Plan of Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities 2023–2032, to be developed in 2023



Photo: UN Women/Kabita Thapa

# ANNEXES

## Appendix I

### Evaluation Matrix

Relevant Evaluation criteria	Key Questions & Sub-Questions as per the ToR	Specific Sub-Questions	Data Sources	Data collection Methods/Tools	Indicators/ Success Standard	Assumptions
The <b>relevance and coherence</b> of the WA2J project design, with a specific focus on its theory of change and how the project outputs realistically and effectively contributed to its overall objective.	<b>Key Evaluation Question 1:</b> To what extent has the Women's Access to Justice project aligned itself to the needs of stakeholders and priorities of the participating countries and contributed to outcome level results as defined in the project's reconstructed ToC?	<b>Sub-question 1:</b> To what extent was the design and expected results of the project informed by beneficiaries' requirements, countries' needs, priorities of international frameworks on gender equality, human rights and justice, and Sida's policies? <b>Sub-question 2:</b> To what extent is the project complementing/creating synergies between project partners and other development partners with respect to gender responsive people centred justice? <b>Sub-question 3:</b> To what extent has the project adapted to the evolving context,	*National policy documents including relevant gender equality strategies and action plans in the 7 target countries and regionally * Strategic Documents of UN Women, OHCHR, ICJ and SIDA *WA2J ProDoc *WA2J Progress Reports *WA2J Asia progress and monitoring reports * Partner reports *KIIs/FGDs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Document review and desk research</li> <li>• Independent external research and reports</li> <li>• Key informant interviews</li> <li>• Focus group discussions</li> <li>• Case studies</li> <li>• Email, phone and online follow-up where necessary</li> </ul>	<p>Evidence that the Regional Programme design was informed by, considered and addressed the needs of target groups and beneficiaries, national and regional priorities and SIDA policies</p> <p>Share of stakeholders consulted who provide evidence (including examples and opinions) that the results of the Regional Programme are relevant to target groups and beneficiaries' needs and priorities</p> <p>Examples of synergies, cooperation and coordination between the Regional Programme and other initiatives that other development partners implemented (authorities, CSOs, other stakeholders) and the extent of</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information is available</li> <li>• National counterparts are willing/able to meet</li> </ul>
		Including the COVID-19 pandemic?			<p>Coordination and synergies with WA2J</p> <p>Evidence of actions taken in response to COVID-19 and other contextual changes</p>	
<b>Effectiveness</b> – The overall effectiveness of the WA2J project activities towards the expected results	<b>Key Evaluation Question 3:</b> To what extent has the Women's Access to Justice project achieved the anticipated (reconstructed) outputs and have these contributed to the attainment of the project's outcomes?	<b>Sub-question 1:</b> To what extent has the project contributed to the achievement of the intended outcomes? <b>Sub-question 2:</b> What strategies were the most effective in accelerating progress? What factors have affected performance (hindered or facilitated the achievement of results)? <b>Sub-question 3:</b> Were there any negative/positive unexpected results?	**WA2J Project Document *WA2J Progress Reports *WA2J Asia progress and monitoring reports * WA2J knowledge products *KIIs with project team and SIDA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Document review and desk research</li> <li>• Key informant interviews</li> <li>• Focus group discussions</li> <li>• Case studies</li> <li>• Email, phone and online follow-up where necessary</li> </ul>	<p>Evidence of changes to the normative and legislative frameworks in target countries toward alignment with international standards including CEDAW,</p> <p>Evidence of the contribution of engagement to strengthen women's voices advocate for the development and implementation of laws and policies</p> <p>Evidence and opinions that the laws and policies are reviewed and reformed to conform with international human rights standards</p> <p>Evidence (examples and opinions) that women's CSOs, and in/formal justice systems have the knowledge to develop and implement innovative approaches to address harmful gender stereotypes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information and data is available</li> <li>• National and regional counterparts are willing/able to meet</li> </ul>



Relevant Evaluation criteria	Key Questions & Sub-questions as per the ToR	Specific Sub-Questions	Data Sources	Data collection Methods/Tools	Indicators/ Success Standard	Assumptions
<p><b>Outcome 1: A more gender responsive formal justice system.</b></p> <p><b>Output 1.1:</b> Influence the change of domestic laws in the target countries consistent with international human rights law and standards, including CEDAW.</p> <p><b>Output 1.2:</b> Increased capacity of domestic courts to use applicable international law and standards through introduction of the Bangkok General Guidance</p> <p><b>Output 1.3:</b> Increased capacity of judges to eliminate gender stereotyping and to incorporate a gender perspective in their judicial decisions.</p> <p><b>Output 1.4:</b> Increased capacity of frontline formal justice actors to eliminate gender discriminatory attitudes and stereotyped behaviours towards women</p> <p><b>Output 1.5:</b> Strengthen capacity of women's human rights advocates to influence policy and legislative</p>	<p>- What have been the main activities conducted under these outputs?</p> <p>- How has the project supported countries in their advocacy efforts to promote domestic laws in line with international HR standards?</p> <p>- To what extent have the briefing papers published by the project been used by women's human rights groups and the public – what is the evidence for this?</p> <p>- How many advocacy missions have been conducted and what have been the outcomes from these?</p> <p>- To what extent to judges have the envisaged increased capacities – how is this being measured? What about other formal frontline justice workers?</p> <p>- There have been challenges with regards to the submission of amicus briefs – were these challenges identified during the project development stage? How did the project adapt given the realities?</p> <p>- Please elaborate on the course on gender and e-justice? Has the course been finalised? Has it been piloted? What are the preliminary results? How are changes in knowledge captured? Have there been impact assessments of the course? Are participants applying the knowledge gained in their everyday lives? How? Is this being monitored and measured?</p> <p>- How have WHRD's capacities been strengthened?</p> <p>How is this being measured?</p> <p>- How many countries have formally adopted and use the BGG? How do you measure results of capacity building efforts?</p> <p>- How has WA2J been strengthened in the formal justice system? How has the project influenced legislative and policy changes? How has the project facilitated women's interaction with the</p>	<p>- What are the key achievements under this outcome and outputs?</p> <p>- What are the key challenges?</p> <p>- Is progress on track?</p> <p>- What are the main lessons learned so far?</p> <p>- Has the approach changed during the project implementation period? If so, why?</p> <p>- To what extent are GESI and HRBA considerations addressed in the design and implementation of activities?</p>	<p>*National legislative and policy documents</p> <p>*WA2J ProDoc</p> <p>*WA2J Progress Reports</p> <p>*WA2J Asia progress and monitoring reports</p> <p>* Partner reports</p> <p>Knowledge products</p> <p>*KIIs/FGDs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Document review and desk research</li> <li>Independent external research and reports</li> <li>Key informant interviews</li> <li>Focus group discussions</li> <li>Case study</li> <li>Email, phone and online follow-up where necessary</li> </ul>	<p>Perception of women who have accessed the formal justice system about gender-responsiveness of the formal justice system being accessed.</p> <p>Data source: FGD with users of formal justice system, users feedback form (if available)</p> <p><b>Outcome Indicator 1</b></p> <p>Numbers of countries in Asia and the Pacific whose court system formally adopt and use the Bangkok general Guidance.</p> <p>Baseline: 2</p> <p>Target 2023: 10</p> <p><b>Outcome indicator 5</b></p> <p>Number of domestic laws passed, and court decisions made in the target countries since 2018 that are consistent with international human rights law and standards, including the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target 2023 (10)</p> <p>Output Indicator 1.1.1</p> <p>Number of laws, policies and mechanisms that were actively supported by the project were adopted to advance women's right.</p> <p>Baseline: ?</p> <p>Target: ?</p> <p>Data source: ?</p> <p><b>Outcome Indicator 3/Output Indicator 1.1.2</b></p> <p>Number of formal justice providers agree on modalities to enhance women's access to the formal justice system in their respective countries.</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: 2023(120)</p> <p><b>Output Indicator 1.2.1</b></p> <p>Number of Supreme Court or High court judges (disaggregated by gender) whose knowledge of Bangkok General Guidance is increased together with their level of commitment to introduce the guidance within their court systems.</p> <p>Baseline (119)</p> <p>Target 2023 (160)</p> <p><b>Outcome Indicator 2/Output indicator 1.3.1</b></p> <p>Number of personnel of formal justice institutions whose capacity to provide justice to women are strengthened.</p> <p>Baseline: 2018 (166)</p> <p>Target 2023 (610)</p> <p><b>Output indicator 1.3.2</b></p> <p>Number of judges in the target countries who, after being trained, say that they understand more the root causes of discriminatory attitudes and behaviours</p>	<p>Information and data is readily available</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National counterparts are willing and able to meet</li> </ul>

Relevant Evaluation criteria	Key Questions & Sub-questions as per the ToR	Specific Sub-Questions	Data Sources	Data collection Methods/Tools	Indicators/ Success Standard	Assumptions
discussions on the reform of laws that explicitly discriminate against women	the formal justice system?				<p>towards women commonly manifested in court decisions and they are willing to work towards eliminating these gender discriminatory attitudes. Baseline: 0 Target: At least 80% of the judges trained (240 of 300 judges)</p> <p><b>Output indicator 1.4.1</b> Online course on gender and e-justice for legal professionals developed and tested in at least 2 priority countries. Baseline: 0 (2021) Target; 1 (2022)</p> <p><b>Output Indicator 1.4.2</b> Number of frontline justice actors in the target countries (e.g. police and prosecutors) who, after being trained, say that they understand more gender discriminatory attitudes and stereotyped behaviours towards women Baseline: 0 Target: At least 80% of frontline formal justice actors trained (120 of 150) in targeted countries which receive advocacy materials developed in the framework of the programme on the promotion of domestic laws that are consistent with international human rights laws and standards, including CEDAW Baseline: 0 in 2018 Target: 10 in 2023</p> <p><b>Output indicator 1.5.2</b> Number of briefing papers published and disseminated to the public and specifically women's human rights groups/ advocates in the framework of this project Baseline: 0 in 2018 Target: 10 (2/year) by mid-2023.</p> <p><b>Output indicator 1.5.4</b> Number of amicus briefs or expert legal opinions submitted to courts at the domestic level in countries in Asia and the Pacific on emblematic cases that impact women's access to justice. Baseline: 0 Target: 5</p>	
<p><b>Outcome 2: A more gender-responsive informal justice system</b></p> <p>Output 2.1: Increased capacity of informal justice adjudicators to eliminate gender discriminatory attitudes and behaviours towards women</p>	<p>- To what extent do you think the informal justice system is more gender responsive now than in 2018? Has the project contributed in any way to this?</p> <p>- How has the project facilitated women's interaction with the informal justice system? How do you measure results of capacity building efforts?</p> <p>- To what extent do you think that informal justice actors have increased capacities to eliminate gender discriminatory attitudes and behaviours? Has the project contributed in any way to this? Please give examples.</p>	<p>- What are the key achievements under this outcome/outputs?</p> <p>- What are the key challenges?</p> <p>- Is progress on track?</p> <p>- How do you measure results?</p> <p>- What are the main lessons learned so far?</p> <p>- Has the approach changed during the project implementation period? If so, why?</p> <p>- To what extent are GESI and HRBA considerations addressed in the design and implementation of activities?</p>	<p>*National legislative and policy documents</p> <p>*WA2J ProDoc</p> <p>*WA2J Progress Reports</p> <p>*WA2J Asia progress and monitoring reports</p> <p>* Partner reports</p> <p>Knowledge products</p> <p>*KIIs/FGDs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Document review and desk research</li> <li>Independent external research and reports</li> <li>Key informant interviews</li> <li>Focus group discussions</li> <li>Case studies</li> <li>Email, phone and online follow-up where necessary</li> </ul>	<p><b>Outcome indicator:</b> Perception of women have accessed the informal justice system about gender-responsiveness of informal justice system Data source: FGD with users of informal justice system</p> <p><b>Outcome indicator 4</b> Number of women whose interaction with community-based justice mechanism is facilitated. Baseline: 0 Target 23 (1600)</p> <p><b>Output indicator 2.1.1</b> Existence of a Training manual for informal justice adjudicators. Baseline: No Target: Yes</p>	<p>Information and data is readily available</p> <p>National and regional partners are willing and able to meet</p>

Relevant Evaluation criteria	Key Questions & Sub-questions as per the ToR	Specific Sub-Questions	Data Sources	Data collection Methods/Tools	Indicators/ Success Standard	Assumptions
	- What more needs to be done?				<p><b>Output indicator 2.1.2</b> Number of informal justice adjudicators in the target countries who, after being trained, say that they understand more gender discriminatory attitudes and stereotyped behaviours towards women Baseline: 0 Target: At least 80% of frontline formal justice actors trained (120 of 150 frontline formal justice actors)</p> <p><b>Output indicator 2.1.3</b> Number of community dialogues and community outreach activities on women's human rights and access to justice conducted. Baseline: 0 Target: 30</p>	
<p><b>Outcome 3:</b> Strengthened linkages between community based and centralised justice mechanism towards a people centred, gender-responsive justice system</p> <p><b>Output 3.1</b> Grassroot women's organizations, community-based justice and central justice mechanisms working together utilizing a whole of community approach to develop and implement scalable pilot initiatives to advance gender-responsive and community-based justice</p>	<p>- How many meetings have been organised by GRWOs and CBWOs in areas where women access justice? What was the purpose of these meetings? What have been the results of these meetings?</p> <p>Please elaborate on the process of women documenting WA2J through GRWOs. What is the purpose of this activity? How is the documenting being used? What is being measured and monitored?</p> <p>How many WHRDs have received capacity building support? What types of support have been provided? How is increase in knowledge being measured? Do you track the level of engagement with government representatives post training? Is there follow-up support for the WHRDs? To what extent is this activity linked with NHRCs? And with the UNCTs?</p> <p>How many community dialogues and community outreach activities have been undertaken? What have been the results of these activities? How do you track and monitor results? E.g., increases in knowledge and capacities etc.</p>	<p>- What are the key achievements under this output?</p> <p>- What are the key challenges?</p> <p>- Is progress on track?</p> <p>- How do you measure results?</p> <p>- What are the main lessons learned so far?</p> <p>- Has the approach changed during the project implementation period? If so, why?</p> <p>- To what extent are GSI and HRBA considerations addressed in the design and implementation of activities?</p>	<p>*National legislative and policy documents</p> <p>*WA2J ProDoc</p> <p>*WA2J Progress Reports</p> <p>*WA2J Asia progress and monitoring reports</p> <p>* Partner reports</p> <p>Knowledge products</p> <p>*KIIs/FGDs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Document review and desk research</li> <li>Independent external research and reports</li> <li>Key informant interviews</li> <li>Focus group discussions</li> <li>Case studies</li> </ul> <p>Email, phone and online follow-up where necessary</p>	<p><b>Outcome indicator 3.1</b> Number of cases referred to centralised justice mechanism with assistances provided by CBJ actors</p> <p>Data source: FGD and Interview with CBJ actors</p> <p><b>Output indicator 3.1.1</b> Number of community-based justice mechanisms with increased capacity to advance women's access to justice. Baseline: ? Target: ? Data source: ?</p> <p><b>Output indicator 3.1.2</b> Number of CSOs and institutions supported and partnered with to advance gender-responsive, inclusive and people centred justice and national and regional level. Baseline: ? Target: ? Data source: ?</p> <p><b>Output indicator 3.1.3</b> Number of pilot initiatives that have contributed to advanced women's access to justice within targeted communities. Baseline: ? Target: ? Data source: ?</p> <p><b>Output indicator 3.1.4</b> Country mapping to establish COVID-19 impact on women's legal and economic rights and government's status on leverage of e-justice. Baseline: 0 (2021) Target; 4 (2022)</p> <p>Output indicator 3.2.1 Number of women involved in documentation and of women's access to justice</p>	<p>*Information and data is readily available</p> <p>*Availability and willingness of relevant stakeholders to meet and provide information and data</p>

Relevant Evaluation criteria	Key Questions & Sub-questions as per the ToR	Specific Sub-Questions	Data Sources	Data collection Methods/Tools	Indicators/ Success Standard	Assumptions
<b>Output 3.2:</b> Increased capacity and strengthened networks of grassroots women's organizations, community based women's organizations and communities to document, monitor, liaise, and facilitate interactions with formal and informal justice providers, and their resilience is enhanced to build a just and sustainable future.	<p>- How has the project supported the development of a regional WA2J strategy? To what extent was the process participatory and inclusive? To what extent has the strategy been introduced throughout the UN system and to other partners? Who is responsible for the implementation of the strategy? How are progress and results monitored? How is it funded?</p> <p>- Has the project undertaken any post C19 mappings to ascertain the impact of C19 on women's legal and economic rights and leverage of e-justice? What has been the results of these mappings and how are they being used?</p>				<p>through Grassroots women's organizations in the Asia Pacific region Baseline: 0 Target: 750</p> <p><b>Output indicator 3.2.2</b> Number of women human rights defenders who increased their capacity to use human rights mechanisms and increased their understanding of how to engage with government representatives on human rights issues Baseline: TBD Target : TBD</p> <p><b>Output indicator 3.2.3</b> Number of meetings organized by grassroots women's organizations and/or community-based women's organizations located in areas where women mostly access to justice through formal or informal justice adjudicators. Baseline: 0 Target: At least three (3) meetings per year are :15 meetings involving at least 750 women (link to activity 2.5)</p>	
<b>Efficiency in delivering outputs:</b> The cost efficiency of the implemented project activities towards the expected results	<b>Key Evaluation Question 2:</b> To what extent has the Women's Access to Justice project been efficient in its technical and organisational approaches including regionalism and national approaches, adherence to AWP, cost-efficient, flexible and responsive?	<p><b>Sub-question 1:</b> To what extent have the project partners used their human and financial resources efficiently? Were funds received/dispensed on time? Why or why not?</p> <p><b>Sub-question 2:</b> Have project partners organizational structures, managerial support and coordination mechanisms effectively supported the coherent delivery of the project? This should include the structures at regional and national levels.</p> <p><b>Sub-question 3:</b> What are the strengths and weaknesses of the M&amp;E system, and the extent to which it has been used for decision-making?</p>	<p>*WA2J Project Document</p> <p>*WA2J Financial Reports</p> <p>*WA2J progress and monitoring reports</p> <p>* WA2J knowledge products</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Document review and desk research</li> <li>Key informant interviews</li> </ul>	<p>Evidence of timely implementation of activities (without delays)- analysis of planned vs implemented activities including inputs</p> <p>Evidence and records on timely implementation and delivery of outputs or delays and changes in implementation of plans</p> <p>Evidence that sound organisational structures, management system and coordination mechanisms at the national and regional, between and within the three project implementing partners were in place and facilitated efficient implementation of the Regional Programme</p> <p>Extent of use of M&amp;E systems by the project staff and implementing partners</p>	
<b>Sustainability of the outcome</b>	<b>Key Evaluation Question 4:</b> To what extent have the results of the WA2J Project been institutionalised and what is the likelihood of positive results/benefits continuing beyond the projects' lifespan?	<p><b>Sub-question 1:</b> Is there evidence that the benefits from project will continue after the project will end in 2023 (or continuation during further iterations of the project)? What is the probability of continued long-term benefits?</p> <p><b>Sub-question 2:</b> To what extent have the capacities of duty-bearers and rightsholders been strengthened through the project?</p>	<p>*National strategies and policies</p> <p>WA2J Project Document</p> <p>*WA2J Progress Reports</p> <p>*Implementing partners progress reports</p> <p>*KIIs/FGDs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Document requests</li> <li>Stakeholder interviews, in particular with the national institutions, organisations and CSOs included in the project</li> <li>Independent external research and reports</li> <li>Focus groups</li> <li>Case study</li> </ul>	<p>Extent to which policy advice advanced by the Project have been adopted into national policies, programs, strategies and budgets</p> <p>Extent to which UN Women's interventions improved women rights CSOs and GE advocates influence over national policies, programs, strategies and budgets</p> <p>Extent to which any benefits of the project's investment have continued or are likely to continue beyond the project lifespan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information is available</li> <li>National counterparts are willing/able to meet</li> </ul>

Relevant Evaluation criteria	Key Questions & Sub-questions as per the ToR	Specific Sub-Questions	Data Sources	Data collection Methods/Tools	Indicators/ Success Standard	Assumptions
					Evidence (examples and opinions) of ownership of the project activities by national stakeholders  Evidence (examples and opinions) that capacity development of project partners (rights holders and duty bearers) has been institutionalised	
<b>Gender equality and human rights</b>	<b>* Key Evaluation Question 5:</b> Has the project brought about any gender transformative changes to address the root causes of gender and other inequalities – including prevailing stereotypes, social norms, attitudes and behaviours and discrimination in particular with regards to WA2J?	<b>Sub-question 1:</b> To what extent are the results contributing to the realization of international human rights and gender equality norms and agreements (e.g. CEDAW, UDHR, CRPD), as well as national and local strategies to advance human rights and gender equality? <b>Sub-question 2:</b> To what extent has the project engaged and reached the most marginalized groups, including women in remote locations, women from low socio-economic groups, women with disabilities and persons with diverse SOGIESC? <b>Sub-question 3:</b> To what extent is the project addressing underlying social norms and structural barriers to achieving gender-responsive people-centred justice?	*National GE and HR strategies and policies *WA2J Project Document *WA2J Progress Reports *Implementing partners progress reports *KIIs/FGDs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Document requests, research and review</li> <li>Stakeholder interviews, in particular with the national institutions, organisations and CSOs included in the project and the project beneficiaries</li> <li>Independent external research and reports</li> <li>Focus groups</li> <li>Case study</li> <li>Email, phone and online follow-up where necessary</li> </ul>	Evidence of legislative and policy changes influenced through the project in target countries and the region that contribute towards realisation of international HR standards and GE norms and agreements  Evidence of the contribution of engagement with women's CSOs, GRWOs and WHRDs to increased engagement with vulnerable groups for Project design, implementation and evaluation  Evidence of disaggregation of analysis by vulnerable group supported by the project  Extent of engagement with identified priority groups (in planning, implementation and reporting)  Share of stakeholders who believe UN Women interventions have targeted those most in need.  Evidence of contributions to outcomes for most vulnerable groups (including women with disabilities, HIV, ethnic minorities, LGBTIQ+ etc across the diverse geography)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information and data is available</li> <li>National and regional counterparts are willing/able to meet</li> </ul>

Footnote from table:

- Gender equality and human rights. Subquestion 2, SOGIESC<sup>1</sup>

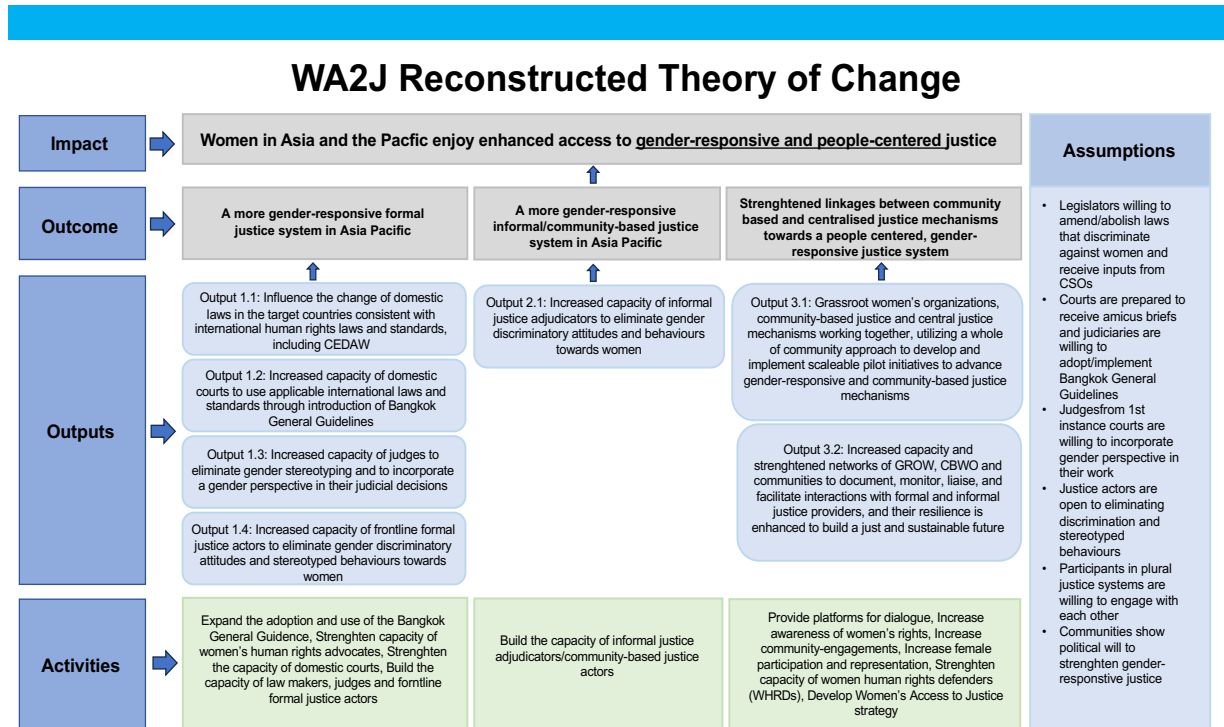
<sup>1</sup> Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, Gender Expression and Sex Characteristics.

Appendix II

Stakeholder assesment

Appendix III

Evaluability assesment



UN Women Regional Asia Pacific			
Enhancing Access to Justice for Women in Asia and the Pacific: Bridging the gap between formal and community-based systems through women's empowerment and reduction of gender biases			
Outcome statement	Quality Score	Indicator, target, baseline, source	Quality Score
<p><b>Outcome</b> Enhanced access to justice for women in formal and informal systems in Asia and the Pacific, bridged the gap between these systems through women's empowerment and reduction of gender biases.</p>	<p><b>Rating: Weak</b></p> <p><b>Pros:</b> UN Women can influence or contribute to change</p> <p><b>Cons:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not singular focus (formal and informal system, should be split into two outcomes. Also as a result of the merging of the two systems under one outcome, the indicators are more on the formal justice system);</li> <li>Not specific (formal and informal system is too general, the changes, which is "access to justice", is too general and involve a range of justice service, which part is the focus? Access to court? Access to legal aid/responses services? Etc.),</li> <li>The formulation should be focused on describing changes in the conditions and/or quality of life of</li> </ul>	<p><b>Outcome Indicator 1</b> Numbers of countries in Asia and the Pacific whose court system formally adopt and use the Bangkok general Guidance. <b>Baseline: 2</b> <b>Target 2023: 10</b></p> <p><b>Responsibility: ICJ</b></p> <p>-</p>	<p><b>Rating: Strong</b></p> <p><b>Pros:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clearly measures potential for change (in formal justice system),</li> <li>Logical direct indication of change (formal justice system),</li> <li>Clearly aligned to output (possibly output 1, however output 1 does not explicitly mention Bangkok general guidance),</li> <li>Specific (Bangkok general Guidance),</li> <li>Plain language,</li> <li>Valid / Reliable,</li> <li>Measurable,</li> </ul> <p><b>Cons:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not Singular Focus (formal adoption and use is on a different level of result, outcome level should focus more on "use" as it shows behavioural change and institutional</li> </ul>

UN Women Regional Asia Pacific Enhancing Access to Justice for Women in Asia and the Pacific: Bridging the gap between formal and community-based systems through women's empowerment and reduction of gender biases			
Outcome statement	Quality Score	Indicator, target, baseline, source	Quality Score
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>people, and does not focus on the methods to achieve them (hence the need to avoid expressions such as “through this”),</li> <li>Not measurable/achievable (because the change is not specific, it is unclear what to measure and whether it would be achievable),</li> <li>Unclear timeline</li> </ul>	<p><b>Outcome Indicator 2</b> Number of personnel of formal justice institutions whose capacity to provide justice to women are strengthened.</p> <p>Baseline: 2018 (166) Target 2023 (610)</p> <p>Responsibility: ICJ -</p>	<p>performance), Timeliness of “use” may be beyond the control of ICJ</p> <p><b>Rating: Weak</b></p> <p><b>Pros:</b> Plain language, measurable</p> <p><b>Cons:</b> Does not clearly measure potential for change nor provide logical direct indication of change at outcome level because this is an output level indicator, does not show changes at outcome level (Change in behaviour, institutional performance, attitude, beliefs), not specific nor singular focus (which formal justice institution? What capacity?), Not a valid/reliable indicator to measure outcome level change</p>
		<p><b>Outcome Indicator 5</b> Number of formal justice providers agree on modalities to enhance women's access to the formal justice system in their respective countries.</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: 2023(120)</p> <p>- Responsibility: ICJ</p>	<p><b>Rating: Weak</b></p> <p><b>Pros:</b> Plain language, measurable</p> <p><b>Cons:</b> Does not clearly measure potential for change nor provide logical direct indication of change at outcome level because this is an output level indicator, does not show changes at outcome level (Change in behaviour, institutional performance, attitude, beliefs), not specific nor singular focus (which formal justice providers?), unclear measured (it should have been formed around number of agreement documents, or other documentation that shows that justice providers agree on modalities to enhance women's access to the formal justice system in their respective countries), Not a valid/reliable indicator to measure outcome level change</p>
		<p><b>Outcome indicator 4</b> Number of women whose interaction with community-based justice mechanism is facilitated.</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target 23 (1600)</p> <p>- Responsibility: UN Women</p>	<p><b>Rating: Weak</b></p> <p><b>Pros:</b> Plain language, measurable</p> <p><b>Cons:</b> Does not clearly measure potential for change nor provide logical direct indication of change at outcome level because this is an activity level indicator (does not show changes at outcome level: Change in behaviour, institutional performance, attitude, beliefs), not specific nor singular focus (which women? Survivor of violence? Which community? Facilitated by who?), Not a valid/reliable indicator to measure outcome level change</p>
		<p><b>Outcome indicator 5</b> Number of domestic laws passed, and court decisions made in the target countries since 2018 that are consistent with international human rights law and standards, including the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target 2023 (10)</p> <p>- Responsibility: ICJ, OHCHR</p>	<p><b>Rating: Weak</b></p> <p><b>Pros:</b> Plain language</p> <p><b>Cons:</b> Not singular focus and, as a result, it does not clearly measure potential for change nor provide Logical direct indication of change at outcome level. There are two things here and both reflect different level of change. Domestic laws passed = output level; court decisions = changes in institutional performance/behaviour, which is an outcome level</p>

UN Women Regional Asia Pacific			
Enhancing Access to Justice for Women in Asia and the Pacific: Bridging the gap between formal and community-based systems through women's empowerment and reduction of gender biases			
Outcome statement	Quality Score	Indicator, target, baseline, source	Quality Score
			Not a valid/reliable indicator to measure change at outcome level because both domestic laws passed, and court decisions made are at different level, the significance of the target number is also questionable. It is meaningful to have 10 domestic laws that are consistent with international human rights law and standards, including the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women passed, but to have only 10 court decisions is rather meaningless, it should have been more meaningful if it is formed as "proportion" rather than an integer. Without being specific about the scope of "court decisions", this is likely to be hard to measure.
OUTPUT	Quality Score	Indicator, Target, Baseline, Source	Quality Score
<p><b>Output 1. Advocacy is conducted to promote the adoption of domestic laws and court decisions in the target countries consistent with international human rights law and standards, including CEDAW</b></p> <p>Activity 1.1: Strengthen capacity of women's human rights advocates to influence legislative discussions on the reform of laws that explicitly discriminate against women</p> <p>Activity 1.2: Provide technical support to lawmakers on addressing gender discrimination</p> <p>Activity 1.3: Strengthen the capacity of domestic courts to use applicable international law and standards in emblematic cases related to the protection of women's human rights</p>	<p><b>Rating: Weak</b></p> <p><b>Pro:</b> -</p> <p><b>Cons:</b> The output is formulated in action (completion of action) language, not a change language. Not singular focus nor specific. The output statement reflects two different changes: changes in policy (which is an output level of change), and changes in behaviour/institutional performance (which is an outcome level of changes). Hence while one is within control of UN Women or partners (responsible party), the other is not.</p>	<p>Number of institutions or organisations in targeted countries which receive advocacy materials developed in the framework of the programme on the promotion of domestic laws that are consistent with international human rights laws and standards, including CEDAW</p> <p>Baseline: 0 in 2018</p> <p>Target: 10 in 2025</p> <p><b>Responsibility: ICJ</b></p>	<p><b>Rating: Weak</b></p> <p><b>Pros:</b> Measurable, timely</p> <p><b>Cons:</b> Because the output statement is weak, the indicator does not clearly measure potential for change nor provide logical direct indication of change, Not singular focus nor specific (what institutions or organisations? what advocacy materials?), Not a Valid/ Reliable means to measure change at output level</p>
		<p>Number of briefing papers published and disseminated to the public and specifically women's human rights groups/ advocates in the framework of this project</p> <p>Baseline: 0 in 2018</p> <p>Target: 10 (2/year) by mid-2025.</p> <p><b>Responsibility: ICJ</b></p>	<p><b>Rating: Weak</b></p> <p><b>Pro:</b> Measurable, timely, singular</p> <p><b>Cons:</b> Because the output statement is weak, the indicator does not clearly measure potential for change nor provide logical direct indication of change, Not a Valid / Reliable means to measure change at output level</p>
		<p>Number of bilateral briefings with legislators and advocacy missions to countries in Asia and the Pacific to discuss the amendment or abolition of laws that explicitly discriminate against women</p> <p>Baseline: 0 bilateral briefing</p> <p>Target: 10 (2/year)</p> <p><b>Responsibility: ICJ</b></p>	<p><b>Rating: Weak</b></p> <p><b>Pro:</b> Measurable, timely, singular</p> <p><b>Cons:</b> Because the output statement is weak, the indicator does not clearly measure potential for change nor provide logical direct indication of change, Not a Valid / Reliable means to measure change at output level</p>
		<p>Number of amicus briefs or expert legal opinions submitted to courts at the domestic level in countries in Asia and the Pacific on emblematic cases that impact women's access to justice.</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: 5</p> <p><b>Responsibility: ICJ</b></p>	<p><b>Rating: Weak</b></p> <p><b>Pro:</b> Measurable, timely, singular</p> <p><b>Cons:</b> Because the output statement is weak, the indicator does not clearly measure potential for change nor provide logical direct indication of change, Not a Valid / Reliable means to measure change at output level</p>



**UN Women Regional Asia Pacific**  
**Enhancing Access to Justice for Women in Asia and the Pacific: Bridging the gap between formal and community-based systems through women's empowerment and reduction of gender biases**

OUTPUT	Quality Score	Indicator, Target, Baseline, Source	Quality Score
		<p>Online course on gender and e-justice for legal professional developed and tested in at least 2 priority countries.</p> <p>Baseline: 0 (2021) Target; 1 (2022) <b>Responsibility: UN Women</b></p>	<p><b>Rating: Weak</b></p> <p><b>Pro:</b> Measurable, timely, singular</p> <p><b>Cons:</b> This is a completion of activity, not an output indicator, hence, the indicator does not clearly measure potential for change nor provide logical direct indication of change at output level, Not a Valid / Reliable means to measure change at output level</p>
<p><b>Output 2: Gender discriminatory attitudes and stereotyped behaviours towards women are acknowledged and addressed by formal and informal justice providers in the target countries.</b></p> <p><b>Activity 2.1:</b> Expand the adoption and use of the Bangkok General Guidance for Judges on Applying a Gender Perspective (ICJ)</p> <p><b>Activity 2.2:</b> Build the capacity of judges from first instance courts to eliminate gender stereotyping and to incorporate a gender perspective in their judicial decisions. (ICJ)</p> <p><b>Activity 2.3:</b> Build the capacity of frontline formal justice actors to eliminate gender discriminatory attitudes and stereotyped behaviours towards women (UN Women)</p> <p><b>Activity 2.4:</b> Build the capacity of informal justice adjudicators to eliminate gender discriminatory attitudes and behaviours towards women (ICJ)</p> <p><b>Activity 2.5:</b> Provide platforms for dialogue between various components of plural justice systems to build consensus on how they can be more gender-responsive and promote gender-sensitive attitudes in their institutions. (ICJ)</p>	<p><b>Rating: Weak</b></p> <p><b>Pros:</b> Uses change language</p> <p><b>Cons:</b> “addressing” Gender discriminatory attitudes and stereotyped behaviours implies changes in behaviour, which is an outcome level. At output level it should have been changes in skills and awareness. Not within control of UN Women or partners (responsible party), Not an immediate-level change, Not singular focus (formal and informal system, should be split into two outcomes. Also as a result of the merging between the two system under one outcome, the indicators are more on the formal justice system); Not specific (which formal and informal justice providers, what kind of actions to be expected)</p>	<p>Number of Supreme Court or High court judges (disaggregated by gender) whose knowledge of Bangkok General Guidance is increased together with their level of commitment to introduce the guidance within their court systems. Baseline (119) Target 2023 (160) <b>Responsibility: ICJ</b></p> <p>Number of judges in the target countries who, after being trained, say that they understand more the root causes of discriminatory attitudes and behaviours towards women commonly manifested in court decisions and they are willing to work towards eliminating these gender discriminatory attitudes.  Baseline: 0 Target: At least 80% of the judges trained (240 of 300 judges) <b>Responsibility: ICJ</b></p> <p>Number of frontline justice actors in the target countries (e.g. police and prosecutors) who, after being trained, say that they understand more gender discriminatory attitudes and stereotyped behaviours towards women  Baseline: 0 Target: At least 80% of frontline formal justice actors trained (120 of 150 frontline formal justice actors) <b>Responsibility: ICJ</b></p>	<p><b>Rating: Strong</b></p> <p><b>Pro:</b> aligned to output(s), Singular Focus, Specific (sets precise criteria for success), Plain language, Measurable, Available and timely</p> <p><b>Cons:</b> not fully reliable. Because this measures the results of trainings, it will better to set the indicator as percentage of total participants to signify the results (e.g. 80% out of X trained Supreme Court or High court judges whose knowledge of Bangkok General Guidance is increased together with their level of commitment to introduce the guidance within their court systems). If sets as number, it is unclear whether it is good that 160 shows increased knowledge of Bangkok General Guidance</p> <p><b>Rating: Strong</b></p> <p><b>Pro:</b> aligned to output(s), Singular Focus, Specific (sets precise criteria for success), Plain language, Measurable, Available and timely, valid, reliable</p> <p><b>Cons:</b> -</p> <p><b>Rating: Strong</b></p> <p><b>Pro:</b> aligned to output(s), Singular Focus, Specific (sets precise criteria for success), Plain language, Measurable, Available and timely, valid, reliable</p> <p><b>Cons:</b> -</p>

UN Women Regional Asia Pacific			
Enhancing Access to Justice for Women in Asia and the Pacific: Bridging the gap between formal and community-based systems through women's empowerment and reduction of gender biases			
OUTPUT	Quality Score	Indicator, Target, Baseline, Source	Quality Score
		-Existence of a Training manual for informal justice adjudicators. Baseline: No Target: Yes <b>Responsibility: ICJ</b>	<b>Rating: Weak</b>  <b>Pro:</b> Plain language, Measurable  <b>Cons:</b> This is a completion of activity, not an output indicator, hence, the indicator does not clearly measure potential for change nor provide logical direct indication of change at output level, Not a Valid / Reliable means to measure change at output level
<p><b>Output 3: Grassroots women's organizations, community based women's organizations and communities are empowered and well positioned to document, monitor, liaise, and facilitate interactions with formal and informal justice providers, and their resilience is enhanced to build a just and sustainable future.</b></p> <p>Activity 3.1: Increase awareness of women's rights among women and communities (UN Women)</p> <p>Activity 3.2: increase community-engagements in women's protection and women's human rights (UN Women)</p> <p>Activity 3.3: Increase female participation and representation in advocating women's access to justice before formal and informal justice systems (UN Women)</p> <p>Activity 3.4. Develop Women's Access to justice strategy capturing formal and community-based justice providers and service. (UN Women)</p> <p><b>Activity 3.5:</b> Strengthen capacity of women human rights defenders (WHRDs) coming from areas where informal justice systems are commonly used by women to access justice (OHCHR)</p>	<p><b>Rating: Adequate</b></p> <p><b>Pros:</b> within control of UN Women or partners (responsible party), Immediate-level change, Change in capacity, Uses change language</p> <p><b>Cons:</b> Not Singular focus nor specific (too many focus: empowered and well positioned to document, monitor, liaise, and facilitate interactions with formal and informal justice providers, and their resilience is enhanced to build a just and sustainable future).</p>	<p>Number of meetings organized by grassroots women's organizations and/or community-based women's organizations located in areas where women mostly access to justice through formal or informal justice adjudicators. Baseline: 0 Target: At least three (3) meetings per year are :15 meetings involving at least 750 women (link to activity 2.5) <b>Responsibility: UN Women</b></p>	<p><b>Rating: Weak</b></p> <p><b>Pro:</b> Plain language, Measurable</p> <p><b>Cons:</b> This is a completion of activity, not an output indicator, hence, the indicator does not clearly measure potential for change nor provide logical direct indication of change at output level, Not a Valid / Reliable means to measure change at output level, not specific (meetings between who? About what? What would be the results of the meetings)</p>
		<p>Number of community dialogues and community outreach activities on women's human rights and access to justice conducted. Baseline: 0 Target: 30 <b>Responsibility: UN Women</b></p>	<p><b>Rating: Weak</b></p> <p><b>Pro:</b> Plain language, Measurable</p> <p><b>Cons:</b> This is a completion of activity, not an output indicator, hence, the indicator does not clearly measure potential for change nor provide logical direct indication of change at output level, Not a Valid / Reliable means to measure change at output level, not specific (dialogues between who? About what? What would be the results of the dialogue)</p>
		<p>Number of women involved in documentation of women's access to justice through Grassroots women's organizations in the Asia Pacific region Baseline: 0 Target: 750 <b>Responsibility: UN Women</b></p>	<p><b>Rating: Weak</b></p> <p><b>Pro:</b> Plain language, Measurable</p> <p><b>Cons:</b> This is activity indicator, not an output indicator, hence, the indicator does not clearly measure potential for change nor provide logical direct indication of change at output level, Not a Valid / Reliable means to measure change at output level, not specific (what documentation?)</p>
		<p>Country mapping to establish COVID-19 impact on women's legal and economic rights and government's status on leverage of e-justice.  Baseline: 0 (2021) Target; 4 (2022)</p>	<p><b>Rating: Weak</b></p> <p><b>Pro:</b> Plain language, Measurable</p> <p><b>Cons:</b> This is a completion of activity, not an output indicator, hence, the indicator does not clearly measure potential for change nor provide logical direct indication of change at output level, Not a Valid / Reliable means to measure change at output level</p>
		<p>Number of women human rights defenders who increased their capacity to use human rights mechanisms and increased their understanding of how to engage with government representatives on human rights issues Baseline: TBD Target : TBD <b>Responsibility: OHCHR</b></p>	<p><b>Rating: Strong</b></p> <p><b>Pro:</b> aligned to output(s), Singular Focus, Specific (sets precise criteria for success), Plain language, Measurable, valid, reliable</p> <p><b>Cons:</b> Baseline/target not set</p>

Rating Guidance		
Weak = few attributes (-1-3)	Adequate = some attributes (-4-6)	Strong = many attributes (-6+)
Where limited feedback is written, assess based on provided feedback.		
Key successful attributes		
Outcomes	Outputs	Indicators
UN Women can influence or contribute to change	Within control of UN Women or partners (responsible party)	Clearly measures change (output) or potential for change (outcome)
Intermediate-level scope of change	Immediate-level change (during programme)	Logical direct (preferred) or proxy (acceptable) indication of change
Change in behaviour, institutional performance, attitude, beliefs	Change in any of the following, among others: skills, abilities, knowledge, awareness, capacity, accountability; availability of products, data, or services; something created, built or repaired; institutional arrangements, leadership, efficiency; advocacy or dialogue mechanisms.	Clearly aligned to output(s)
Singular Focus	Singular focus	Singular Focus
Specific	Specific (sets precise criteria for success)	Specific (sets precise criteria for success)
Measurable	Uses change language (not action language)	Plain language
Achievable		Valid / Reliable
Time-bound		Measurable
		Available and timely

This rating table is credited to the Cambodia CPE evaluation team.

## Proposed Indicator Framework for Evaluating the Project

Impact: Women in Asia and the Pacific enjoy enhanced access to gender-responsive justice		
	Indicators Black: original indicators, Blue: new indicators suggested by UN Women, Red: new indicators suggested by evaluation team	Comments from evaluation team
<b>Outcome 1: A more gender-responsive formal justice system</b>	<p>Perception of women who have accessed the formal justice system about gender-responsiveness of the formal justice system being accessed.</p> <p>Data source: FGD with users of formal justice system, users feedback form (if available)</p> <p>Outcome Indicator 1 Numbers of countries in Asia and the Pacific whose court system formally adopt and use the Bangkok general Guidance. Baseline: 2 Target 2023: 10 Responsibility: ICJ</p> <p>Outcome indicator 5 Number of domestic laws passed, and court decisions made in the target countries since 2018 that are consistent with international human rights law and standards, including the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Baseline: 0 Target 2023 (10) Responsibility: ICJ, OHCHR</p>	
<b>Output 1.1:</b> Influence the change of domestic laws in the target countries consistent with international human rights law and standards, including CEDAW	<p>Number of laws, policies and mechanisms that were actively supported by the project were adopted to advance women's right.</p> <p>Baseline: ? Target: ? Data source: ?</p> <p>Outcome Indicator 3 Number of formal justice providers agree on modalities to enhance women's access to the formal justice system in their respective countries. Baseline: 0 Target: 2023(120) Responsibility: ICJ</p>	What is the difference between the laws here and the domestic laws mentioned in the original indicator "Number of domestic laws passed, and court decisions made in the target countries since 2018 that are consistent with international human rights law and standards, including the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)"
<b>Output 1.2:</b> Increased capacity of domestic courts to use applicable international law and standards through introduction of the Bangkok General Guidance	<p>Number of Supreme Court or High court judges (disaggregated by gender) whose knowledge of Bangkok General Guidance is increased together with their level of commitment to introduce the guidance within their court systems. Baseline (119) Target 2023 (160) Responsibility: ICJ</p>	

<p><b>Output 1.3:</b> Increased capacity of judges to eliminate gender stereotyping and to incorporate a gender perspective in their judicial decisions.</p>	<p>Outcome Indicator 2 Number of personnel of formal justice institutions whose capacity to provide justice to women are strengthened. Baseline: 2018 (166) Target 2023 (610)</p> <p>Responsibility: ICJ</p> <p>Number of judges in the target countries who, after being trained, say that they understand more the root causes of discriminatory attitudes and behaviours towards women commonly manifested in court decisions and they are willing to work towards eliminating these gender discriminatory attitudes.</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: At least 80% of the judges trained (240 of 300 judges) Responsibility: ICJ</p>	
<p><b>Output 1.4:</b> Increased capacity of frontline formal justice actors to eliminate gender discriminatory attitudes and stereotyped behaviours towards women</p>	<p>Online course on gender and e-justice for legal professional developed and tested in at least 2 priority countries.</p> <p>Baseline: 0 (2021) Target; 1 (2022) Responsibility: UN Women</p> <p>Number of frontline justice actors in the target countries (e.g. police and prosecutors) who, after being trained, say that they understand more gender discriminatory attitudes and stereotyped behaviours towards women</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: At least 80% of frontline formal justice actors trained (120 of 150 frontline formal justice actors) Responsibility: ICJ</p>	
<p><b>Outcome 2: A more gender-responsive informal justice system</b></p>	<p>Perception of women have accessed the informal justice system about gender-responsiveness of informal justice system</p> <p>Data source: FGD with users of informal justice system</p> <p>Outcome indicator 4 Number of women whose interaction with community-based justice mechanism is facilitated. Baseline: 0 Target 23 (1600)</p> <p>Responsibility: UN Women</p>	
<p><b>Output 2.1:</b> Increased capacity of informal justice adjudicators to eliminate gender discriminatory attitudes and behaviours towards women</p>	<p>Existence of a Training manual for informal justice adjudicators. Baseline: No Target: Yes Responsibility: ICJ</p> <p>Number of informal justice adjudicators in the target countries who, after being trained, say that they understand more gender discriminatory attitudes and stereotyped behaviours towards women Baseline: 0 Target: At least 80% of frontline formal justice actors trained (120 of 150 frontline formal justice actors)</p> <p>Number of community dialogues and community outreach activities on women's human rights and access to justice conducted. Baseline: 0 Target: 30 Responsibility: UN Women</p>	
<p><b>Outcome 2: A more gender-responsive informal justice system</b></p>	<p>Perception of women have accessed the informal justice system about gender-responsiveness of informal justice system</p> <p>Data source: FGD with users of informal justice system</p> <p>Outcome indicator 4 Number of women whose interaction with community-based justice mechanism is facilitated. Baseline: 0 Target 23 (1600)</p> <p>Responsibility: UN Women</p>	
<p><b>Output 2.1:</b> Increased capacity of informal justice adjudicators to eliminate gender discriminatory attitudes and behaviours towards women</p>	<p>Existence of a Training manual for informal justice adjudicators. Baseline: No Target: Yes Responsibility: ICJ</p> <p>Number of informal justice adjudicators in the target countries who, after being trained, say that they understand more gender discriminatory attitudes and stereotyped behaviours towards women Baseline: 0 Target: At least 80% of frontline formal justice actors trained (120 of 150 frontline formal justice actors)</p> <p>Number of community dialogues and community outreach activities on women's human rights and access to justice conducted. Baseline: 0 Target: 30 Responsibility: UN Women</p>	

<p><b>Outcome 3: Strengthened linkages between community based and centralised justice mechanisms towards a people centred, gender-responsive justice system</b></p>	<p>Number of cases referred to centralised justice mechanism with assistances provided by CBJ actors</p> <p>Data source: FGD and Interview with CBJ actors</p>	
<p><b>Output 3.1</b> Grassroot women’s organizations, community-based justice and central justice mechanisms working together, utilizing a whole of community approach to develop and implement scalable pilot initiatives to advance gender-responsive and community-based justice</p>	<p>Number of community-based justice mechanisms with increased capacity to advance women’s access to justice.</p> <p>Baseline: ? Target: ? Data source: ?</p> <p>Number of CSOs and institutions supported and partnered with to advance gender-responsive, inclusive and people centred justice and national and regional level.</p> <p>Baseline: ? Target: ? Data source: ?</p> <p>Number of pilot initiatives that have contributed to advanced women’s access to justice within targeted communities.</p> <p>Baseline: ? Target: ? Data source: ?</p> <p>Country mapping to establish COVID-19 impact on women’s legal and economic rights and government’s status on leverage of e-justice.</p> <p>Baseline: 0 (2021) Target: 4 (2022)</p>	<p>We will need clear definition of increased capacity to advance women’s access to justice since the capacity in certain communities likely to be different than in other communities.</p> <p>Supported by who? If by the project then this is an activity indicator, not an output. Therefore, it is better not to be added into the list.</p> <p>This indicator was originally proposed as outcome indicator. However, this is an output level indicator and fits better as indicator of output 3.1.</p>
<p><b>Output 3.2:</b> Increased capacity and strengthened networks of grassroots women’s organizations, community based women’s organizations and communities to document, monitor, liaise, and facilitate interactions with formal and informal justice providers, and their resilience is enhanced to build a just and sustainable future.</p>	<p>Number of women involved in documentation and of women’s access to justice through Grassroots women’s organizations in the Asia Pacific region</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: 750 Responsibility: UN Women</p> <p>Number of women human rights defenders who increased their capacity to use human rights mechanisms and increased their understanding of how to engage with government representatives on human rights issues</p> <p>Baseline: TBD Target : TBD Responsibility: OHCHR</p> <p>Number of meetings organized by grassroots women’s organizations and/or community-based women’s organizations located in areas where women mostly access to justice through formal or informal justice adjudicators.</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: At least three (3) meetings per year are :15 meetings involving at least 750 women (link to activity 2.5) Responsibility: UN Women</p>	

## Appendix III

### Evaluation Matrix

#### Informed Consent Template

##### **Purpose and procedures**

Hello, my name is Joanna Brooks. I work with UN Women (an international organization focused on women's empowerment and gender equality). I am speaking with you today because we are conducting an evaluation about women's access to justice in Asia and the Pacific. We are inviting you to participate in this evaluation through this (interview/focus group), whose purpose is to discuss the WA2J project implemented by UN Women/ICJ/OHCHR. This will take approximately (60/30/60 minutes) of your time.

We hope that this evaluation will help us better understand what has worked well or less well in order to improve future programming. If you choose to participate, you will be asked to complete this (interview/focus group) covering WA2J. For this evaluation, participants were identified based on their role in the project (experimental assignment).

##### **Risks and rights**

Your participation is completely voluntary. You are free to decline participation, skip any question that makes you feel uncomfortable or stop the interview at any time.

##### **Confidentiality**

The answers you provide will be kept confidential to the extent possible. The answers you provide will only be accessible to the evaluation team and individuals from UN Women who oversee the evaluation. UN Women will not record this meeting but will only take notes and will destroy your personal data as soon as it is no longer needed for the evaluation. Aggregate data that cannot be linked to you personally may be used for publications, and UN Women evaluations are made public. Only information that does not identify you may be shared with other people or organizations. You may be contacted to participate in follow-up data collection or another evaluation at a future date.

You can get in touch with the evaluation team to request access, verification, rectification, and/or deletion of your personal data at any point in time during the course of this evaluation.

##### **Contact information and questions**

Please contact Joanna Brooks (email: joannalbrooks@gmail.com) if you have questions about the evaluation. Do you have any further questions?

##### **Response**

If I have answered all your questions, do you agree to participate in this evaluation? (Provide participant opportunity for verbal or written consent.)

Do you agree to be contacted in the future for follow-up data collection?

## KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW GUIDES

### Interview Questions for Government and Justice Actors

Interview questions for government and justice actors	
<b>Efficiency</b>	<p>16. Were the deliverables implemented according to the initial timeline? Were there any delays in implementation and what were the reasons for that?</p> <p>17. What is your perception of the capacities of UN Women/ICJ/OHCHR? (Administrative, financial, thematically etc.) What do you think are UN Women's/ICJ's/OHCHR's strengths and weaknesses with regards to strengthening women's access to justice?</p> <p>18. Were there any challenges in your cooperation with UN Women/ICJ/OHCHR? Could anything have been improved?</p>
<b>HR/GE</b>	<p>19. To what extent is the Project bringing about gender transformative changes that address the root causes of gender inequalities – including prevailing social norms, attitudes and behaviours, legislation, policy, discrimination and social systems in particular those affecting women's access to justice?</p> <p>20. Do you believe UN Women is engaging with and reaching the most marginalized groups? Who are these groups and do you have any ideas on how effective strategies? What more could have been done? What are the key benefits and changes achieved for these groups?</p>
<b>Sustainability</b>	<p>21. Will the government/justice institutions continue with any of the project activities beyond the lifespan of the project? If so, which ones? Please share with us any specific actions that your institution/unit has taken to carry forward the work with UN Women (adopted training curriculum, budget, framework, action plan, etc.) And if not, why not?</p> <p>22. In your opinion, what is the level of ownership of the project activities by the national/local authorities? Could this be further strengthened and if so, how?</p> <p>23. Do you see any changes in behaviour and attitudes, either among women trying to access justice, or among justice providers during the lifespan of the project?</p> <p>24. To what extent do you think capacities – of both rights holders and duty bearers – have been strengthened by the project in terms of accessing and providing justice for women?</p> <p>25. In your perspective, what are the challenges to sustaining the results of the initiatives?</p>
<b>Lessons Learned</b>	<p>26. What do you think are the most important lessons learned arising from the project? (Can be positive and negative)</p>
<b>Recommendations</b>	<p>27. What are your priorities in terms of WA2J in the short (1-2 years) and mid-long term (3+years)? How can the project support you with these priorities?</p> <p>28. In which areas do you think the project should focus on in the short-term (1-2 years) and longer term (3+ years and beyond)?</p>

## Interview questions for government and justice actors

<b>Efficiency</b>	<p>16. Were the deliverables implemented according to the initial timeline? Were there any delays in implementation and what were the reasons for that?</p> <p>17. What is your perception of the capacities of UN Women/ICJ/OHCHR? (Administrative, financial, thematically etc.) What do you think are UN Women's/ICJ's/OHCHR's strengths and weaknesses with regards to strengthening women's access to justice?</p> <p>18. Were there any challenges in your cooperation with UN Women/ICJ/OHCHR? Could anything have been improved?</p>
<b>HR/GE</b>	<p>19. To what extent is the Project bringing about gender transformative changes that address the root causes of gender inequalities – including prevailing social norms, attitudes and behaviours, legislation, policy, discrimination and social systems in particular those affecting women's access to justice?</p> <p>20. Do you believe UN Women is engaging with and reaching the most marginalized groups? Who are these groups and do you have any ideas on how effective strategies? What more could have been done? What are the key benefits and changes achieved for these groups?</p>
<b>Sustainability</b>	<p>21. Will the government/justice institutions continue with any of the project activities beyond the lifespan of the project? If so, which ones? Please share with us any specific actions that your institution/unit has taken to carry forward the work with UN Women (adopted training curriculum, budget, framework, action plan, etc.) And if not, why not?</p> <p>22. In your opinion, what is the level of ownership of the project activities by the national/local authorities? Could this be further strengthened and if so, how?</p> <p>23. Do you see any changes in behaviour and attitudes, either among women trying to access justice, or among justice providers during the lifespan of the project?</p> <p>24. To what extent do you think capacities – of both rights holders and duty bearers – have been strengthened by the project in terms of accessing and providing justice for women?</p> <p>25. In your perspective, what are the challenges to sustaining the results of the initiatives?</p>
<b>Lessons Learned</b>	<p>26. What do you think are the most important lessons learned arising from the project? (Can be positive and negative)</p>
<b>Recommendations</b>	<p>27. What are your priorities in terms of WA2J in the short (1-2 years) and mid-long term (3+years)? How can the project support you with these priorities?</p> <p>28. In which areas do you think the project should focus on in the short-term (1-2 years) and longer term (3+ years and beyond)?</p>



## Interview Questions for National Human Rights Institutions

Interview questions for National Human Rights Institutions	
<b>Introduction</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the mandate of your Institution?</li> <li>2. Can you briefly describe your role within your organization? When did you begin cooperating with UN Women and in which area(s)?</li> <li>3. What is your level of engagement with the WA2J project? Which activities have you been involved in and how would you assess their utility?</li> </ol>
<b>Relevance and Coherence</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Do you think the project is relevant in your country?</li> <li>5. What do you think are the biggest challenges for women in accessing justice in your country, including policy and legislative challenges? Are there different challenges for different groups of women (e.g. those with intellectual and psycho-social disabilities, sexual minorities, indigenous women, migrants etc.)?</li> <li>6. To what extent has the project assisted you in addressing these challenges?</li> <li>7. How have your needs changed during project implementation, in particular due to COVID-19 and other challenges? Was the project able to adapt to continue to meet your needs?</li> <li>8. Among the activities conducted under the project, which of them are most relevant and why? Are there any less relevant activities?</li> <li>9. In your opinion, has the project strengthened local/national/regional capacity for WA2J? If yes, in what areas?</li> <li>10. Which other stakeholders provide support in the field of WA2J? In your opinion, what is the extent of synergy and cooperation between these other stakeholders and the project? Could this be further strengthened?</li> <li>11. To what extent do you cooperate (outside of the scope of the project) with other stakeholders active in the field of WA2J including community level justice providers, CSOs, NHRIs etc.?</li> </ol>
<b>Effectiveness</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12. In your view what have been the biggest results made by the project activities?</li> <li>13. What have been the biggest challenges and how have these been overcome?</li> <li>14. What were the enabling or hindering factors to the achievement of the outcomes/outputs (including strategies that did/did not work)?</li> <li>15. Has the project achieved any unintended results so far, either positive or negative? For whom?</li> <li>16. What are the good practices and the obstacles or shortcomings encountered? How were they overcome?</li> <li>17. To what extent have advocacy efforts undertaken by the project contributed to positioning key WA2J issues on the political agenda?</li> </ol>

## Interview questions for National Human Rights Institutions

<b>Efficiency</b>	<p>18. Were the deliverables implemented according to the initial timeline? Were there any delays in implementation and what were the reasons for that?</p> <p>19. What is your perception of the capacities of UN Women/ICJ/OHCHR? (Administrative, financial, thematically etc.) What do you think are UN Women's/ICJ's/OHCHR's strengths and weaknesses with regards to strengthening women's access to justice?</p> <p>20. Were there any challenges in your cooperation with UN Women/ICJ/OHCHR? Could anything have been improved?</p>
<b>HR/GE</b>	<p>21. To what extent is the Project bringing about gender transformative changes that address the root causes of gender inequalities – including prevailing social norms, attitudes and behaviours, legislation, policy, discrimination and social systems in particular those affecting women's access to justice?</p> <p>22. Do you believe UN Women is engaging with and reaching the most marginalized groups? Who are these groups and do you have any ideas on how effective strategies? What more could have been done? What are the key benefits and changes achieved for these groups?</p>
<b>Sustainability</b>	<p>23. Will your institution continue with any of the project activities beyond the lifespan of the project? If so, which ones? Please share with us any specific actions that your institution/unit has taken to carry forward the work with UN Women (adopted training curriculum, budget, framework, action plan, etc.) And if not, why not?</p> <p>24. In your opinion, what is the level of ownership of the project activities by the national/local authorities? Could this be further strengthened and if so, how?</p> <p>25. Do you see any changes in behaviour and attitudes, either among women trying to access justice, or among justice providers during the lifespan of the project?</p> <p>26. To what extent do you think capacities – of both rights holders and duty bearers – have been strengthened by the project in terms of accessing and providing justice for women?</p> <p>27. In your perspective, what are the challenges to sustaining the results of the initiatives?</p>
<b>Lessons Learned</b>	<p>28. What do you think are the most important lessons learned arising from the project? (Can be positive and negative)</p>
<b>Recommendations</b>	<p>29. What are your priorities in terms of WA2J in the short (1-2 years) and mid-long term (3+years)? How can the project support you with these priorities?</p> <p>30. In which areas do you think the project should focus on in the short-term (1-2 years) and longer term (3+ years and beyond)?</p>

## Interview Questions for Human Rights Treaty Bodies, Academia and Research Institutions

Interview questions for Human Rights treaty bodies, academia and research institutions	
<b>Introduction</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the mandate of your organisation?</li> <li>2. Can you briefly describe your role within your organization? When did you begin cooperating with UN Women and in which area(s)?</li> <li>3. What is your level of engagement with the WA2J project? Which activities have you been involved in and how would you assess their utility?</li> </ol>
<b>Relevance and Coherence</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Do you think the project is relevant in your country?</li> <li>5. What do you think are the biggest challenges for women in accessing justice in your country, including policy and legislative challenges? Are there different challenges for different groups of women (e.g. those with intellectual and psycho-social disabilities, sexual minorities, indigenous women, migrants etc.)?</li> <li>6. To what extent has the project assisted you in addressing these challenges?</li> <li>7. How have your needs changed during project implementation, in particular due to COVID-19 and other challenges? Was the project able to adapt to continue to meet your needs?</li> <li>8. Among the activities conducted under the project, which of them are most relevant and why? Are there any less relevant activities?</li> <li>9. In your opinion, has the project strengthened local/national/regional capacity for WA2J? If yes, in what areas?</li> <li>10. Which other stakeholders provide support in the field of WA2J? In your opinion, what is the extent of synergy and cooperation between these other stakeholders and the project? Could this be further strengthened?</li> <li>11. To what extent do you cooperate (outside of the scope of the project) with other stakeholders active in the field of WA2J including community level justice providers, CSOs, NHRIs etc.?</li> </ol>
<b>Effectiveness</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12. In your view what have been the biggest results made by the project activities?</li> <li>13. What have been the biggest challenges and how have these been overcome?</li> <li>14. Has the project achieved any unintended results so far, either positive or negative? For whom?</li> <li>15. What are the good practices and the obstacles or shortcomings encountered? How were they overcome?</li> <li>16. What were the enabling or hindering factors to the achievement of the outcomes/outputs (including strategies that did/did not work)?</li> <li>17. To what extent have advocacy efforts undertaken by the project contributed to positioning key WA2J issues on the political agenda?</li> </ol>

## Interview questions for Human Rights treaty bodies, academia and research institutions

<b>Efficiency</b>	<p>18. Were the deliverables implemented according to the initial timeline? Were there any delays in implementation and what were the reasons for that?</p> <p>19. What is your perception of the capacities of UN Women/ICJ/OHCHR? (Administrative, financial, thematically etc.) What do you think are UN Women's/ICJ's/OHCHR's strengths and weaknesses with regards to strengthening women's access to justice?</p> <p>20. Were there any challenges in your cooperation with UN Women/ICJ/OHCHR? Could anything have been improved?</p>
<b>HR/GE</b>	<p>21. To what extent is the Project bringing about gender transformative changes that address the root causes of gender inequalities – including prevailing social norms, attitudes and behaviours, legislation, policy, discrimination and social systems in particular those affecting women's access to justice?</p> <p>22. Do you believe UN Women is engaging with and reaching the most marginalized groups? Who are these groups, and do you have any ideas on how effective strategies? What more could have been done? What are the key benefits and changes achieved for these groups?</p>
<b>Sustainability</b>	<p>23. Will the government/justice institutions continue with any of the project activities beyond the lifespan of the project? If so, which ones? Please share with us any specific actions that your institution/unit has taken to carry forward the work with UN Women (adopted training curriculum, budget, framework, action plan, etc.) And if not, why not?</p> <p>24. In your opinion, what is the level of ownership of the project activities by the national/local authorities? Could this be further strengthened and if so, how?</p> <p>25. Do you see any changes in behaviour and attitudes, either among women trying to access justice, or among justice providers during the lifespan of the project?</p> <p>26. To what extent do you think capacities – of both rights holders and duty bearers – have been strengthened by the project in terms of accessing and providing justice for women?</p> <p>27. In your perspective, what are the challenges to sustaining the results of the initiatives?</p>
<b>Lessons Learned</b>	<p>28. What do you think are the most important lessons learned arising from the project? (Can be positive and negative)</p>
<b>Recommendations</b>	<p>29. What are your priorities in terms of WA2J in the short (1-2 years) and mid-long term (3+years)? How can the project support you with these priorities?</p> <p>30. In which areas do you think the project should focus on in the short-term (1-2 years) and longer term (3+ years and beyond)?</p>

## Interview Questions for Implementing Partners/Contractors

Interview questions for implementing partners/contractors	
<b>Introduction</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the mandate of your organisation?</li> <li>2. Can you briefly describe your role within your organization? When did you begin cooperating with UN Women and in which area(s)?</li> <li>3. What is your level of engagement with the WA2J project? Which activities have you been involved in and how would you assess their utility?</li> </ol>
<b>Relevance and Coherence</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Do you think the project is relevant in your country?</li> <li>5. What do you think are the biggest challenges for women in accessing justice in your country, including policy and legislative challenges? Are there different challenges for different groups of women (e.g. those with intellectual and psycho-social disabilities, sexual minorities, indigenous women, migrants etc.)?</li> <li>6. To what extent has the project assisted you in addressing these challenges?</li> <li>7. How have your needs changed during project implementation, in particular due to COVID-19 and other challenges? Was the project able to adapt to continue to meet your needs?</li> <li>8. Among the activities conducted under the project, which of them are most relevant and why? Are there any less relevant activities?</li> <li>9. In your opinion, has the project strengthened local/national/regional capacity for WA2J? If yes, in what areas?</li> <li>10. Which other stakeholders provide support in the field of WA2J? In your opinion, what is the extent of synergy and cooperation between these other stakeholders and the project? Could this be further strengthened?</li> <li>11. To what extent do you cooperate (outside of the scope of the project) with other stakeholders active in the field of WA2J including community level justice providers, CSOs, NHRIs etc.?</li> </ol>
<b>Effectiveness</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. In your opinion, what are the key achievements under your collaboration with WA2J? How do you measure results? Is the progress in achieving the intended results on track? and how did the planned activities contribute to these results? Can you mention some examples? Who and how benefited from the planned interventions?</li> <li>9. In your opinion, has the project strengthened local/national capacity for WA2J? If yes, in what areas?</li> <li>10. What were the main strategies used by the project to support the outcomes (technical support, capacity building, advocacy etc)? How would you rate these strategies?</li> <li>11. What were the enabling or hindering factors to the achievement of the outcomes (including strategies that did not work)?</li> <li>12. In your view what have been the biggest results made by the project activities?</li> <li>13. Has the project achieved any unintended results so far, either positive or negative? For whom? What are the good practices and the obstacles or shortcomings encountered? How were they overcome?</li> <li>14. To what extent have advocacy efforts undertaken by the project contributed to positioning key WA2J issues on the political agenda?</li> </ol>

## Interview questions for implementing partners/contractors

<b>Efficiency</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15. To what extent have you used your human and financial resources efficiently? Were funds received/disbursed on time? Why or why not?</li> <li>16. In your opinion, do your organizational structures, managerial support and coordination mechanisms effectively supported the coherent delivery of the project?</li> <li>17. Is there any M&amp;E system in your organization? If yes, what are the strengths and weaknesses of the M&amp;E system, and the extent to which it has been used for decision-making?</li> <li>18. What is your perception of the human and financial capacities and resources of UN Women? What are UN Women strengths and weaknesses with regards to WA2J in your country/region?</li> <li>19. Were there any challenges or issues related to your cooperation with UN Women? In your collaboration with UN Women, are the planned interventions delivered on time?</li> </ol>
<b>HR/GE</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>20. In your understanding, has your programme with UN Women benefited the most vulnerable and hardest to reach groups?</li> <li>21. To what extent has your cooperation with UN Women contributed to addressing underlying social norms and structural barriers to achieving gender-responsive people-centred justice in Asia Pacific? How?</li> <li>22. To what extent is the Project bringing about gender transformative changes that address the root causes of gender inequalities – including prevailing social norms, attitudes and behaviours, legislation, policy, discrimination and social systems in particular those affecting women’s access to justice?</li> <li>23. How were the most marginalized groups, including women in remote locations, women from low socio-economic groups, women with disabilities and persons with diverse SOGIESC, reached in your programme with UN Women and what were the most effective strategies for reaching them? What more could have been done? What are the key benefits and changes achieved for these groups?</li> </ol>
<b>Sustainability</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>24. Has the project enhanced your knowledge, or the knowledge of others (rightsholders and duty bearers) regarding women’s access to justice? If yes, what strategies were used to enhance knowledge and which in your opinion were the most useful? How has this been measured?</li> <li>25. Will you continue with any of the project activities beyond the lifespan of the project? If so, which ones? Please share with us any specific actions that your organisation has taken or will take to carry forward the work with the project. And if not, why not?</li> <li>26. Do you see any changes in behaviour and attitudes, either among women trying to access justice, or among justice providers during the lifespan of the project?</li> <li>27. What opportunities exist for upscaling the benefits or innovative approaches? Were these discussed as a part of your cooperation?</li> <li>28. In your perspective, what are the challenges to sustaining the results of the initiatives?</li> </ol>

### Interview questions for implementing partners/contractors

<b>Challenges and Lessons Learned</b>	<p>29. What are the key challenges in implementing the project/activities?</p> <p>30. Has the approach changed during the project implementation period? If so, why?</p> <p>31. What do you think are the most important lessons learned arising from the project? (Can be positive and negative)</p> <p>32. Based on your experience and cooperating with the project, which areas of work have the most potential for catalysing further advancements for GEWE and women’s access to justice in Asia Pacific?</p>
<b>Recommendations</b>	<p>33. What are your priorities in terms of WA2J in the short (1-2 years) and mid-long term (3+years)? How can the project support you with these priorities?</p> <p>34. In which areas do you think the project should focus on in the short-term (1-2 years) and longer term (3+ years and beyond)?</p>

### Interview Questions for UN Women/ICJ/OHCHR

#### Interview questions for Sida

<b>Introduction</b>	<p>1. Can you briefly describe your role within SIDA and how long you have been engaged with the WA2J project.</p>
<b>Relevance and Coherence</b>	<p>2. How relevant do you think the project is for a) SIDA, b) the region, c) priority countries, d) the project’s beneficiaries (i.e. women)?</p> <p>3. Have SIDA’s priorities and foci changed during the project implementation given the new Strategy for Sweden’s Regional cooperation in Asia and the Pacific 2022 – 2026? Was this discussed with the project?</p> <p>4. To what extent was SIDA involved in the design of the full project? Were your views/inputs taken into account? Have they been since throughout the project implementation? How do you assess the project’s ToC and results framework and how this fits with SIDA’s regional priorities?</p> <p>5. How satisfied are you with the communication procedures and mechanisms with the project and with UN Women?</p> <p>6. To what extent do you think the joint implementation between UN Women, ICJ and OHCHR has been successful? How would you assess UN Women’s coordination role?</p> <p>7. What are your current development priorities and how does the project fit into these?</p> <p>8. What are your long-term priorities for the Asia and the Pacific region?</p> <p>9. How do you envision access to justice for women being advanced at a regional level beyond results achieved at the national level?</p> <p>10. Are you satisfied with the level of coordination with other UN and non-UN projects in the region working on access to justice for women? Are there any gaps or areas, which could be strengthened?</p> <p>11. Why did you choose to support this project? What do you perceive UN Women’s, ICJ’s and OHCHR’s comparative advantages to be? What about each organisation’s respective thematic capacities?</p>

Interview questions for Sida	
<b>Efficiency</b>	<p>12. Do you receive narrative and financial reports in a timely manner? Are you satisfied with the quality and timeliness of the report?</p> <p>13. Were there any issues related to efficiency in your cooperation with UN Women?</p> <p>14. Do you feel that the project offers value for money? Are its approaches and methods efficient?</p>
<b>Effectiveness</b>	<p>15. How satisfied are you with the results achieved by the project to date?</p> <p>16. What have been the biggest challenges in the project?</p> <p>17. What have been the biggest achievements in the project?</p> <p>18. How successful do you think the project has been in addressing complex, multi-sectional discrimination and how this affects women's access to justice? Could anything be strengthened?</p>
<b>Sustainability</b>	<p>19. What were the strategies for sustainability of the results of the programmes and how successful have these been? What level of national and local ownership for achieved results has been created? Are you confident that the project/programme has a well-designed exit strategy?</p> <p>20. Where do you think gains made could be lost or stalled if the project is not able to continue its support? What could the project do in the remaining implementation period to improve sustainability of benefits?</p> <p>21. Do you see any changes in behaviour and attitudes, either among women trying to access justice, or among justice providers?</p> <p>22. In your perspective, How sustainable do you think the results of the project are? what are the challenges to sustaining the results of these programmes?</p> <p>23. Would you support a follow-on phase of this project? If not, why not? If yes, what do you think the priority areas should be? Do you think the same project structure and approach be continued?</p>
<b>Lessons Learned</b>	<p>24. Based on your experience and cooperating with the project, which areas of work have the most potential for catalysing further advancements for enhancing access to gender-responsive justice for women in Asia Pacific?</p>
<b>Recommendations</b>	<p>25. What are your recommendations for the next steps in terms of any further iterations of the project and/or its activities?</p>



## Interview Questions for Sida

Interview questions for Sida	
<b>Introduction</b>	1. Can you briefly describe your role within SIDA and how long you have been engaged with the WA2J project.
<b>Relevance and Coherence</b>	2. How relevant do you think the project is for a) SIDA, b) the region, c) priority countries, d) the project's beneficiaries (i.e. women)? 3. Have SIDA's priorities and foci changed during the project implementation given the new Strategy for Sweden's Regional cooperation in Asia and the Pacific 2022 – 2026? Was this discussed with the project? 4. To what extent was SIDA involved in the design of the full project? Were your views/inputs taken into account? Have they been since throughout the project implementation? How do you assess the project's ToC and results framework and how this fits with SIDA's regional priorities? 5. How satisfied are you with the communication procedures and mechanisms with the project and with UN Women? 6. To what extent do you think the joint implementation between UN Women, ICJ and OHCHR has been successful? How would you assess UN Women's coordination role? 7. What are your current development priorities and how does the project fit into these? 8. What are your long-term priorities for the Asia and the Pacific region? 9. How do you envision access to justice for women being advanced at a regional level beyond results achieved at the national level? 10. Are you satisfied with the level of coordination with other UN and non-UN projects in the region working on access to justice for women? Are there any gaps or areas, which could be strengthened? 11. Why did you choose to support this project? What do you perceive UN Women's, ICJ's and OHCHR's comparative advantages to be? What about each organisation's respective thematic capacities?
<b>Efficiency</b>	12. Do you receive narrative and financial reports in a timely manner? Are you satisfied with the quality and timeliness of the report? 13. Were there any issues related to efficiency in your cooperation with UN Women? 14. Do you feel that the project offers value for money? Are its approaches and methods efficient?
<b>Effectiveness</b>	15. How satisfied are you with the results achieved by the project to date? 16. What have been the biggest challenges in the project? 17. What have been the biggest achievements in the project? 18. How successful do you think the project has been in addressing complex, multi-sectional discrimination and how this affects women's access to justice? Could anything be strengthened?

Interview questions for Sida	
<b>Sustainability</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What were the strategies for sustainability of the results of the programmes and how successful have these been? What level of national and local ownership for achieved results has been created? Are you confident that the project/programme has a well-designed exit strategy?</li> <li>2. Where do you think gains made could be lost or stalled if the project is not able to continue its support? What could the project do in the remaining implementation period to improve sustainability of benefits?</li> <li>3. Do you see any changes in behaviour and attitudes, either among women trying to access justice, or among justice providers?</li> <li>4. In your perspective, How sustainable do you think the results of the project are? what are the challenges to sustaining the results of these programmes?</li> <li>5. Would you support a follow-on phase of this project? If not, why not? If yes, what do you think the priority areas should be? Do you think the same project structure and approach be continued?</li> </ol>
<b>Lessons Learned</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Based on your experience and cooperating with the project, which areas of work have the most potential for catalysing further advancements for enhancing access to gender-responsive justice for women in Asia Pacific?</li> </ol>
<b>Recommendations</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. What are your recommendations for the next steps in terms of any further iterations of the project and/or its activities?</li> </ol>

## Focus Group Discussion Protocols

The themes, composition of groups, geographical coverage and questions are indicative and will be adjusted depending on the availability of participants, to take into account the information and themes emerging from the field work and to ensure the optimal focus group size for productive discussion. Final selection will be made in coordination with UN Women, ICJ, OHCHR and the EMG.

Each FGD will have a minimum of five but no more than seven participants (excluding the facilitators) and will last approximately an hour and a half.

### 4.3.1 Evaluation Groups

- Introductions, explanation of how data will be used, and informed consent protocol.
- Tour de table: Please introduce yourself and tell us briefly your engagement with the WA2J project in AP.

#### Guiding questions to select from

1. How relevant do you think the project is in your country?
- 2- To what extent have you engaged with the CEDAW reporting process and did the project support you with this? If yes, how? What were the results of this support? (Prompts: reporting on CEDAW, legislative changes – e.g. Anti-Sexual Violence Act 2022).
3. Since 2018, do you think women's access to community based and/or centralised justice has improved? If yes, how and if no, how has it backtracked? Has the project contributed to this?
4. Are you involved in the drafting of the Law on Gender Equality and Justice? How would you assess this process? Has the project provided any support in this regard? What is the current status of the draft Law? How is it envisaged that this Law will strengthen WA2J? What could the project do to assist further in this process?
5. Over the last 5 year, have you seen any changes in behaviour and attitudes, either among women trying to access justice, or among justice providers? Has the project influenced these changes in any way?
6. What do you think the priorities in your country are regarding strengthening women's access to justice?

7. Do you have any other comments or recommendations regarding the needs and challenges of strengthening women's access to justice?

### 4.3.2 Evaluation Groups

- Introductions, explanation of how data will be used, and informed consent protocol.
- Tour de table: Please introduce yourself and tell us briefly your engagement with the WA2J project in AP.

#### Guiding questions to select from

1. How would you assess cooperation at the regional level with regards to strengthening access to justice? Has the project done anything to facilitate the level of cooperation? How successful has this been?
2. Since 2018, do you think women's access to community based and/or centralised justice has improved? If yes, how and if no, how has it backtracked? Has the project contributed to this?
3. Over the last 5 year, have you seen any changes in behaviour and attitudes, either among women trying to access justice, or among justice providers? Has the project influenced these changes in any way?
4. What do you think the priorities are at the regional level regarding strengthening women's access to justice?

### 4.3.3 Focus Group Discussion with Right Holders (Formal and Informal Justice Users) – depending on the level of sensitivity, the evaluation team may change the method to KII

- Introductions, explanation of how data will be used, and informed consent protocol.
- Tour de table: Please introduce yourself and tell us briefly your engagement with the WA2J project in AP.

#### Main questions:

1. Which justice system/institution did you access?
2. How did you know about the institution?
3. What services did you receive from this institution?
4. Were you satisfied with the process? Why/Why not?
5. How were you treated throughout each stage of the process? Were there any challenges?

6. In your opinion? What were the benefits of accessing this services/justice system?

7. In your opinion, do you see any positive changes in the justice system in your country, compare to 5 years ago?

8. Do you have any recommendations to improve the system?



Photo: UN Women/Gaganjit Singh

## Appendix V

### Stakeholders Consulted during Evaluation

#	Organization	Title	Country Office	Female	Male	Total number of stakeholders
1.	UN Women	A2J programme Specialist	ROAP	1		1
2.	UN Women	National Programme Coordinator	Solomon Islands	1		1
3.	UN Women	Programme Analysts	Philippines	1		1
4.	UN Women	UN Women Timor Leste Country Office	Timor Leste	1	1	2
5.	OHCHR	Human Rights Officer	Pacific Regional Office	1		1
6.	ICJ	Deputy Regional Director	Asia Pacific Regional Office	1		1
7.	ICJ	Legal Adviser	Sri Lanka	1		1
8.	ICJ	Legal Adviser	Fiji Islands	1		1
9.	Government/Justice Actors	Director	Timor Leste	1	1	2
10.	Government/Justice Actors	Academic Coordinator - SLJI	Sri Lanka	1		1
11.	Government/Justice Actors	Vice-president, Fiji Law Society	Fiji	1		1
12.	Government/Justice Actors	Regional Trial Court Judge	Philippines	1		1
13.	Government/Justice Actors	Executive Director, Balay Rehabilitation Centre	Philippines	1		1
14.	Civil society	Spoke Person, Save Our Schools Network	Philippines	1		1
15.	Civil society	National Coordinator Philssa	Philippines		1	1
16.	Civil society	Law Deans and Clinical Legal Education lawyers, Philippines  Ateneo de Naga Law School	Philippines	1		1

#	Organization	Title	Country Office	Female	Male	Total number of stakeholders
17.	Civil society	StreetLawPh, Inc	Philippines	1		1
18.	Civil society	Program Coordinator, AMAN Indonesia	Indonesia	1		1
19.	Civil society	Coordinator GPPI Network	Indonesia	2		2
20.	Human Rights Treaty Bodies	Commissioner, Komnas Perempuan	Indonesia	2		2
21.	Donor	Senior program officer, Embassy of Sweden to Bangkok	Thailand	1		1
22.	Right holders	Women deprived of Liberty	Philippines	32		32
23.	Justice actors	Community Mediators	Timor Leste	3	3	6
	NEPAL Case Study					
24.	ICJ		Nepal	1		1
25.	UN Women		Nepal	1		1
26.	LACC		Nepal	1		1
27.	VCDC		Nepal	1		1
28.	DWRF		Nepal	1		1
29.	Judicial Committee		Nepal	1	1	2
30.	Mediator		Nepal	1	1	2
31.	Legal Advisor		Nepal		2	2
32.	GWOs		Nepal	5		5
33.	Informal Justice Actors		Nepal	1	1	2
34.	Service Recipients (JC, GWOs)		Nepal	2		2
35.	District Court Judge		Nepal		1	1
	Solomon Island Case Study					
36.	UN Women	National Consultant	Solomon Islands	1		1
37.	Guadalcanal Provincial Government (GPG).	Women's Development Officer	Solomon Islands	1		1
38.	Solomon Islands National Council of Women	General Secretary	Solomon Islands	1		1

#	Organization	Title	Country Office	Female	Male	Total number of stakeholders
39.	Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs	Local Courts Co-ordinator	Solomon Islands		1	1
40.	Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs	Chief Policy Legal Advisor	Solomon Islands	1		1
41.	Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs	Director	Solomon Islands	1		1
42.	Guadalcanal Provincial Council of Women	President	Solomon Islands	1		1
43.	Women's Development Desk, Malaita Provincial Government (MPG)	Women's Development Desk Officer	Solomon Islands	1		1
44.	Malaita Provincial Council of Women	President	Solomon Islands	1		1
45.	Guadalcanal Province	Authorised Justice	Solomon Islands		1	1
46.	Guadalcanal Province	Prescribed Person	Solomon Islands	1		1
47.	Malaita Province	Prescribed Person	Solomon Islands	1		1
48.	Malaita Province	Authorised Justice	Solomon Islands		1	1
49.	Disabled Person's Association of Solomon Islands (DPASI)	Secretary General	Solomon Islands		1	1
50.	Service Recipients			8	8	16
				90	24	114

## Appendix VI

### Document Review

PRODOC	Annual workplan	Donor report	Partners report	Evaluation or Review	Other project documents
A2J UN Women PRODOC	Not Available	A2J_ 1st progress report_ SIDA_ June-Dec 2018	FINAL REPORT A2J- WICL MID-TERM REVIEW.pdf	Mid-term review- Project: “Enhancing Access to Justice for Women in Asia and the Pacific: Bridging the gap between formal and informal systems through women’s empowerment”	ESCAP SIDE EVENT_FINAL DOCUMENTS
1. amendment_ SIDA_ concept note UNW, OCHCH and ICJ_ 01.10.2020 (final)		2018 A2J Interim financial report 31.12.2018 PID97678 donor 00555	UNW-FORA Policy Research Report.pdf	Mid-term review- Project report - Indonesia	Justice Champion Campaign
1st amendment_ A1 A2J UN Women PRODOC amendment_ track changes_ 18.11.2020		A2J_ 2nd progress report_ SIDA_ 2019	UNW-Street-LawPH Jail Project_Final Report.pdf	Mid-term review- Project report - Nepal	Women Journalist campaign
A2J UN Women PRODOC amendment_ 2_ clean_ SIDA UNW signed 1 July 2021		2019 Interim financial report 30.6.2019 PID97678 108723 donor 00555	UNW-UPIHR A2J Project_Final Report.pdf	Mid-term review- Project report - Philippines	Indigenous day campaign
A2J UN Women PRODOC		A2J_ 3rd progress report_ SIDA 2020	1ST_1st_QUARTER_REPORT_WISE_GUYUB:	A2J Evaluation Report Nepal	Disability: 1. Key documents:



PRODOC	Annual workplan	Donor report	Partners report	Evaluation or Review	Other project documents
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Annex I Beneficiaries during the quarter.xlsx</li> <li>- Annex II CASE STORIES.docx</li> <li>- Annex III Gender Clasification.xlsx</li> <li>- FACE FORM WISE-GUYUB_MAY -JUL 31 2020.xls</li> <li>- Quarterly Progress Report I_WF_SUBMITTED.docx</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Retreat PPT</li> <li>- Disability Training short</li> <li>- Int Principles Access-to-Justice-EN</li> <li>- un_disability</li> <li>- inclusive_communication_guidelines</li> <li>- CDLP-Finalreport-Access2JusticePWD (6)</li> <li>- Intersectionality-resource-guide-and-toolkit-en</li> <li>- ASEAN-Enabling-Masterplan-2025-Mainstreaming-the-Rights-of-Persons-with-Disabilities</li> <li>- Accessibility Checklist for UN on online platforms</li> </ul>

PRODOC	Annual workplan	Donor report	Partners report	Evaluation or Review	Other project documents
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- HRC Report A2J PWD</li> <li>- CRPD - General Comment- 1</li> <li>- CRPD- General Comment-3</li> <li>- SR Report - Equal Recognition Before the Law (Art 12)</li> <li>2. TCI-IDA PSYCHOSOCIAL DISABILITY WORLD JUSTICE</li> <li>3. FORUM_HAGUE_MAY 2022</li> <li>4. Strategy and work planning</li> <li>5. ESCAP</li> <li>6. YAPESDI JUSTICE_DOWN SYNDROME</li> <li>7. BRIEF - WwI&amp;P DISABILITIES</li> <li>8. Outreach &amp; collaboration</li> </ul>

PRODOC	Annual workplan	Donor report	Partners report	Evaluation or Review	Other project documents
					9. WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY - 21 MARCH 2022 10. Country research 11. 16 DAYS 2021
2nd amendment _ A2J UN Women PRODOC _ 2_ track changes _ 24.06.2021		2020 Interim Financial report 31 December 2020 PID 97678 108132 donor 00555	2ND_QUARTER_REPORT_WISE_Guyub : - Annex I Beneficiaries during the quarter.xls - 2nd Quarterly Progress Report_WISE GUYUB.docx - Annex III- Women in various positions.xlsx		Knowledge Management : - 1. KM & CONTENT CALENDAR - 2. PUBLICATIONS-BREIFINGS-FACTSHEETS etc - 3. Website analytics and contents - 4. Visual contents - 5. E-newsletter - 6. Social Media - 7. Design file - 8. JPMC
Second amendment_ SIDA _ FINAL Concept -		4th progress report 2021 SIDA_Access to Justice	3RD_PROGRESS_REPORT_OF_WISE_GUYUB: - Annex I Beneficiaries		

PRODOC	Annual workplan	Donor report	Partners report	Evaluation or Review	Other project documents
beyond COVID crisis_ UN Women 26.01.2021		During the Quarter Nov-Jan 2021.xlsx - 3rd PROGRESS REPORT_WISE GUYUB.docx - Annex III Women in Various Position.xlsx			
A2J project _ Output 3_ UN Women approach _ realignment Informal to community based		Annex C UNW- StreetLawPH Jail Project_Final Report	4rd PROGRESS REPORT_WISE GUYUB_ENG.docx		
Annex 7_ 2nd Amendment to CSA - clean_ SIDA UNW signed 1 July 2021		Annex D Expenditure Breakdown by Programme Output	5TH Quarterly progress report - SUBMIT (1).pdf		
			1st_ICJ-Bi-Annual Report to UN Women-June - December 2018 - 29012019.docx		
			2nd_ICJ-Bi-Annual Report to UN Women-January - June 2019.docx		
			3rd_ICJ-Bi-Annual Report to UN Women- July - December 2019 - 210120.docx		

PRODOC	Annual workplan	Donor report	Partners report	Evaluation or Review	Other project documents
			4th_ICJ-Bi-Annual Report to UN Women- January - June 2020-Final.docx		
			5th_ICJ-Bi-Annual Report to UN Women - July-December 2020.docx		
			6th_ICJ Bi-annual Report-A2J- Jan-June 2021.docx		
			7th_ICJ Bi-annual Report to UN Women July-December 2021.docx		
			LACC_ Project completion narrative report_24 Jan 2022.doc		
			2019 OHCHR Report_A2J Project UN Partners (South-EastAsia).pdf		

PRODOC	Annual workplan	Donor report	Partners report	Evaluation or Review	Other project documents
			2020 OHCHR SEARO_A2J UN Partner Report (South-East Asia).pdf		
			2020_OHCHR ROP_A2J UN Partner Report (Pacific).pdf		
			2021 OHCHR South-East Asia - A2J UN Partner Report.pdf		
			2021_OHCHR Pacific_A2J UN Partner Report.pdf		
			Financial report 01.01.2019_31.12.2021_OHCHR.pdf		
			ICJ-Bi-Annual Report to UN Women-June - December 2018 - 29012019		
			ICJ-Bi-Annual Report to UN Women-January - June 2019		

PRODOC	Annual workplan	Donor report	Partners report	Evaluation or Review	Other project documents
			ICJ-Bi-Annual Report to UN Women- July - December 2019 -210120		
			ICJ-Bi-Annual Report to UN Women- January - June 2020- Final		
			ICJ-Bi-Annual Report to UN Women - Final- July - December 2020		
			ICJ Bi-annual Report-A2J- Jan-June 2021		
			ICJ Bi-annual Report-A2J- Jan-June 2021		
			Updated ICJ-Bi-Annual Report to UN Women- January - June 2022 final		
			ICJ Bi-Annual Report - July - December 2022 - Final		

## Appendix VII

### Recommendations from the Mid-Term Review and how they were addressed

Recommendation	Annual workplan	Status
Project underspending	Address underspending by developing catch up spending plans, reallocating resources, and reviewing deliverables.	Complete
Organisational chart and responsibility matrix	Develop a project organizational chart should be updated and a Responsibility Assignment Matrix.	Complete
Knowledge management	Develop a knowledge management plan, and ensure documents are stored and made accessible to Consortium partners.	Complete
JPCC	Revise the TOR of the JPCC to reflect the governance of the project and bring more accountability.	Complete
Country level coordination	Establish monthly project country meetings to enhance coordination and support integrated programming.	Complete
Documentation of activities and achievements	Better document activities and achievements in an orderly fashion and related to the achievement of the Outcomes, as well as its contribution to the overall goal.	Complete
Vision and roadmap	Elaborate a document explaining how the Outputs lead to the Outcome in favour of the Overall Goal (for internal purposes).	Complete
Concept Note	Develop a joint programme Concept Note (and talking points) and regional network to promote and advocate the Outcomes in favour of sustainable normative change.	De-prioritised
Country intervention models	Consolidate intervention models for the priority country interventions, focusing on the “change process” for the country specific context.	De-prioritised



## Appendix VIII

### Progress against Indicators

Outcome Indicators	Target reached as of December 2022 (including baseline)	Status of Indicators
<b>Outcome 1: Enhanced access to justice for women in formal and informal systems in Asia and the Pacific, bridged the gap between these systems through women's empowerment and reduction of gender biases.</b>		
Indicator 1. Number of countries in Asia and the Pacific whose court systems formally adopt and use the Bangkok General Guidance for Judges on Applying a Gender Perspective. Baseline 2018: 2 Midterm milestone (December 2020): 5 Target 2023: 10	Total: 2 2018: 2 2019: 2 2021: 2 2022: 2	Target is not reached/off-track
Indicator 2. Number of personnel of formal justice institutions whose capacities to provide justice to women are strengthened. Baseline 2018: 166 Midterm milestone (December 2020): 290 Target 2023: 610	Total: 1,374 formal justice providers (557 women, 649 men, 2 non-disclosed + 166 non-sex-disaggregated baseline) 2018: 105 (58 women, 47 men) + 166 baselines 2019: 596 (309 women, 287 men) + 166 baseline 2020: 83 (8 women, 75 men) + 166 baselines 2021: 184 (74 women, 108 men, 2 non-disclosed) + 166 baselines 2022: 240 formal justice personnel (108 women, 132 men) +166 baseline Breakdown of the 2022 reported value: 185 high court judges 55 local judicial committee members (see output 3)	Target exceeded
Indicator 3. Number of formal justice providers [who] agree on modalities to enhance women's access to the formal justice system in their respective countries/areas. Baseline 2018: 0 Midterm milestone (December 2020): 60 Target 2023: 120	Total: 131 formal justice providers 2018: 37 formal justice providers 2019: 39 judges 2020: 0 stalled due to COVID-19 2021: 0 2022: 55 local judicial committee members	Target exceeded

Outcome Indicators	Target reached as of December 2022 (including baseline)	Status of Indicators
<b>Outcome 1: Enhanced access to justice for women in formal and informal systems in Asia and the Pacific, bridged the gap between these systems through women’s empowerment and reduction of gender biases.</b>		
<p>Indicator 4. Number of women whose interaction with formal or informal justice systems is facilitated</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Midterm milestone (December 2020):800</p> <p>Target: 1,600</p>	<p>Total: 4,261 women</p> <p>2018: 0 women</p> <p>2019: 0 women</p> <p>2020: 987 women</p> <p>2021: 1,853 women</p> <p>2022: 1,421 women</p> <p>Breakdown of the 2022 reported value:</p> <p>544 women through community-based mechanisms</p> <p>277 received services related to gender-based violence</p> <p>330 cases were represented through project lawyers in formal courts</p> <p>64 women received social benefits after community dialogues</p> <p>60 women deprived of liberty in jails/pre-detention</p> <p>146 women accessed gender-responsive mediation in Timor-Leste</p>	<p>Target exceeded</p>
<p>Indicator 5. Number of domestic laws passed, and court decisions made in the target countries since 2018 that are consistent with international human rights law and standards, including the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Baseline 2018: 0 Midterm milestone (December 2020): 5 Target 2023: 10</p>	<p>Total: 6</p> <p>2018: 1</p> <p>2019: 1</p> <p>2020: 2</p> <p>2021: 0</p> <p>2022: 2</p> <p>Details of the 2022 reported value: Nepal Act to Amend the Law Related to Sexual Violence, 2022 Solomon Islands Family Protection Act Regulation 2022 For more information, see Output 3</p>	<p>Target is not reached/off-track</p>

Outcome Indicators	Target reached as of December 2022 (including baseline)	Status of Indicators
<b>Outcome 1: Enhanced access to justice for women in formal and informal systems in Asia and the Pacific, bridged the gap between these systems through women’s empowerment and reduction of gender biases.</b>		
<p>Indicator 4. Number of women whose interaction with formal or informal justice systems is facilitated</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Midterm milestone (December 2020):800</p> <p>Target: 1,600</p>	<p>Total: 4,261 women</p> <p>2018: 0 women</p> <p>2019: 0 women</p> <p>2020: 987 women</p> <p>2021: 1,853 women</p> <p>2022: 1,421 women</p> <p>Breakdown of the 2022 reported value:</p> <p>544 women through community-based mechanisms</p> <p>277 received services related to gender-based violence</p> <p>330 cases were represented through project lawyers in formal courts</p> <p>64 women received social benefits after community dialogues</p> <p>60 women deprived of liberty in jails/pre-detention</p> <p>146 women accessed gender-responsive mediation in Timor-Leste</p>	<p>Target exceeded</p>
<p>Indicator 5. Number of domestic laws passed, and court decisions made in the target countries since 2018 that are consistent with international human rights law and standards, including the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Baseline 2018: 0 Midterm milestone (December 2020): 5 Target 2023: 10</p>	<p>Total: 6</p> <p>2018: 1</p> <p>2019: 1</p> <p>2020: 2</p> <p>2021: 0</p> <p>2022: 2</p> <p>Details of the 2022 reported value: Nepal Act to Amend the Law Related to Sexual Violence, 2022 Solomon Islands Family Protection Act Regulation 2022 For more information, see Output 3</p>	<p>Target is not reached/off-track</p>

Outcome Indicators	Target reached as of December 2022 (including baseline)	Status of Indicators
<b>Output 1. Advocacy is conducted to promote the adoption of domestic laws and court decisions in the target countries consistent with international human rights laws and standards, including CEDAW</b>		
<p>Indicator 1.1. Number of institutions or organizations in targeted countries which receive advocacy materials developed in the framework of the programme on the promotion of domestic laws that are consistent with international human rights laws and standards, including CEDAW</p> <p>Baseline 2018: 0 Target 2023: 10</p>	<p>Total: 39 2018: 0 2019: 0 2020: 4 2021: 7 2022: 28 organizations and institutions</p> <p>Breakdown of the 2022 reported value:</p> <p>ICJ: (3) Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Conflict Victim Women’s National Network, Women and Social Committee of the Federal Parliament in its paper on Nepal: Transitional Justice Mechanisms with a Gender Perspective</p> <p>UN Women: (15) local judicial committee – gender-responsive community-based justice (8) Ministries of women and ministries of justice in Fiji, Indonesia, Nepal and the Philippines – access to justice for women with intellectual disabilities (2) International Disability Alliance and Transforming Communities for Inclusion – advocacy for women with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities</p> <p>For more information, see Output 3</p>	<p>Target exceeded</p>

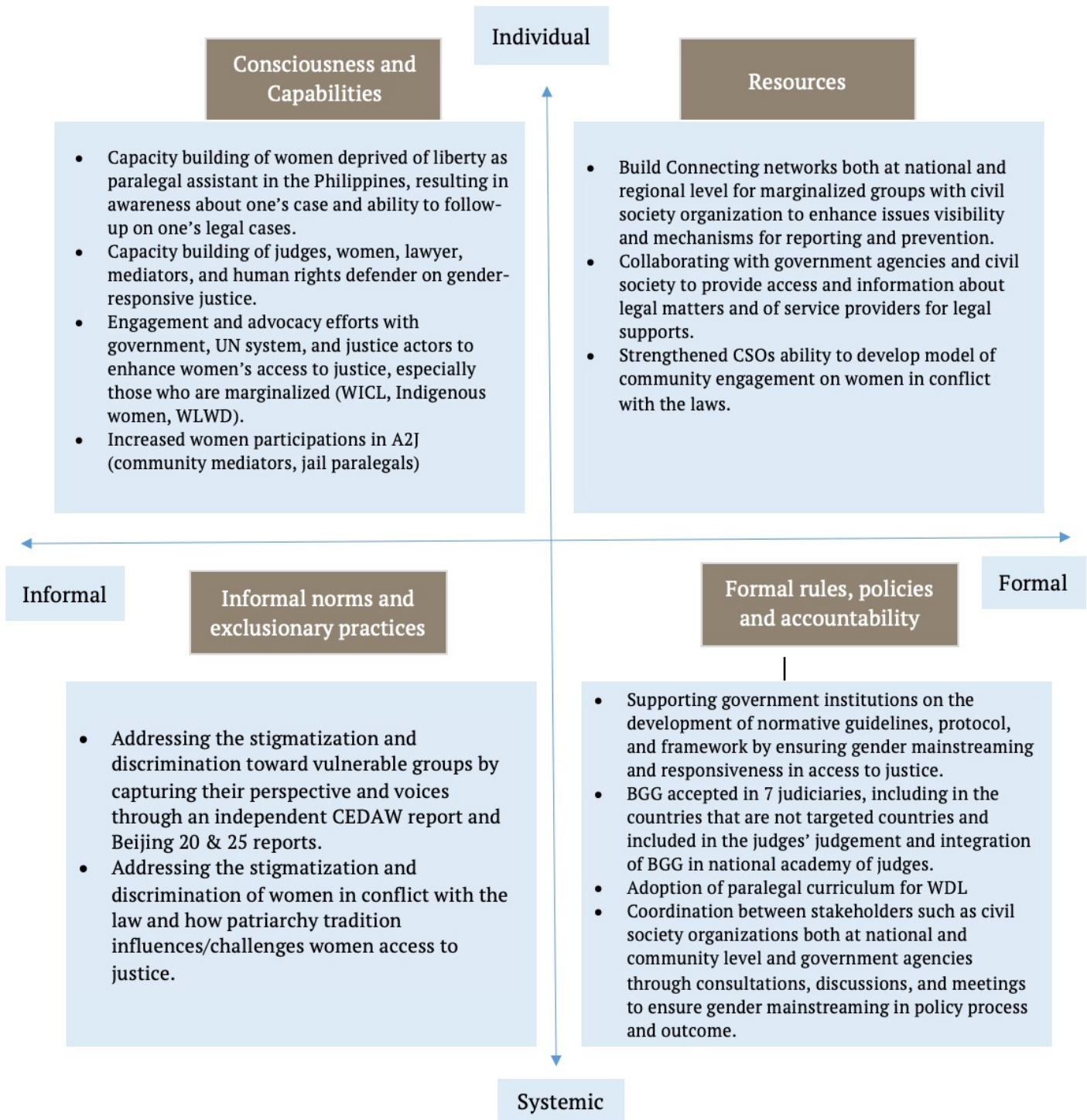
Outcome Indicators	Target reached as of December 2022 (including baseline)	Status of Indicators
<b>Output 1. Advocacy is conducted to promote the adoption of domestic laws and court decisions in the target countries consistent with international human rights laws and standards, including CEDAW</b>		
Indicator 1.2. Number of briefing papers published and disseminated to the public and specifically women’s human rights groups/ advocates in the framework of this project Baseline 2018: 0 Midterm milestone (December 2020): 5 Target 2023: 10	Total: 30 2018: 1 2019: 1 2020: 7 2021: 7 2022: 14	Target exceeded
Indicator 1.3. Number of bilateral briefings with legislators and advocacy missions to countries in Asia and the Pacific to discuss the amendment or abolition of laws that explicitly discriminate against women Baseline 2018: 0 Midterm milestone (December 2020): 5 Target 2023: 10	Total: 15 2018: 1 2019: 0 2020: 6 2021: 5 2022: 3	Target exceeded
Indicator 1.4. The number of amicus briefs or expert legal opinions submitted to courts at the domestic level in countries in Asia and the Pacific on emblematic cases that impact women’s access to justice. Baseline 2018: 1 Midterm milestone (December 2020): 2 Target 2023: 3 (+2)	Total: 0 2018: 0 2019: 0 2020: 0 2021: 0 2022: 0 Due to internal capacity challenges and restrictions related to COVID-19, the ICJ was not able to advance strategic litigation in the region.	Target is not reached/off-track

Outcome Indicators	Target reached as of December 2022 (including baseline)	Status of Indicators
<b>Output 2. Gender discriminatory attitudes and stereotyped behaviours towards women are acknowledged and addressed by formal and informal justice providers in the target countries.</b>		
<p>Indicator 2.1: Number of Supreme Court or high court judges (disaggregated by gender) whose knowledge of the Bangkok General Guidance is increased together with their level of commitment to introduce the Guidance within their court systems.</p> <p>Baseline 2018: 119 (84 female / 35 male) Midterm milestone (December 2020): 199 Target 2023: 279 (+160)</p>	<p>Total: 425 (203 women, 222 men) 2018: 72 (40 women, 32 men) 2019: 39 (20 women, 19 men) 2020: 16 (10 women, 6 men) 2021: 113 judges (50 women, 63 men) 2022: 185 judges (83 women and 102 men)</p>	Target exceeded
<p>Indicator 2.2: Number of judges from first instance courts in the target countries (disaggregated by gender) who, after being trained, report an increased understanding of the root causes of discriminatory attitudes and behaviours towards women commonly manifested in court decisions and report willingness to work towards eliminating these gender discriminatory attitudes.</p> <p>Baseline 2018: 0 Midterm milestone (December 2020): 150 Target 2023: 330</p>	<p>Total: 258 (108 women, 148 men, 2 non-disclosed) 2018: 0 2019: 0 2020: 46 (19 women, 27 men) 2021: 64 (21 women, 41 men. 2 non-disclosed) 2022: 148 (68 women, 80 men)</p>	Target exceeded

Outcome Indicators	Target reached as of December 2022 (including baseline)	Status of Indicators
<b>Output 2. Gender discriminatory attitudes and stereotyped behaviours towards women are acknowledged and addressed by formal and informal justice providers in the target countries.</b>		
<p>Indicator 2.3. Number of frontline justice actors (disaggregated by gender) in the target countries (e.g. police and prosecutors) who, after being trained, report an increased understanding of more gender discriminatory attitudes and stereotyped behaviours towards women</p> <p>Baseline 2018: 47 in early 2018 (29 female / 18 male). This is a new target group for ICJ</p> <p>Midterm milestone (December 2020): 107</p> <p>Target 2023: 167 (+120)</p>	<p>Total: 369 (233 women, 136 men)</p> <p>2018: 33 (18 women, 15 men)</p> <p>2019: 28 (18 women, 10 men)</p> <p>2020: 72 (45 women, 27 men)</p> <p>2021: 151 (108 women, 43 men)</p> <p>2022: 85 (44 women, 41 men)</p>	Target exceeded
<p>Indicator 2.4. Number of informal justice actors in the target countries (e.g. tribal chiefs or village elders) who, after being trained, say that they understand more gender discriminatory attitudes and stereotyped behaviours towards women</p> <p>Baseline 2018: 0</p> <p>Midterm milestone (December 2020): 100</p> <p>Target 2023: 250</p>	<p>Total: 1,929</p> <p>2018: 0</p> <p>2019: 29 (14 women, 15 men)</p> <p>2020: 406 (234 women, 172 men)</p> <p>2021: 1,048 (542 women, 371 men, 135 non-disclosed)</p> <p>2022: 446 (242 women, 204 men)</p> <p>Including mediators, informal justice actors, ward members and pokjas members</p> <p>For more information, see Output 3</p>	Target exceeded

## Appendix IX

### Gender at work Analysis





# Annex X

## Nepal Case Study

Preliminary Draft Report- Nepal Country Programme

### **Final Evaluation**

ENHANCING ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR WOMEN IN ASIA  
AND THE PACIFIC: BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN FOR-  
MAL AND COMMUNITY-BASED SYSTEMS THROUGH  
WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

Submitted by:  
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September 2023



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# ABBREVIATIONS

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<b>A2J</b>	Access to Justice
<b>AF</b>	Asia Foundation
<b>BGG</b>	Bangkok General Guidance
<b>CBJ</b>	Community Based Justice
<b>CBJAs</b>	Community Based Justice Actors
<b>CBWOs</b>	Community Based Women Organizations
<b>CEDAW</b>	Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
<b>CIEPD</b>	Commission of Investigation on Enforced Disappeared Person
<b>COVID-19</b>	Corona virus Disease-19
<b>CPN</b>	Communist Party of Nepal
<b>CSOs</b>	Civil Society Organizations
<b>DWRF</b>	Dalit Women Relief Forum
<b>EDC</b>	Equality Development Centre
<b>FGD</b>	Focused Group Discussions
<b>GBV</b>	Gender-Based Violence
<b>GDI</b>	Gender Development Index
<b>GEDSI</b>	Gender Equality Disability and Social Inclusion
<b>GEHR</b>	Gender Equality and Human Rights
<b>GEWE</b>	Gender Equity and Women Empowerment
<b>GII</b>	Gender Inequality Index
<b>GoN</b>	Government of Nepal
<b>GRJ</b>	Gender Responsive Justice
<b>GWOs</b>	Grassroots women's organizations
<b>Hon'ble</b>	Honourable
<b>ICCPR</b>	International Convention on Cultural and Political Rights
<b>ICJ</b>	International Commission of Jurists
<b>ICPPED</b>	International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced
<b>IJAs</b>	Informal Justice Actors
<b>JCM</b>	Judicial Committee Member
<b>JCs</b>	Judicial Committees

<b>KIIs</b>	Key Informants Interview
<b>LACC</b>	Legal Aid and Consultancy Centre
<b>LACS</b>	Legal Aid Counselling Services
<b>LGBTIQ+</b>	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersexual, Queer plus
<b>LGOA</b>	Local Government Operation Act
<b>LGA</b>	Local Government Act
<b>LGU<sub>s</sub></b>	Local Government Units
<b>LNOB</b>	Leave No One Behind agenda
<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>MoFAGA</b>	Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration
<b>MoH</b>	Ministry of Health
<b>MoLJPA</b>	Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs
<b>MoWCSC</b>	Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens
<b>MTR</b>	Mid-Term Review
<b>NBA</b>	Nepal Bar Association
<b>NDHS</b>	National Demographic and Health Survey
<b>NJA</b>	National Judicial Academy
<b>NPC</b>	National Planning Commission
<b>NWC</b>	National Women Commission
<b>OCMCM</b>	Office Council of Chief Minister and Council of Ministries
<b>OECD-DAC</b>	The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development- Development Assistance Criteria
<b>OHCHR</b>	Office of High Commissioner of Human Rights
<b>PRODOC</b>	Project document
<b>PWD<sub>s</sub></b>	People with Disabilities
<b>SAARC Law</b>	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation in Law
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SGBV</b>	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
<b>SIDA</b>	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
<b>TJA</b>	Transitional Justice Act
<b>ToC</b>	Theory of Change
<b>ToT</b>	Training of Trainers
<b>TRC</b>	Truth and Reconciliation Commission

<b>UDHR</b>	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
<b>UN Women</b>	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
<b>UNCT</b>	United Nations Country Team Nepal
<b>UNDAF</b>	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>USD</b>	United States Dollar
<b>VCDC</b>	Village Community Development Centre
<b>WA2J</b>	Women's Access to Justice
<b>WHRDs</b>	Women Human Rights Defenders

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Nepal has a constitutional commitment to providing equal and impartial access to justice for all its citizens, including marginalized and vulnerable groups. The country's transition to a federal system of governance has led to the establishment of 753 Judicial Committees (JCs) at the local level, with a significant number led by women, to enhance access to justice, especially in rural areas. Despite legal reforms and the creation of transitional justice mechanisms, challenges in providing justice to conflict victims and women persist. International organizations like UN Women, the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ), and the UN Human Rights Office have collaborated to enhance access to justice, particularly for women and marginalized communities in Nepal as part of the broader goal of ensuring equitable rights and social justice.

The project aimed to improve women's access to justice within formal and informal systems across several countries in Asia and the Pacific, including Nepal. Its goals included aligning laws and court decisions with international human rights standards, addressing gender bias within the justice system, and empowering grassroots women's organizations to document and monitor cases while collaborating with local justice providers. UN Women conducted a thorough mapping of women's access to justice in Nepal, identifying barriers and opportunities for intervention in the context of Nepal's transition to a federal system and evolving legal framework. This ensured that the project would be tailored to Nepal's specific needs and aligned with the efforts of other stakeholders working on women's access to justice in the country.

The purpose of this evaluation was to assess the effectiveness and relevance of the joint approach to gender-responsive and people-centred justice in Asia and the Pacific, particularly in Nepal. It aimed to identify what worked well, and areas for improvement, and serve accountability and decision-making processes for potential future project phases. The evaluation examined the coordination role of UN Women and the partnership with ICJ and OHCHR. It also looked into how the project addressed the Leave No One Behind

(LNOB) agenda, emphasizing inclusivity.

The evaluation scope covered the Women's Access to Justice (WA2J) project from May 2018 to May 2023 in Nepal, implemented in two phases across specific districts. It assessed the project's progress against its Theory of Change and outcomes. The primary implementing partner was the Legal Aid and Consultancy Centre (LACC) Nepal, with collaboration from community-based partners. The evaluation aimed to provide actionable recommendations for future projects in the area of women's access to justice.

The methodology for this evaluation involved a mixed-method approach, combining quantitative and qualitative data collection methods. Quantitative data was collected through a comprehensive desk study, involving the extraction of disaggregated data from secondary sources. Qualitative data was gathered through 15 Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), 1 Focus Group Discussion (FGD), and 2 case studies (service seekers). There were altogether 21 stakeholders who directly participated in the process, out of which 15 were female and 6 were male. These interviews and discussions were conducted over the phone and via Zoom. Respondents were drawn from both the Kailali and Sarlahi districts. All project-related documents, including those in shared folders and other relevant sources accessible through the webpage, were reviewed as part of the data collection process. The evaluation was conducted using the OECD-DAC evaluation criteria, which included assessing the project's relevance, coherence, efficiency, effectiveness, impact, and sustainability. Additionally, cross-cutting issues such as gender equality and human rights were considered.

Major findings of the evaluation were analysed according to the OECD-DAC criteria below:

## Relevance

The Women's Access to Justice (WA2J) project is highly relevant and aligned with the priorities of Nepal's national plan, international commitments, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Gender-based violence (GBV) remains a significant issue in Nepal, and this project addresses critical issues related to GBV and access to justice, particularly in the Madhesh and Sudurpachim provinces, where GBV rates are high. The project aligns with Nepal's Constitution, which guarantees equal rights and protection against gender discrimination. It also supports the goals outlined in the Government of Nepal's 15th Strategic Plan (2018-2023) and contributes to (United Nations Development Assistance Framework) UNDAF's outcomes, emphasizing governance, the rule of law, and human rights. This alignment underscores the project's importance in achieving gender-responsive and people-centred justice.

Additionally, the project is consistent with SDGs 5 (Gender Equality), 10 (Reduced Inequalities), and 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions). It addresses international commitments such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action, all of which aim to improve access to justice for marginalized communities, in particular women.

The project recognizes that women and marginalized groups face unique barriers when seeking justice, including societal biases, stigma, and a lack of gender-sensitive procedures. Therefore, it focuses on capacity-building and attitude change among judges and the entire justice system, including law enforcement. This holistic approach is essential to creating gender-responsive justice institutions. Furthermore, the project acknowledges the shift in Nepal's governance system from a centralized to a federal structure and aims to strengthen new mechanisms like JCs established in local government units. The involvement of women in JCs is particularly notable, with around 93% of 753 JC heads being women during the project period. The project has effectively complemented and created synergies with various partners, stakeholders, and development organizations. It has worked in harmony with organizations like the Nepal Bar Association (NBA), and UNDP, ensuring that efforts are complementary and avoid duplication. However, there is room for improved communication and coordination between the partners, as discussions have been primarily at the individual level. Establishing a regional office for more comprehensive project-related meetings could enhance collaboration in the future.

Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the project adapted to the evolving context by providing preventive measures, distributing relief items, and offering online legal aid and counselling services. This flexibility allowed the project to continue supporting vulnerable communities during the pandemic.

### **Effectiveness**

The project effectively promoted gender-sensitive justice, bridged gaps between formal and informal justice systems, and raised awareness about women's rights in Nepal through capacity building, community outreach, awareness campaigns, and advocacy efforts. The adoption of the Bangkok General Guidance for Judges on Applying a Gender Perspective (BGG) in the country's judicial system was one of the crucial elements of the project to reduce gender stereotypes in the formal judicial system is underway but it internalized some provisions through strategic planning of the judiciary.

Nepal's Judiciary system is positive and cooperative for the adoption. However, it takes time to adopt formally. There is still a need for ongoing efforts to reduce gender stereotypes among judges and ensure gender-sensitive justice is consistently delivered. Various advocacy efforts were made, including meetings, workshops, webinars, and the development of briefing papers, to promote domestic laws and eliminate gender-discriminatory attitudes among formal justice actors. Incorporating BGG to help judges consider evidence without resorting to gender stereotypes and decide cases based on principles of equality. Some improvements encompass the provision of separate restrooms, the continuation of free legal aid, and the availability of counselling services, all of which were in place prior to the implementation of this project. These positive impacts are evident and can serve as a valuable influence on the success of this project. However, further gender sensitization programmes for judges were recommended.

Through engaging formal justice actors, including judges, lawyers, and police, anecdotally the project has contributed towards a change in mindsets and behaviour. Stakeholders, including Community Based Justice Actors (CBJAs), Grassroot Women Organizations (GWOs) and others Justice actors (OJAs)) informed the evaluation that this can be seen in a change of language used by the formal justice actors and well as

changes in their behaviour towards women justice seekers. Dialogues and workshops, which were organized by the project to sensitize them to gender issues have played a significant role in this.

Capacity-building efforts led to a positive shift in the attitudes of justice providers and informal justice actors towards women. Both formal and informal justice actors became more responsive to women's cases, leading to increased access to justice for women and more settlements. A total of 1,127 CBJAs - Judicial Committee Members (JCMs), mediators and Informal Justice Actors (IJAs) were trained. Judicial committee members identified the need for policies supporting gender-responsive justice delivery, and three policies and procedures (Mediation Procedure, Judicial Committee Procedures Law and the Gender Diversity and Social Inclusion Policy (GEDSI)) were developed and endorsed in 11 Local Government Units (LGUs). Peer learning/mentoring sessions between the former and new batch of JCMs were also effective in sharing the learning experiences.

A total of 695 cases of women 320 cases of women have been settled by JCs and IJA in the 21 LGUs (project-intervened LGUs) during project implementation period (June 2019 to Dec 2021 and July 2022 to May 2013) through gender-sensitive mechanisms. A total of 544 cases of women settled by JC and IJA – (406 JC and 138 IJA) in 10 LGUs during phase I. In Phase II, total 151 women cases have been facilitated by the Judicial Committee (JC) and Informal Justice Actors (IJAs) of 11 local government units. Similarly, 82 cases by JC and 69 cases by IJA facilitated in Phase I. They have enabled gender-responsive justice by maintaining confidentiality, use of gender-sensitive language and identifying and addressing the immediate needs of victims such as shelter support, and separate rooms while delivering justice.

A total of 48 dialogue/interaction events (43 in phase I and 13 in phase II) involving 996 justice actors, including police, lawyers, and mayors, facilitated cooperation and prioritization of gender-based violence cases. GBV funds and awareness campaigns were initiated in various LGUs. A total of 80% (out of 334) of Informal justice adjudicators were trained to eliminate gender-discriminatory attitudes and behaviours. They started involving women in decision-making and referred 208 various cases at the local level such as JCs and police appropriately.

A total of 56 media personnel were trained to report on gender-responsive issues, and they committed to strengthening advocacy through media coverage.

A total of 119 members of 21 GWOs played a vital role in bridging gaps between communities and justice mechanisms. They documented, monitored, and advocated for gender-responsive justice and received institutional support.

A total 502 of 389 cases (303 in phase II and 199 in phase I) were referred for legal aid counselling and court representation services by CBJAs.

A total of 56 community and school awareness events with a total of 1,940 participants were organized to sensitize people on gender discriminatory norms and to encourage help-seeking.

A total of 108 episodes (Phase I 81 and Phase II 27) of radio programmes raised awareness, 50% about justice services for GBV survivors and key legal provisions. They involved key duty bearers as discussants. The project also organized a total of 17 dialogues at three tiers of government including four community dialogues with a total of 536 participants. In Phase I, a total of 8 event of interaction meeting among the diverse justice actors were held in Sarlahi, Kailali and Doti with the participants of 194 (115 women and 79 men i.e., 47 Dalit, 45 Janajati, 50 Brahmin/ Chhetri and 50 Madheshi and 2 Muslim). In Phase II, a total of 8 high level dialogues (7 provincial and 1 national level 8 dialogues) were conducted at three tiers of government.

The project developed various knowledge products, including policies, handbooks/training manuals, and discussion guides adopted by local governments and contributed to proper documentation and case handling with the formats provided to collect case studies. GWO members documented their cases according to the provided format and kept them confidential. The handbook offered useful insights into the types of cases that JC can refer to the police and Chief District Officer (CDO). This information is crucial for understanding the referral process and ensuring appropriate actions are taken in each case. They have also understood the need to prioritize the needs of women with intersectional identities. Enabling measures funds were allocated to support participants who needed additional assistance, such as lactating mothers and provision of interpreters through enabling measures to strengthen their



capacity and skill in gender-responsive justice.

GWOs played a role in advocating for women's access to justice. Awareness of available justice services and sensitizing community members to gender discriminatory norms and behaviours, aimed to prevent discrimination and injustice.

Some of the pilot initiatives were undertaken to promote behavioural change among women, reducing biases through reflective dialogues and storytelling. Funds were allocated to support participants who needed additional assistance, such as lactating mothers and provision of interpreters through enabling measures were even effective for participation of women to raise awareness of their rights and access to justice. This encouraged women's active participation and reduced gender stereotypes.

The project focused on enhancing the skills and knowledge of justice service providers, including judicial committees, mediators, and informal justice actors, enabling them to deliver gender-responsive justice.

Outreach initiatives were conducted to increase awareness of justice services and promote help-seeking, especially among women enhanced their capacity to identify challenges in their community that are a hindrance to women's access to justice.

### Efficiency

The project demonstrated efficiency in its technical and organizational approaches, effectively mobilizing human and financial resources to ensure the timely delivery of project activities. Despite challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the project adapted by conducting activities virtually and completed all planned tasks within the project's timeframe. The disbursement of funds from UN Women to implementing partners faced some initial delays due to a new system within the UN, but project partners efficiently managed these resources, maintaining transparency and flexibility throughout the project. Human resources mobilized by the project were deemed sufficient and dedicated to achieving project results. Efficient monitoring and evaluation mechanisms contributed to decision-making and ensured project activities remained on track.

Regular follow-up mechanisms were established through LACC Nepal and district coordinators, including one-to-one meetings and periodic coordination

meetings, enhancing cost-efficiency and time effectiveness. Local partners, rooted in the communities they served, efficiently monitored project activities. Some Local Governments allocated budgets to support the development of policies, guidelines, training manuals, and knowledge products. They also placed mediators at the ward level and allocated funds for the mobilization of IJAs in the community, further contributing to project efficiency. Monitoring visits by UN Women took place twice a year, and data collected at different levels were stored in the UN Women's Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system, facilitating informed decision-making for future planning.

### Sustainability

The project contributed to the development of three policies, ensuring the institutionalization of its results. Budget allocations were made in some LGUs, demonstrating their commitment to these policies. The project created training manuals, knowledge resources, and user-friendly materials, including handbooks and educational videos, which will continue to be used by justice actors in the future. Capacity-building efforts and awareness-raising on gender-sensitive justice and women's rights were undertaken through interactions, dialogues, and peer mentoring, laying the foundation for continued learning and awareness among JCs. The project facilitated the connection between informal justice actors and local government bodies, with some LGUs allocating budgets for social justice activities and mediator training. LGUs have taken ownership of capacity-building activities, including mediator training, leading to their continuation without the project's support. Commitments were made at the high-level forum to revise the Local Government Act (LGA) to address the coordination mechanisms of JCs with other justice actors and local stakeholders.

The project aimed to encourage JCs (presumably referring to a specific group or community) to seek help and take responsibility for their actions through various community outreach activities. These activities included dialogues and radio programmes. Importantly, these efforts will continue into the future. Specifically, the project has sustained radio programmes, in Sarlahi, which are broadcast at least twice a month on Dinesh F.M. These radio programmes are provided free of charge. Additionally, the project has successfully raised awareness among community members. As a result, people from the community

still actively engage by phone or by approaching the project's focal persons to share their experiences and the impact of the project through various outreach activities and dialogues. This information was shared by the chairperson of one of the local partner organizations involved in the project. GWOs have become sustainable sources of project impact as they organized and trained their members in various areas, including GBV, women's rights, and gender-responsive justice, ensuring the continued pursuit of justice through informal and formal mechanisms. The project-supported legal advisors continues to provide free justice and counselling services to those in need, ensuring continued access to legal support. For example, one of the legal advisors, informed the evaluation that they are still actively engaged in helping and facilitating access to justice despite the formal conclusion of the project. This, they believe, represents a significant outcome in terms of sustainability. The ongoing commitment and assistance provided by these local legal advisors demonstrate the enduring impact of the project. Their continued presence and support not only empower community members but also fosters trust and cultural sensitivity in addressing legal issues. This self-sustaining effort stands as a testament to the project's success in ingraining positive change within the community, setting an example for future initiatives to follow.

### **Gender Equality and Human Rights**

The project has successfully implemented a comprehensive gender equality and human rights-based approach in all its interventions. It has prioritized women's empowerment and rights protection, ensuring representation from diverse caste groups, including Dalit, Janajati (indigenous women), Muslim, and other marginalized communities. Key strategies included capacity building, awareness-raising, group organization, and the promotion of women's collective voices. The project particularly focused on empowering women from marginalized backgrounds and fostering intersectionality among beneficiaries. The project aligns with international and national frameworks that guarantee women's timely access to justice as a fundamental right. Various activities targeted informal and formal justice actors at the grassroots level, including awareness-raising for women in the community. These efforts collectively contributed to gender-responsive justice, promoting both gender equality and human rights. During the COVID-19

pandemic, GWOs supported community women by providing essential household supplies, masks, and sanitizers, ensuring they received vital assistance during emergencies. Additionally, the project collaborated with Palikas (local government bodies) to review their annual plans and activities from a gender and inclusion perspective, as confirmed by project partners. Local representatives have expressed their commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment during meetings with project staff. These activities and commitments have collectively advanced gender equality and human rights in the project locations.

### **Best practices and Lessons Learned**

Good coordination between duty bearers and IJAs in LGUs is essential. Platforms for interaction, dialogue, and peer learning among different levels of government promote sharing and learning. The enabling measures fund has increased the participation of marginalized groups, including women, in training programmes. Activation and mobilization of the gender-based violence (GBV) elimination fund in most of the LGU, especially, in LGUs of two project districts; provision of basic allowance to the community mediators in each sitting (whether the case gets settled through mediation or not) to discourage forced mediation process because earlier allowance was provided only when the cases were mediated, allocation of gender-responsive budget by some LGUs, increase in women Informal Justice Actors in Sarlahi districts, the practice of interim protection order for the victim, referral to the safe house, police, court, and most importantly, and increased knowledge of the Judicial committee on their mandates as mentioned in the 47 (1) and (2) are the best practices captured by the dialogue series. Strong coordination with the court and capacity-building training for judicial committees have improved access to justice and justice delivery especially for women and marginalized groups. Organized events for sharing best practices among local judicial committees and mediators have been beneficial. Efforts have been made to maintain records of service seekers' data. Several LGUs have successfully activated GBV funds that were earlier not activated. Monitoring visits consider gender-sensitive facilities and accessibility. IJAs in the community have gained a better understanding of case mediation. GWO members prioritize the needs of women with intersectional identities.

## Challenges

LGUs lack dedicated legal advisors for judicial committees. A gap exists in knowledge exchange between former and new committee members. Cases remain unresolved due to absent opponents during hearings. Stringent qualifications for community mediators can exclude potential candidates. The lack of comprehensive municipal-level profiles with disaggregated data hampers policy implementation.

## Recommendations

- Continuation of legal support to judicial committees for advocacy and awareness programmes.
- Promote regular and standardized coordination among community-based justice actors.
- Strengthen coordination and best practice sharing among municipalities.
- Establish a common platform for sharing challenges and best practices among mediators and committees.
- Implement programmes to promote behavioural change among justice actors and service seekers.
- Consider offering psychosocial counselling programmes for adolescent girls.
- Address the needs of marginalized groups, including the LGBTIQ+ community. LGBTIQ+ community are still ignored and behind the mainstreaming of the project. The overall focus of the project has been seen only on women, hence in the future the project has to equally engage with people from the LGBTIQ+ community. These people are also marginalized and their issues are overlooked.
- Conduct regular reflection dialogues between GWOs and LGUs.
- Sustain support for GWOs, which play a crucial community role.
- Consider expanding programme reach within the same local government.

## 1. Country Context Analysis

Access to Justice," a fundamental<sup>1</sup> principle of the rule of law, is a basic right for every citizen. Justice is an indispensable need for every individual, and no one can be denied or obstructed from seeking justice or exercising their rights in pursuit of it. The law emphasizes the right to equal access to justice for all citizens, including vulnerable and marginalized groups. Every nation should provide justice impartially and without discrimination. Access to justice encompasses legal awareness, legal protection, adjudication, legal aid, enforcement, and civil society oversight. It promotes peace by directing citizens toward remedies for resolving personal and political issues and disputes. It is of paramount importance for all branches of the state to continue their efforts to make the dispute-resolution process easy, affordable, prompt, and accessible to every citizen, especially those who face obstacles due to physical, mental, social, or financial reasons.

The Constitution of Nepal, in Article 20, guarantees justice as a fundamental right for its people. To ensure effective and efficient access to justice for its citizens, Nepal has embraced various national and international laws, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPPED), to uphold equal and impartial justice for everyone.

In the post-conflict era of Nepal, following a decade-long armed conflict between the Government of Nepal and the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist), transitional justice mechanisms were introduced to provide access to justice for conflict victims. Two separate commissions, namely the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and the Commission of Investigation on Enforced Disappeared Persons (CIEDP), were established to record complaints from conflict victims. Acts and rules, such as the TRC Act and Rules and CIEDP Rules, were enacted to facilitate access to transitional justice. However, despite the establishment of these commissions and laws aimed at helping conflict victims, justice has yet to be served. Similarly, ensuring women's access<sup>2</sup> to justice is not

only essential for protecting, realizing, and promoting women's human rights in line with Nepal's 2015 Constitution but also crucial for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly SDGs 5 and 16, which are committed to LNOB.

Nepal envisions itself as a secular, inclusive, and federal<sup>3</sup> democratic republic, as enshrined in the 2015 Constitution. This vision calls for an end to discrimination based on class, caste, region, language, religion, and gender, and seeks to create an egalitarian society based on principles of proportional inclusion and participation, ensuring equitable economic prosperity and social justice. The Constitution marks a significant reform, transitioning the country from a unitary to a federal system of governance with seven provinces and 753 municipalities. This reform<sup>4</sup> also led to a profound shift in the justice system, with the creation of Judicial Committees in all 753 local governments to increase access to justice and bridge the gap between formal and informal justice systems. Each Judicial is a three-member<sup>5</sup> committee headed by the Deputy Mayor or Vice-Chair<sup>6</sup> serving as a coordinator. The other two members are elected by the Village Assembly or Municipal Assembly from among themselves. The Judicial Committee has a dual<sup>7</sup> mandate within its jurisdiction: it can directly adjudicate certain cases and refer others to mediation,

1 <https://fwld.org/core-areas/access-to-justice/>

2 Mapping of access to justice for women in Nepal

3 United Nations Country Team Nepal (2018), United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2018-2022, at page 15.

4 The 753 local units include 6 metropolis, 11 sub metropolis, 276 urban municipalities, 460 rural municipalities, and 6743 wards.

5 Article 127 (2) of the Constitution provides the basis for the creation of judicial committees by stating that "judicial bodies may be formed at the local level to try cases under law or other bodies as required may be formed to pursue alternative dispute settlement methods." In line with this, the Local Government Operation Act (2017) provides the statutory framework for the Judicial Committee.

6 The terms 'Mayor' and 'Deputy Mayor' are used in urban municipalities while the terms 'Chair' and 'Vice Chair' are used in rural municipalities. For the purpose of easy reference, the terms 'Mayor' and 'Deputy Mayor' will be used throughout this report

7 According to Article 47 of the Local Government Operation Act, the Judicial s have the mandate to

with a preference<sup>1</sup> for reconciliation through mediation at each stage. For cases beyond its jurisdiction, the Judicial Committee must refer them to the District Court. These Judicial Committees serve as a key mechanism aimed at bringing justice closer to the people. The 2017<sup>2</sup> elections resulted in a historic number of women entering public office at all three levels of government, with 93 per cent of deputy mayors or vice-chairs being women, leading to 700 out of 753 women-led Judicial Committees. This presents an opportunity to enhance women's access to justice, especially in rural areas where access to courts has been limited.

With the successful completion of local, provincial, and federal elections in 2017, Nepal transitioned its governance structure from a unitary to a federal system, with a division of power between federal, provincial, and local levels. To bring justice closer to the people, especially marginalized and vulnerable groups, 753 Judicial Committees were established at the local level, one in each municipality/rural municipality, with mandates for adjudication and mediation in accordance with the Constitution and the Local Government Operation Act of 2017. It is crucial to ensure that this new mechanism at the local level functions effectively and integrates within Nepal's broader justice system, bridging the gap between local demand for justice and government institutions. Since 2015, the country has embarked on significant legal reforms, including revisions to the Civil Code and Penal Code that came into effect in August 2018. These restructuring and reforms are also guided by the recent Concluding<sup>3</sup> Observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW Committee) and the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its Causes and Consequences, in 2018.

In this context, there was a historic opportunity to empower women, particularly from excluded and vulnerable groups, as rights holders and to maximize the emancipatory and transformative potential of the law. Since June 2018, UN Women, ICJ, and the Office of the

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights have jointly implemented a five-year programme titled *"Enhancing Access to Justice for Women in Asia and the Pacific."*

## 1.2 Project Background

Bridging the gap between formal and informal systems through women's empowerment project was implemented at the regional level, with an initial focus on Indonesia, Philippines, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste and activities in the Pacific. The project aim was to enhance access to justice for women in formal and informal systems by: (a) ensuring that laws and court decisions are consistent with international standards and human rights mechanisms, including CEDAW; (b) combatting gender-discriminatory attitudes in the justice system; and (c) empowering grassroots women's organizations to better document and monitor cases, and to liaise with justice providers in their communities. UN Women Asia Pacific, in close consultation and collaboration with the Government of Nepal and civil society, had conducted a mapping of women's access to justice. After assessing the trends of women in accessing justice, the report identified the possible barriers at different steps that prevent women from seeking remedies for their rights. It recognizes governmental and non-governmental efforts to enhance women's access to justice and identified some areas that could be entry points for the new project by UN Women Nepal. Therefore, mapping ensured that the new programme would be tailored to the needs in the new federal context and normative framework, and in line with work by other stakeholders on access to justice for women in Nepal.

## 1.3 Purpose and Scope

The purpose of the evaluation was to provide insights into what aspects of the joint approach to gender-responsive, people-centred justice worked effectively and what areas could be improved. It also served as a means of accountability and contributed to the decision-making process regarding potential future phases of the project. Although the decision on future project phases has not been finalized, the evaluation served as a valuable tool in this decision-making process. Additionally, the evaluation assessed the coordination role of UN Women and the nature of the partnership with ICJ and OHCHR, as well as the extent to which the project aligned with the a fundamental

1 Article 49 (2), Local Government Operation Act, 2017

2 Article 38 (4) of the Constitution states that women shall have the right to participate in all state structures based on the principle of proportional inclusion. In line with this, the Local Election Act, 2017 made provision for every ward in all the 753 municipalities to reserve two seats for women, one of which was to be held by a Dalit woman.

3 CEDAW Committee (2015), General Recommendation 33 on women's access to justice, para 2.

component of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs.

The primary objective of the joint evaluation was to evaluate the progress achieved during the project period towards the intended outcome, *“Enhanced utilization of gender-responsive and people-centred approaches in central and community-based justice mechanisms in Asia and the Pacific, that enabled and empowered women, in all their diversity, to equally access justice for the realization of their rights.”* These approaches were intended to enable and empower women, representing diverse backgrounds, to access justice equally for the realization of their rights. The evaluation also assessed the relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, and the project’s alignment with human rights and gender equality principles. It included an examination of how the project engaged women from vulnerable groups, with a specific focus on disability inclusion. Furthermore, the evaluation analysed how the project integrated recommendations and lessons learned from the Mid-Term Review (MTR) into its implementation. Lastly, it offered insights and actionable recommendations for potential future iterations of the project or for programmes related to women’s access to justice.

In summary, the joint evaluation had the following key objectives:

- (i) Assessed the relevance of the programme to stakeholders, including rights holders, in terms of programme design and implementation.
- (ii) Evaluated the effectiveness and efficiency of the approaches used to achieve intended results, as well

<sup>1</sup> The Outcome statement was updated by the project partners (UN Women, OHCHR and ICJ), in accordance with the recommendation of the Mid-Term Review.

as any potential unintended consequences, whether positive or negative.

(iii) Assessed the potential for sustainability and the integration of human rights and gender equality principles in both the design and implementation of the project.

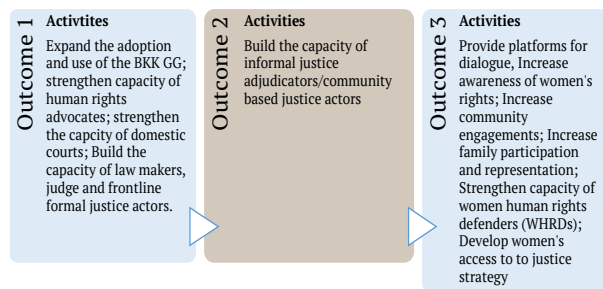
(iv) Produced lessons learned and actionable recommendations to guide potential future iterations of the project or similar programming in the thematic area of women’s access to justice.

The evaluation scope encompassed an assessment of the Women’s Access to Justice (WA2J) project’s progress based on its reconstructed Theory of Change (ToC) and the results achieved from May 2018 to May 2023. The evaluation served a dual purpose, offering a summative assessment of the project’s results and providing formative insights with actionable recommendations to inform potential future programming related to women’s access to justice.

In Nepal, the project was implemented in two phases: 2018-2021 and 2022-2023, covering 14 Local Government Units (LGUs) across three districts: Sarlahi, Doti, and Kailali in the Madhes and Sudurpaschim Province, respectively. The first phase involved 10 LGUs, while the second phase included 11 LGUs. However, as planned during the development of the second phase, Sarlahi and Kailali were covered, and four new LGUs were added in Sarlahi and Kailali. The primary implementing partner of the A2J project was the Legal Aid and Consultancy Centre (LACC) Nepal, in collaboration with community-based implementing partners, including the Village Community Development Centre (VCDC), Dalit Women’s Relief Forum (DWRF), and Equality Development Centre (EDC).

SN	District	Name of Municipality	No.	Phase
1	Doti	Dipayal Silgadhi Municipality, Shikhar Municipality, Badikedar Municipality	3	1 <sup>st</sup> Phase
2	Kailali	Bhajani Municipality, Kailari Rural Municipality, Dhangadi Sub-metropolitan City, Godawari Municipality, Gauriganga Municipality	3+2	2 <sup>nd</sup> Phase
3	Sarlahi	Bharathawa Municipality, Bagmati Municipality, Hariipurwa Municipality, Chandranagar Rural Municipality, Bharahmpuri Rural Municipality, Parsa Rural Municipality	5+1	2 <sup>nd</sup> Phase

In the initial phase, there were a total of 4 outcome-level indicators and 12 output-level indicators for the regional project. However, following the recommendations of the Mid-Term Review (MTR) conducted in 2022, the Theory of Change (ToC) was revised, and following the evaluability assessment undertaken as part of the final evaluation of the regional project, the results framework was reconstructed, resulting in 3 outcomes and 7 outputs, with the following associated activities



Source: Reconstructed ToC, Inception Report, May 2023:

#### 1.4 Limitations of the assignment

The project concluded in May 2023, making it challenging to conduct in-person interviews with relevant stakeholders in the field. As a result, a purposive sampling method was employed to select respondents for interviews.

Additionally, the project area was located in remote and disaster-prone regions, such as areas susceptible to floods and landslides. Due to these conditions, the original plan to collect data through physical presence in the field was abandoned in favour of conducting virtual/online data collection.

Conducting interviews online introduced certain limitations. Firstly, arranging interviews became more challenging in the virtual environment. Secondly, establishing rapport, which is typically facilitated by in-person interactions, presented difficulties in online interviews. To partially mitigate these limitations, the consultant ensured to interview organizations and other relevant stakeholders who have direct engagement with the beneficiaries. This approach aimed to solicit their feedback and insights, helping to compensate for the challenges associated with online interviews.

## 2. Methodology

### 2.1 Study approach

The evaluation employed a mixed-method approach, combining both quantitative and qualitative data collection methods. Quantitative data were gathered through a comprehensive desk study, involving the extraction of disaggregated data from secondary sources. Qualitative data were collected through 15 Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), 1 Focus Group Discussion (FGD), and 2 case studies involving service seekers. These qualitative interviews were conducted over the phone and via Zoom, with respondents representing both the Kailali and Sarlahi districts. There were total 21 stakeholders, out of which 15 were female and six were male interviewed.

The review process extended to encompass all project-related documents stored in the shared folder, as well as other relevant documents accessible through web-pages and other sources. The findings from the final evaluation of the country programme and regional MTR were also cross-referenced at the community level to identify changes and assess the project's impact.

The evaluation adhered to the OECD-DAC evaluation criteria to carry out its assessment. Specifically, tools and checklists were designed for KIIs, FGDs, and case studies to gather information on several key aspects, including: Relevance, Coherence, Efficiency, Effectiveness, Impact, Sustainability cross-cutting issues such as gender equality and human rights.

Furthermore, the evaluation aimed to explore the influence of changes in domestic laws to align them with international human rights law and standards, including the CEDAW. It assessed the capacity of domestic courts to apply relevant international human rights law and standards, particularly through the introduction of the BKKGG. Additionally, it evaluated the capacity of judges and frontline formal justice actors to eliminate gender stereotyping and incorporate a gender perspective into their judicial decisions. The evaluation also assessed the capacity of women's human rights advocates to influence policy and legislative discussions related to the reform of laws that explicitly discriminate against women. Finally, the evaluation sought to identify underlying power dynamics, institutional structures, barriers to gender justice, and the role of Judicial Committees and other informal actors in providing justice to women in the project districts.

### 3. Findings

#### 3.1 Relevance

##### Finding 1

**WA2J project is highly relevant and closely aligned with the priorities of Nepal's country context, national plan, international commitments, and SDGs.**

GBV remains a significant and persistent issue in Nepal, as evidenced by the National Demographic and Health Survey of 2016. The survey found that 22.0% of women aged 15–49 years had experienced physical violence since the age of 15, with this rate remaining unchanged since 2011. Among ever-married women<sup>2</sup> this figure was even higher at 26.0%. Moreover, there has been a substantial increase in reported cases of rape and attempted rape, with 2,230 cases of rape and 786 cases of attempted rape reported during 2018–2019<sup>3</sup>, which is approximately six times the number reported in 2008. Additionally, women and girls in Nepal face various forms of violence, including sexual abuse, child marriage, trafficking, acid attacks, offenses related to menstrual taboos, allegations of witchcraft, and mental violence. These issues are exacerbated by patriarchal attitudes, traditional beliefs, deeply rooted gender-based stereotypes, and women's greater economic dependency on men.

The Women's Access to Justice project has effectively addressed these pressing issues within the context of Nepal. The selection of project implementation areas in the Madhesh and Sudurpachim provinces, where GBV prevalence rates are notably high at 34.2% and 17.4%, respectively, compared to other provinces, demonstrates a clear alignment with areas in dire need of intervention.

Furthermore, the Constitution of Nepal reflects a strong commitment to ending gender discrimination and ensuring the equal rights of women. It guarantees rights such as equal access to property, the right to safe motherhood, reproductive health rights, proportional representation at all levels of government, and fundamental human rights for all women. Similarly, the 15th Strategic Plan (2018-2023) of the Government

1 Government of Nepal, Ministry of Health. 2017. Nepal Demographic and Health Survey 2016. Kathmandu  
 2 Ever married women means persons who have been married at least once in their lives although their current marital status may not be married."  
 3 Government of Nepal, Nepal Police. Women, Children and Senior Citizen Service Directorate

of Nepal has made addressing GBV a priority within its national goals, targets, and indicators, aiming for a society free from discrimination, violence, and crime.

S.N.	National goals, targets and indicators	FY 2018/19	FY 2023/24
1	Gender Development Index	0.897	0.963
2	Gender Inequality Index	0.476	0.39
3	Women suffering from physical, psychological or sexual violence in their time	24.4%	13%
4	The ratio of investigation to registered incidents of crimes including, gender violence	88.9	100

Source: Reconstructed ToC, Inception Report, May 2023:

Similarly, the project's outcomes, outputs, and activity indicators are well-aligned with SDGs 5<sup>4</sup>, 10<sup>5</sup>, and 16<sup>6</sup>, and they are highly relevant to the project's objective of achieving gender-responsive and people-centred justice within communities. Moreover, the project has effectively addressed international commitments and global priorities, such as the CEDAW, the Beijing Declaration<sup>7</sup> and Platform for Action, to ensure access to justice for marginalized individuals and communities. The government of the state has acknowledged that gender-based violence is a significant obstacle to achieving equality and empowerment. To address this issue, they have put in place various policies, plans, and programs.

One important step is the implementation of the Code<sup>8</sup> of Conduct for Sexual Harassment (2074/2017) to prevent violence against women and girls. Over the past 15<sup>9</sup> years, there has been a notable increase in funding dedicated to gender-related initiatives. Direct gender-responsive budgeting has risen from 11.03% in 2007-08 to 40.25% in 2022-23. Similarly, indirect gender-responsive budgeting has been consistently increasing and reached over 48% of the total budget in 2016-17. For the next fiscal year (2023), indirect gender-responsive budgeting is set at 34.95%.

4 Gender Equality  
 5 Reduced Inequalities  
 6 Peace Justice and Strong Institutions  
 7 The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA) defines 12 areas of concern that must be addressed to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women. UN Member States adopted the BPfA at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995  
 8 15th Strategic plan, English version Pdf Pg.17  
 9 [https://kathmandupost.com/national/2022/07/06\\_gender-responsive-budgeting-good-on-paper-poor-in-implementation](https://kathmandupost.com/national/2022/07/06_gender-responsive-budgeting-good-on-paper-poor-in-implementation)



Moreover, the Gender Equality Policy (2020), developed by the Ministry of Women, Children, and Senior Citizens, has been put into action at the local and provincial government levels. This policy emphasizes the economic empowerment of women, their meaningful participation in all aspects of society, and the elimination of gender-based violence and harmful practices.

There's also the Social Inclusion Policy, currently being considered by Parliament and led by the Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration. This policy aims to empower marginalized populations by improving their access to existing resources and development opportunities.

These policies are closely linked to the Access to Justice project, and the beneficiaries, women and girls, benefit from them. For example, if victims file cases related to violence in family or public places, the Code of Conduct for Sexual Harassment comes into play. Additionally, the allocation of gender-responsive budgets at the local government level is one of the outcomes of the project's efforts. Likewise, the Gender Equality Policy and Social Inclusion Policy, which have been adopted by local governments, are actively being implemented to tackle the challenges faced by women and marginalized communities. Furthermore, the project's objective is in alignment with the UNDAF<sup>1</sup> for 2018-2022. Specifically, it falls under the governance, rule of law, and human rights outcome, where the focus is on strengthening inclusive, democratic, accountable, and transparent institutions to uphold the rule of law, social justice, and human rights for all, with a particular emphasis on vulnerable populations. Moreover, the Fourteenth Plan of the Government of Nepal (GoN) seeks to enhance access to justice for vulnerable groups through judicial reform, integrity, law reform, and local legal empowerment. These objectives are fully in line with the core principle of the SDGs to LNOB.

## Finding 2

**The project was thoughtfully designed with a clear focus on its theory of change (ToC), and its outputs effectively contributed to its overarching objective.**

Women and marginalized<sup>2</sup> groups often face distinct challenges within the justice system due to unique

social and institutional barriers. These barriers encompass biases within justice institutions, social stigmatization, the psychological trauma associated with making claims, and a lack of gender-sensitive procedures. Despite recent expansions of women's legal entitlements in various national contexts, discriminatory laws and gaps in legal frameworks remain significant global challenges. Consequently, the design of Project A2J/WA2J was well-conceived and highly relevant in addressing the prevalent issues in gender-responsive and people-centred justice through its designed outcomes.

The imperative to build capacity to eliminate gender-discriminatory attitudes and stereotypical behaviours towards women was effectively implemented with judges and extended to all stakeholders in the justice chain, including law enforcement personnel. This was particularly crucial for frontline formal justice officials, such as police, prosecutors, and personnel in the courts of first instance, as they constitute the initial point of contact for women seeking justice. These officials require a deeper understanding of the root causes of gender-based discriminatory attitudes to establish more gender-responsive justice institutions.

Additionally, at the project's inception, judicial committees within LGUs were introduced during the initial phase of LGUs' transition under the Local Government Operation Act (LGOA) of 2017. At this time, there was confusion regarding the roles and responsibilities, particularly among deputy mayors who were designated as judicial actors by the local government act across all 753 LGUs. The transition from a historically unitary and centralized governance system to a federal system in 2017 necessitated a reconfiguration of state power, shared across three tiers of government—local, provincial, and federal. In this context, the project successfully bolstered the newly established justice delivery mechanism in all 753 LGUs, known as 'judicial committees designed to bring justice closer to the community. Remarkably, during the project period, approximately 93<sup>3</sup> percent of JC leaders were women.

Furthermore, after extensive assessments, interactions, and discussions with various development partners in Nepal, it was evident that UN Women strategically engaged community justice actors<sup>4</sup>,

1 UNDAF 2018-2022

2 Inception Report, May 2023

3 Final Review Report, 2022 A2J project Nepal

4 Community based justice actors focused by the project primarily includes judicial committees, mediators, informal justice actors

specifically Judicial Committee Members, to play a responsible role in delivering justice to the community. GWOs and informal justice actors, operating at the grassroots/community level, had direct connections and access to women and marginalized groups within their communities. They played a pivotal role in identifying real issues, advocating for rights, and facilitating access to justice. The project's main interventions, including capacity-building training, dialogues, awareness campaigns, an enabling measures fund, effectively contributed to achieving the project's overarching objective in aligned with the Theory of Change.

### **Finding 3**

**The project has played a significant role in complementing and creating synergies among project partners, relevant stakeholders, and other development partners concerning gender-responsive, people-centred justice.**

From the very outset of the project, both the ICJ and UN Women conducted an assessment of Nepal's Local Judicial Committees. In alignment with this, UN Women conducted a capacity assessment of selected Local Judicial Committees and developed training materials on gender equality and women's rights. Both organizations concluded that Local Judicial Committees faced severe capacity gaps in their understanding of both legal frameworks and women's rights, and identified that the structure of these Committees could impact their impartiality. UN Women also provided support for the National<sup>1</sup> Conference of Women Lawyers, which was organized by the Nepal Bar Association. Over 550 participants increased their knowledge<sup>2</sup> in four main thematic areas: (i) Feminist Jurisprudence and Violence Against Women, (ii) Judicial Committees and Women's Participation in Elections, (iii) Constitution and Law, and (iv) Pro-bono and Legal Aid. During these sessions, 33 papers were presented by women lawyers.

UN Women's support for gender-sensitive justice complemented the work of the LGUs and made the entire procedure and system more gender-sensitive through developing policies and procedures for women access to justice. No duplication of efforts was observed. It's worth noting that the Access to Justice (A2J) project marked the first-ever project implemented by UN

Women in Nepal. Additionally, UNDP and the GoN have also implemented similar projects, albeit in different communities and districts. The Provincial and Local Governance Support Project (PLGSP) by the Government of Nepal, with technical assistance from UNDP, is operating together in 753 Local Government Units (LGUs) across various districts. The components of PLGSP also partly complement the Access to Justice (A2J) project.

Furthermore, there was a joint initiative reflective dialogues which were part of the UNDP/UNW project and linked to the A2J project (*detailed in Finding 11*). In this initiative, UN Women and the LACC began a programme to promote behavioural change among GWOs. This effort was designed to complement the goals of the A2J project. Therefore, this collaborative approach is crucial to achieving the desired long-term goals of reducing gender-discriminatory attitudes and promoting gender-responsive, people-centred justice in Nepal.

UN Women and other community-based organizations have additional donor projects within their organizations. However, these projects supplement and complement each other as part of knowledge management and also aim to avoid duplications. Some projects implemented by other development partners in the same area have synergies and complement each other in addressing gender-sensitive issues. UNDP and UN Women jointly initiated a behavioural change pilot project for grassroots women's organizations through reflective dialogue.

While there was good communication and coordination with the project focal points of ICJ and UN Women Nepal, discussions primarily took place at the individual level among them.

Regional office could have played a more active role in coordinating among the two offices at the country level for providing overall regional level strategic guidance. However, regional office did play some role at the country level.

### **Finding 4**

**Project activities were affected during the COVID-19 pandemic; however, preventive measures were implemented by LGUs, GWOs, and online legal advisors to adapt to the evolving context.**

<sup>1</sup> SIDA Progress Report 2019

<sup>2</sup> A2J SIDA Progress Report 2019

During the COVID-19 pandemic, when a nationwide lockdown was in effect, only a limited number of activities could be conducted. Physical meetings were not possible, but a few were held via Zoom. Relief items, hygienic kits, and nutritious food for pregnant women were distributed to women in deprived communities by the project partners and GWOs in the field. Service seekers were made aware of radio programmes and utilized online legal aid services and counselling during the pandemic. Regular follow-ups were conducted to monitor the progress and updates of the project with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and their partners. GWOs were used cell phones to reach women in the community, facilitating their access to justice.

The COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on project activities, but proactive measures were taken to adapt to the challenging circumstances and continue providing support to the target communities.

### 3.2 Effectiveness

#### Finding 5

**Overall, the project demonstrated a high level of effectiveness in terms of generating demand among service seekers and ensuring that justice delivery was both accountable and gender-sensitive, with a focus on addressing women's concerns at the core. The project successfully bridged the gap between formal and informal justice actors by enhancing the capabilities of all relevant stakeholders. This capacity-building effort empowered CBJAs, including Judicial Committees and their key staffs, mediators, and informal justice actors, such as those involved in indigenous and traditional systems like Bhalmansa<sup>1</sup> and Panchayati.**

The support for capacity building encompassed practical skill-based training for justice service providers, technical legal advisory assistance, ongoing guidance, and platforms for sharing and learning among justice actors. It also facilitated interactions among key justice service providers, including the police, lawyers, and the court system, with the aim of

enhancing access to justice. Additionally, the project played a pivotal role in empowering rights holders through outreach initiatives that improved the accessibility of community-based justice services and encouraged help-seeking behaviours.

These community outreach activities included engagements within the community, dialogues, and radio programmes focused on promoting access to justice. Furthermore, grassroots women's organizations were actively involved in advocating for women's access to justice and holding service providers accountable. The project significantly strengthened the capacity of IJAs in referring cases to other relevant service providers through training, interactions, and technical support. As a result, community members became more aware of available justice services, pathways for seeking help, and the need to challenge gender discriminatory norms and behaviours to prevent injustice and discrimination.

Respondents shared that the project's training and awareness-raising activities led both formal and informal justice actors to adopt gender-sensitive approaches and language when delivering justice and mediating cases. These actors also became more open to women's representation and participation in local committees, resulting in a more gender-sensitive decision-making process that prioritized women's concerns.

The initiation of a pilot project on behavioural change among women, aimed at reducing biases through reflective dialogue and storytelling, was embraced by grassroots women's organizations. This initiative, along with other measures designed to boost women's self-esteem and active participation in training programmes, helped break down gender stereotypes and reduce barriers.

The evaluation was informed by stakeholders that frontline formal justice actors, including high and trial court judges, lawyers, judicial committees, and the police, gradually shifted their mindsets and behaviours toward women seeking justice. They adapted their language to be more inclusive and accommodating of women seeking services. Collaborative efforts, such as dialogues and workshops organized by ICJ on the BGG in partnership with national organizations like the National Judicial Academy, Nepal Bar Association, Women Lawyers Committee of Nepal Bar Supreme Court, and SAARC Law Nepal, played a pivotal role

<sup>1</sup> Bhalmansa in the Tharu Community is elected by the community for running the community smoothly. Similarly, Panchabhaladmi is a group of community leaders who are respected and are trusted for resolving the community issues are similar to Bhalmansas. Both the Panchabhaladmi and the Bhalmansa settle various disputes, and complaints related to property sharing, and family issues among others. Further, s/he carries out various development activities taking the consent of locals.

in sensitizing these actors to gender discriminatory attitudes and gender stereotypes, ultimately enhancing women's access to justice.

### **Finding 6**

**The project undertook various advocacy efforts through meetings, workshops, webinars, and the development of briefing papers and bilateral briefings. These efforts were aimed at promoting domestic laws and enhancing the capacity of high-level and frontline formal justice actors to eliminate gender-discriminatory attitudes and behaviours towards women. These initiatives were aligned with the BGG, along with a commitment to integrate these Guidance into the court system in accordance with international human rights standards, including the CEDAW.**

Specifically, the ICJ engaged in bilateral briefing meetings with meetings with the Law Minister and relevant committees (details attached in Annex 4: Target Vs Achievement ICJ) to discuss the amendment process of Nepal's transitional justice Act. These discussions addressed issues concerning women conflict victims, victims of torture, and sexual and gender-based violence that still needed government attention. Six<sup>1</sup> bilateral briefing meetings were conducted in Nepal to discuss the briefing paper on Transitional Justice Mechanisms from a Gender Perspective. These meetings involved representatives from various ministries, members of parliament, and policymakers, including the Ministry of Law, Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs (MoLJPA); the Legislative Committee of the National Assembly; the Law, Justice, and Human Rights Committee of the House of Representatives; the Human Rights and International Treaties Directorate of the Office of the Prime Minister; and the Council of Ministers, with the participation of two parliamentarians.

As part of International advocacy, ICJ also submitted<sup>2</sup> a report to the CEDAW Committee, to urge the government of Nepal to take necessary steps to comply with its obligation under the CEDAW and other relevant international laws. The report addressed the absence of transitional justice processes addressing women's human rights violations committed during the conflict.

1 SIDA (2021) progress report

2 SIDA (2019) progress report(<https://www.icj.org/nepal-icj-submits-report-to-cedaw-committee-on-the-transitional-justice-processes-failure-to-address-womens-human-rights/>)

Additionally UN Women engaged in various forms of advocacy<sup>3</sup>, such as creating a video on the role of local judicial committees in Nepal, establishing a website for the exhibition "We for Us," and developing webpages<sup>4</sup> addressing access to justice for women with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, among others. Webinars were conducted to enhance access to justice for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence, with 80 participants advocating for amending transitional justice legislation to incorporate a gender perspective. Further Advocacy briefing meetings was conducted with 62 parliamentarians (25 Male; 37 Female). ICJ attended pre consultation and consultation meetings in different provinces of Nepal, which was organized by GoN.

The BGG<sup>5</sup> was instrumental in making judges aware of the need to consider evidence without relying on gender stereotypes and to base their decisions on principles of equality as recognized under international human rights standards, including CEDAW. For example, language used to and behaviour showed by judges, lawyer towards women who approach for access to justice has been gradually changed. Efforts to expand and adopt the Bangkok General Guidance are underway in Nepal. The Supreme Court of Nepal has incorporated major content of the BGG into the strategic planning of the Nepalese judiciary (through mid-term review of strategic planning). The judges shared that they are discussing how they can include major provisions of the BGG into the court regulations, so that gender sensitivity and gender-responsive justice is delivered by all tiers of court. The role of the ICJ in Nepal primarily involves advocating for policy reviews and reforms. They have successfully incorporated most of the major content of the BGG (possibly referring to a policy or guideline) into their work. However, there are still some aspects that are currently in the process of being integrated. Unfortunately, the progress has been delayed due to various factors. One significant factor is the frequent changes in government leadership, which can disrupt the reform process.

3 SIDA (2021) Progress report

4 <https://www.icj.org/nepal-experts-affirm-the-need-for-reform-of-transitional-justice-legislation-to-ensure-the-right-to-an-effective-remedy-to-all-victims-and-survivors-particularly-women/>

5 <https://www.icj.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Southeast-Asia-Bangkok-Guidance-Advocacy-2016-ENG.pdf>

Additionally, there have been challenges within the jurisdiction system of the Supreme Court, including political influence and games, which occurred in Nepal last year. These factors have contributed to the slowdown in the necessary progress, as highlighted in an interview with the ICJ Focal Person.

The National Judicial Academy included the Guidance in its curriculum and disseminated them throughout the court system. They are also discussing how they can fully incorporate it into specific trainings. Advocacy, dialogues, and training sessions helped judges recognize their stereotypical behaviours and usage of certain words with women. A National Judicial Dialogue empowered 16 judges<sup>1</sup> to address women's rights in court, including cases related to sexual and gender-based violence during and post-COVID-19.

Various institutions, including the Nepal Bar Association, the Women Lawyers Committee of the Supreme Court, Bar Association, National Judicial Academy, and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation in Law (SAARC Law), took part in these initiatives. The effort included disaggregated data on participants' gender. Positive changes have been observed, including enhanced access to justice for women. These improvements encompass the provision of separate restrooms, the continuation of free legal aid, and the availability of counselling services, all of which were in place prior to the implementation of this project. These positive impacts are evident and can serve as a valuable influence on the success of this project. For instance, judges, previously biased by stereotypical thinking, began analysing cases through a gender equality lens. Nevertheless, there remains a need, as suggested by the National Judicial Academy, for nationwide gender sensitization and responsive programmes at all levels of the judiciary to further reduce gender stereotypes.

Institution	Target Group	Male	Female	Total
Nepal Bar Association	Lawyers	52	90	142
Training/Workshop	Judicial members of Koshi Province	11	19	30
Women Lawyers Committee of the Supreme Court Bar Association	Legal Aid Providers	4	40	44
National Judicial Academy	Trial court judges (90) High court judges (14)	95	11	104
South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation in Law (SAARC Law)	Legal professionals, lawyers, judicial committee officials and members of CSOs	48		

1 SIDA (2020) Progress report

Furthermore, during judicial dialogues, discussions revolved around the BGG and strategies to incorporate it into the Nepalese context. These strategies included the creation of women-friendly infrastructure, such as a women's "help desk" and toll-free complaint registration numbers, along with efforts to improve the accessibility and effectiveness of legal aid services. These discussions led to a commitment from the judges to internalize the BGG within the Nepalese context.

### Finding 7

**The project significantly enhanced the capacity of CBJAs to eradicate gender discriminatory attitudes and behaviours towards women. This achievement was made possible through comprehensive capacity-building training, dialogues, mentoring, interaction, and the formulation of policies and procedures for CBJAs within LGUs.**

The project's interventions yielded tangible outcomes that facilitated women's access to justice. Evidence clearly demonstrated that capacity building played a pivotal role in transforming the mindset of JCMs, mediators, IJAs, and other justice providers. They began adopting gender-sensitive language and a more responsive approach when handling cases involving women.

This positive shift was reaffirmed by both survivors and justice providers during their interactions.

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**"As a result, the majority of workshop participants expressed that the workshop significantly increased their understanding of how to avoid gender stereotyping and discrimination when interacting with service seekers/justice seekers and within the courts. Some participants also noted that they acquired valuable insights into the CEDAW process, including the preparation of shadow reports."**

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One implementing partner noted, "*CBJAs have earned the trust of justice seekers without bias when approached.*" Furthermore, both formal and informal justice actors became more attuned to women's cases, leading to increased engagement by women seeking justice and, consequently, a higher rate of case resolutions.

Notably, some LGUs allocated budget resources for training mediators and JC members, indicating the project's positive impact at the local level. The evidence also highlighted that IJAs had begun utilizing referral mechanisms, and capacity-building activities had substantially strengthened coordination among service providers as they established connections with one another.

CBJA	Male	Female	Khas/Arya	Dalit	Janjati	Madhesi	Total
JC and Key Staff	57	44	18	4	17	16	101
Ward Representatives	44	56	11	29	27	33	100
Mediators	225	258	38	23	49	48	483
IJA	220	223	9	4	63	33	443
Total							1127

Source: Progress report Phase 1 & 2, WA2J, UN Women

As a result of the capacity-building training for JC members and key staff, community-based justice actors have become adept at recognizing the necessity for laws and policies that promote gender-responsive justice delivery. Specifically, they identified the need to develop or revise three key policies and procedures: Mediation Procedures in 11 LGUs. Amendments to the GEDSI Policy in 2 LGUs (Gauriganga Municipality and Dhangadhi Sub-Metropolitan City). Procedural law for Judicial Committees in 2 LGUs (Gauriganga Municipality and Dhangadhi Sub-Metropolitan City), which has received endorsement.

A total of 48 dialogue<sup>1</sup> (36 dialogues with 604 participants in phase I while 12 dialogues with 392 participants in phase II) interaction events among and between judicial committees, mediators, and informal justice actors including representatives of the district court, mayors, police, lawyers and WHRDs had facilitated dialogue among 996 frontline justice actors. These platforms facilitated dialogue, coordination, and cooperation among various justice actors, enabling to challenges, share best practices, and improve access to justice. A significant outcome of these discussions was the recognition of the concerns faced by victims of GBV and domestic violence who were reluctant to come forward and lacked trust in the justice system. In response, justice actors publicly pledged to prioritize GBV cases, create a supportive environment for victims, and ensure smoother case processing for

gender-responsive justice. This shift in attitude among towards GBV resulted in several noteworthy changes:

**Increased Priority:** JCs now prioritize GBV cases by referring them to the district court and the police.

**GBV elimination Fund Guidelines:** 21 local units have developed guidelines for GBV elimination funds, with one local unit actively utilizing these funds to support GBV survivors.

**Awareness Campaigns:** JCs initiated community-wide awareness campaigns to prevent GBV, demonstrating their newfound awareness of the significance of addressing GBV, which was not previously considered a major concern.

A total of 12<sup>2</sup> interaction events were conducted to sensitize the participants on the importance of the independence and impartiality of JCs/mediators for enabling access to justice for all, particularly for women and excluded groups with a total of 436 participants.

Male	Female	Dalit	Janjati	Khas/Arya	Madhesi	Muslim	Duty Bearers	Total
100	336	76	100	115	139	6	134	436

Source: Progress report Phase 1 & 2, WA2J, UN Women

The second phase of the project, a peer learning approach was introduced to enhance the capacity of JC members through mentoring support provided by former JC members. The mentors found the mentoring programme to be effective and timely, as it provided a platform for former JC members to orient newly elected committee members on the concept of Gender Responsive Justice and share their experiences and lessons in this regard. During these mentoring sessions, several good practices related to GRJ were shared. These included activating the GBV fund to facilitate access to justice and providing communication costs for mediators, irrespective of the outcome of the mediation process. These practices were well-received by the mentees.

JC	M	F	Khas/Arya	Dalit	Janjati	Madhesi	Total
	7	5	4	1	7	0	12
	12	6	-	2	4	12	18
	23	27	13	9	10	18	50
Total	42	38	17	12	21	30	80

Source: Progress Report phase 2 WA2J UN Women

1 Project Completion Report 2021

2 Project Completion Report 2021

“If all of the municipalities in the Kailali area gathered together on one platform and shared their issues and best practices, we might be able to work more effectively for access to justice. So, on behalf of Bhajani Municipality, I will put forward this agenda in our meeting to carry out this initiative.”

Raju Tiruwa,  
Deputy Mayor, Bhajani Municipality

### Finding 8

**The project effectively enhanced the capacity of informal justice actors (IJAs) to identify different types of cases and mechanisms that combat gender-discriminatory attitudes and behaviours towards women through capacity development training and procedure guidelines on mediating and cases handling skills and raising awareness on the gender responsive justice. In particular, two distinct informal mechanisms, Panchavaladmi in Sarlahi and Bhalmansas (indigenous mechanism) in Kailali, that were historically male-dominated and applied a male-centric approach have gradually changed their attitudes towards women.**

Through project activities such as training and awareness-raising, these informal justice adjudicators evolved to ensure women’s representation in the informal justice mechanisms and participation in decision-making. They received training on which cases to resolve locally and which to refer to the police, JCs or the courts. The training encompassed areas related to gender-based violence, women’s access to justice, and legal frameworks. As a result, Informal justice actors are now better able to identify cases that are of criminal and civil nature, and are also referring cases to relevant justice mechanisms such as Judicial Committees, police, or courts. The capacity developing training on gender responsive justice delivery as well as knowledge products such as guidelines on how gender responsive justice delivery developed by through the project have been effective tools for strengthening capacity of IJAs for support access to justice for women and marginalized groups. IJAs began referring cases that are outside their jurisdiction to JCs, courts, and judges. A total of 434 IJAs participated in training, while 202 took part in dialogue events. This capacity-building effort led to the referral of 208 cases

to various local-level justice actors, guided by project-supported guidelines.

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**One of the Panchavaladmis shared that he skillfully and amicably settled one family dispute in his village in the past as he had all the knowledge and skills to mediate such cases through training. Similarly, one of the Bhalmansas that in Kailali shared they used to settle criminal cases before the project; they have now started to refer cases to the police after they received the training by the project AzJ.**

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Approximately 80 percent of trained IJAs, including Bhalmansas in Kailali and PanchBhaladami in Sarlahi, gained a deeper understanding of gender discriminatory attitudes and stereotyped behaviours

They acknowledged the importance of ongoing learning and the self-esteem boost provided by the Access to Justice (AzJ) project.

*“Additionally, IJAs recognized previously overlooked victims within their families and communities, thanks to the project’s influence, instilling a strong desire for access to justice. One Bhalmansa emphasized that the project had ignited a hunger for justice.”*

### Finding 9

**The project benefited significantly from the support of 4 Legal Advisors, who played a crucial role in enhancing the capacity of judicial members, mediators, and informal justice actors. They provided valuable legal advice for case handling, and settlement, and offered legal aid counselling and court representation services for women and marginalized groups. These Legal Advisors underwent a 5-day Training of Trainers (ToT) on gender-responsive justice, where they were trained as master trainers. This training allowed them to grasp the project’s concept of gender-responsive justice and prepare them to serve as trainers for judicial committees and mediators as needed.**

The training methodology was highly effective, fostering learning through practical and interactive sessions, including mock justice delivery sessions, group activities, discussions, and games.

The comprehensive training manual covered various topics such as gender and power relations, gender discrimination, barriers to women’s access to justice, coordination and referrals to enhance women’s access to justice, and relevant national and international gender equality frameworks. This training was essential in sensitizing the Legal Advisors and other justice providers directly involved in providing legal aid for women’s cases. Consequently, the institutional capacity of 14 JCs across 14 LGUs improved significantly due to the legal advice and mentoring received from the project, enhancing their ability to handle cases, including those related to women and marginalized groups.

The JCs now have a clearer understanding of which cases fall within their jurisdiction and which do not. Additionally, their capacity to provide services and refer cases to various service providers and justice actors, such as courts, police, and legal service providers, has significantly improved. They have also implemented standardized procedures for systematic record-keeping of service seekers. Cases outside the jurisdiction of the Judicial Committees are appropriately referred to other justice sectors, including courts, police, shelter houses, and organizations. During the first phase of the project, 406 cases rela

ted to women were successfully settled by the Judicial Committees out of a total of 544 cases. Furthermore, 277 justice service seekers, comprising 38 women and 239 men, accessed the services of these 9 judicial committees, thereby facilitating access to justice for women and excluded groups. Informal justice actors also played a crucial role in referring 138 cases of women to the judicial committees.

In the second phase<sup>1</sup> of the project, out of 67 registered cases, 15 were settled through mediation, 30 were adjudicated by the JC, 3 were referred to courts, and 11 were directed to the project’s legal advisor, with 8 cases in progress. This phase saw a total of 159 cases being settled, ensuring that women received the justice they sought. These cases primarily pertained to family disputes, domestic violence, land encroachment, verbal abuse, denial of wages, and money transactions.

The table below illustrates the cases referred for legal aid counselling and court representation services from various CBJAs:

Legal aid support	F	Khas/Arya	Dalit	Janjati	Madhesi	Muslim	Others
Legal counselling	369	68	112	85	70	26	1
Court Representation	186	47	49	33	50	4	3

Source: Progress Report 1st and 2nd Phase, WA2J, UN Women

The project also conducted training sessions for media personnel to sensitize them on gender-responsive reporting, encouraging their commitment to strengthen advocacy efforts through media coverage. A total of 73 media personnel attended these training sessions. Additionally, interaction events were organized in Kailali, Doti, and Sarlahi, with a total of 138 participants, including 103 women and 35 men (comprising 62 Dalit, 23 Janajati, 34 Brahmin/Chhetri, 16 Madhesi, and 3 Muslim participants). These events facilitated collaboration with GWOs, allowing for insights into their work in reaching vulnerable groups and bridging the gap between service providers and service seekers.

*One of the mediators shared a reflection, acknowledging that they used to mediate cases only after they were recorded in their ward. However, after participating in this training, they gained new insights. They realized that cases should be initially registered at the Judicial Committees, which would then refer the cases for mediation at the ward level.*

*The mediator candidly admitted, “I myself was responsible for creating a barrier to change and limiting women’s access to justice.” This project has been a transformative experience for them, as they have deepened their understanding of gender discrimination and how to combat it.*

*Another mediator recounted a personal incident, saying, “There was a day when I forgot to bring my ID card with me. When I went to mediate cases, the community members became agitated and threatened me with a thick stick. However, in the nick of time, I called my husband to bring my ID card to the victim’s location. This action calmed them down, and they even apologized for their actions.” This story was shared by a member of GWO Kailali. It reflected the awareness among the community people with the CBJAs after disclosing the identification.*

Purna Bahadur B.K., a journalist, expressed his commitment to furthering advocacy efforts by sensitizing local government officials through media coverage in the future.”

1 PFM 2023, UN Women



## Finding 10

**The project has significantly enhanced the capacity and networks of GWOs and Community-Based Women Organizations (CBWOs), and local communities. This has empowered them to document, monitor, liaise with, and facilitate interactions between formal and informal justice providers, thereby bolstering their resilience to create a more equitable, just, and sustainable future.**

GWOs have played a pivotal role in bridging the gap between communities and justice mechanisms. They have provided crucial awareness and knowledge to women in the community while also sensitizing and strengthening the capacity of both informal and formal justice providers. As a result, their attitudes and behaviours have evolved to be more gender-responsive. These organizations received support to document, monitor, and advocate for gender-responsive justice.

The project extended financial assistance to women's groups, including facilitating their registration with municipalities or rural municipalities. This support was essential to institutionalise the GWOs while sustaining their advocacy efforts, especially in light of the economic challenges faced by women's organizations during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. A total of 21 GWOs across 21 LGUs and 124 of their members (including 122 women from various backgrounds and 2 transwomen) in Kailali, Doti, and Sarlahi have significantly enhanced their capacity to document, monitor, and advocate for women's access to gender-responsive justice. About 60%<sup>1</sup> of these individuals have gained greater knowledge of gender-responsive justice, while 40% have honed their advocacy skills related to gender issues and basic counselling for victims of discrimination and violence.

As a direct outcome of capacity-building initiatives, these 11 GWOs have become better equipped to identify challenges in their communities that impede women's access to justice. They have also identified and advocated for the elimination of untouchability and discrimination, child marriage, GBV, and polygamy as key issues in their communities

GWOs members have played a crucial role in facilitating a total of 405 cases involving survivors of GBV. During the first phase of the COVID-19 lockdown, GWOs members maintained contact with these individuals

through phone calls to ensure their well-being. They also shared information on COVID-19 preventive measures in accordance with government guidelines, provided contact details for helplines and service providers (such as 100 for Nepali Police and 1145 for the NWC hotline), and advocated with local government authorities to enhance women's access to relief. This advocacy has garnered greater recognition for GWOs from both the government and the community.

*"It was very difficult to advocate on the issues of women, however after the training and support provided by the A2J project, now we feel encouraged, inspired, and courageous to express our opinion". They also added they can go to police stations, ward offices, judicial committees, and courts to advocate the cases. Not only GWOs, but women who are in violence also able to speak, and share their problems, said one of the participants in FGD."*

Six one-day<sup>2</sup> dialogues on gender discriminatory norms and access to justice were conducted in the Sarlahi district for GWOs. These dialogues provided a safe space for women-only groups to share their experiences. As a result, women who participated in the first phase of dialogues were empowered to engage in advocacy and campaigns to promote women's participation in development efforts at the ward level. A total of 237 women from various backgrounds participated in these community dialogues. The project provided institutional support funds totalling USD 1,916 (Rs 2,35,000)<sup>3</sup> to the 11 GWOs. This funding enabled them to organize 27 community outreach (awareness) programmes for 734 women and 31 men.

Furthermore, they conducted 21 advocacy programmes with 491 participants (378 women and 113 men). Due to the advocacy efforts of these GWOs, Gauriganga Municipality<sup>4</sup> committed to allocating funds for organizing an awareness programme addressing child marriage, while Bhajani Municipality pledged to review untouchability and caste-based discrimination policies and ensure effective implementation.

2 Project Completion Report 2023 UN Women

3 Project Completion Report 2023 UN Women

4 Project Completion Report 2023 UN Women

1 Progress Report UN Women 2021

Similarly, Bramhapuri Rural Municipality in Sarlahi committed to allocating funds for an awareness programme addressing witchcraft, rape, and dowry. In response, the 11 GWOs identified biases among service providers, including GWO members, as a barrier to women's access to justice. Consequently, all 11 GWOs conducted awareness programmes to identify and eliminate biases while delivering justice.

*The chair of Kanchan Hariyali Mahila Samuha shared an illustrative example of the positive changes brought about by this awareness initiative. It involves the transformation of social dynamics within the group, including the inclusion of members from various ethnic backgrounds such as Khas/Arya, Janajati, and Dalit.*

*Previously, there were significant divides among these groups, with members of the Khas/Arya and Janajati communities refraining from sitting together and even avoiding drinking water at meetings held in Dalit households. However, as a result of extensive awareness efforts, which encompassed an understanding of different biases, particularly those related to caste, a notable transformation has occurred. Members from these diverse backgrounds now sit together during meetings and are comfortable sharing water at a Dalit's home.*

Twenty-two<sup>1</sup> women from 11 GWOs across 11 LGUs received training in using smartphones for video-making skills. This training bolstered the capacity of GWO members to utilize mobile phones effectively, enabling them to amplify their advocacy efforts. A total of 149<sup>2</sup> half-day interaction events were conducted in Sarlahi, Doti, and Kailali, involving 4,084 participants (all women, including 1,409 Dalit, 744 Janajati, 698 Brahmin/Chhetri, 1,074. Madhesi, and 159 Muslim individuals).

*"We have never received training in video-making like this before. Previously, we only took photos, but we lacked the knowledge of capturing videos effectively, how to document them, and how to properly store images. Now, we have gained the skills to use a mobile phone, microphone, and tripod to conduct interviews for creating videos."*

*- Dhana B.K, Kailari Rural Municipality*

*"People used to approach the police for assistance prior to the project intervention, but they often harbored fears about the behaviour and language used by the authorities. However, now they readily seek help from various avenues, including judicial committees, police, lawyers, courts, and IAs for settling their cases. In the initial stages, individuals reach out to GWOs, where their cases are attentively heard. Subsequently, GWOs refer them to the appropriate authorities, such as JCs, mediators, the police, or courts/lawyers, based on the nature of their cases. It's noteworthy that people have become more aware of the steps involved in handling and referring cases, including the importance of documentation and obtaining consent before capturing pictures or creating videos of the victims," shared one of the participants during an FGD.*

These events provided a dedicated platform for women to discuss discrimination and violence against women prevalent in their communities. GWO members led sessions on gender discriminatory norms that hinder women's access to resources and services, informing participants about their role in advocating for women's and excluded groups' rights.

Furthermore, the project successfully broadcast episodes of radio programmes through three radio stations in Sarlahi, Doti, and Kailali, reaching an audience of 4,194,000 listeners in phase I and 2,030,000 in phase II respectively. These programmes aimed to raise awareness among community members about justice and services for GBV survivors and vulnerable women, including in the context of COVID-19. The radio programmes covered various aspects of women's access to justice, including key legal provisions and service providers, as well as barriers to access to justice. Key duty bearers, such as Judicial Committees, Mediators, Informal Justice Actors, Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs), and other justice actors, were invited to participate as discussants on specific topics. The programmes also included information on COVID-19 prevention. An audience survey among regular radio programme listeners showed an 83% increase in knowledge regarding forms of violence against women and gender-based violence, with 71% of respondents being aware of major legal

<sup>1</sup> Quarterly Report 3rd, WA2J, 2022

<sup>2</sup> Project Completion Report-WA2J project 2023

provisions provisions related to women's rights and empowerment. Additionally, 71% of respondents gained knowledge about local-level service providers in justice delivery, such as Judicial Committees.

Awareness initiatives were conducted in both communities and schools, comprising a total of 56<sup>1</sup> half-day community awareness events with 1,940 participants (1,426 women and 514 men, including 572 Dalit, 432 Janajati, 442 Brahmin/Chhetri, 456 Madhesi, and 38 Muslim individuals). Additionally, 61 school awareness events involved a total of 1,738 participants (1,160 girls/women and 578 boys/men, including 262 Dalit, 404 Janajati, 522 Brahmin/Chhetri, 524 Madhesi, and 26 Muslim individuals). These initiatives aimed to sensitize participants to gender-discriminatory social norms, attitudes, and related stakeholders in their pursuit of justice.

Various groups, including students, teachers, community members, community leaders, and adolescents, actively engaged in these interactions. Twenty-one individuals pledged to change discriminatory values and behaviours within their families and communities. Participants gained insights into legal provisions concerning women's rights and were informed about

frontline justice institutions such as judicial committees, which play a crucial role in conflict and violence monitoring. The sessions employed diverse collaborative methods, including self-reflection, games, interactions, poll questions, and group work. GWOs facilitated these discussions, sharing their advocacy work and success stories in supporting other women.

Dialogues were also organized with key duty bearers, fostering people-centred and gender-responsive justice. These dialogues aimed to identify gaps between formal and informal justice systems at the three tiers of government. They provided a platform for key duty-bearers and service providers to collectively address the challenges of gender-responsive justice and call for action to mitigate these challenges. Participants in these dialogues<sup>2</sup> included representatives from the Ministry, Parliamentarians, Judges, Government officials, UN Agencies, elected members, CSOs, development partners, IJAs, and GWOs. The programme received appreciation, and participants committed to supporting gender-responsive justice at the local level from their respective roles and organizations.

The table below illustrates the dialogues series at three tiers of government along with community people:

1 PFM Phase 1 & 2, UN Women, A2J

2 4th Quarterly Report, UN Women A2J, 2022

SN	Dialogue Series with	No. of Dialogue	Female	Male	Khas/ Arya	Dalits	Janjatis	Madhesi	Muslim/ Others	Total
1.	Province	7	93	160	161	21	30	41	-	253
2.	Federal	1	17	18	16	5	7	4	3	35
3.	Community Level	8	127	77	34	41	60	69	-	204
4.	Local Level	4	63	41	21	31	26	26	-	104
	<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>596</b>

Source: Progress Report 1st and 2nd Phase, WA2J, UN Women

Box below shows the commitment made from participants participated in high level dialogue/forum organized by the project:

*The participatory platform created by this dialogue has proven highly effective in fostering interaction and sharing among all justice actors and service providers, thus facilitating gender-responsive justice. I am committed to raising the issues discussed today in the provincial assembly, including with the relevant committees, and to promoting collaboration to enhance gender-responsive justice.” - Hon’ble Juna Kumari Dunai, Parliamentarian, Sudurpaschim Province.*

*“Even as a parliamentarian, I have observed discrimination against men and women parliamentarians. Such a mindset still prevails in our society. I pledge to address the challenges faced by women, Janajati, Dalit, and marginalized groups in the legislative arena. Judicial Committees (JCs) have a pivotal role in supporting access to justice in this context.” - Hon’ble Janaki Singh, Parliamentarian, Karnali Province.*

*“This is the first dialogue of its kind aimed at fostering interaction on gender-responsive justice. As the chief attorney, I am committed to providing support from my end to enable gender-responsive justice at the local level.” - Mr. Gajendra Acharya, Chief Attorney, Koshi Province.*

*“While I have heard about gender-responsive budgeting and gender audits before, this is the first time I have encountered an in-depth discussion on gender-responsive justice in a platform like this. We are pleased to learn about the concept of gender-responsive justice and the positive results it is achieving.” - Jayanti Giri, Law Officer, Ministry of Social Development, Sudurpaschim Province.*

*“The ward chair has pledged to allocate a budget for an awareness programme as a result of this dialogue.” - Ward Chair, Bikram Chaudhary, Bhajani Municipality.*

Source: 4 Quarterly report UN Women 2022

### Finding 11

**The joint pilot<sup>1</sup> initiative of UN Women and UNDP aimed to create a discussion guide with the objective of fostering positive changes in the perceptions and behaviour of grassroots women’s organizations’ members. This guide, designed for reflective dialogues<sup>2</sup>, incorporated participatory and creative elements, drawing from artworks developed in a prior UN Women project (2021) titled ‘We for Us.’ These artworks were inspired by the lives of two women leaders from Doti and Kailali.**

Six women facilitators<sup>3</sup>, comprising GWOs members and project staff (1 Khas/Arya, 3 Dalit, 1 Madhesi, 1

Janjati), engaged a total of 55 women members (10 Khas/Arya, 20 Dalits, Janjati, 17 Madhesi) from 11 GWOs across the LGUs. In each district, three sessions were conducted to identify various biases and their implications concerning Access to Justice

The ‘enabling measure’ fund proved valuable and effective in facilitating the participation of women and excluded groups who might have otherwise faced challenges in attending events. This fund enabled four women, who were new mothers, to participate in training by allowing them to bring caregivers for their infants during the sessions. The primary aim of this initiative was to provide additional support to participants, ensuring their active engagement in the training and programme. A total of 47<sup>4</sup> members (6 Khas/Arya, 9 Dalits, 7 Janjati, and 23 Madhesi) benefited from these enabling measures.

1 UN women took one of the components for the pilot initiative on behavioural change of GWOs to complement the A2J project

2 the Reflective dialogues were part of the UNDP/UNW project funded through UNDP/UNW project and linked to the A2J project.

3 Progress Report WA2J 2023

4 2nd Quarterly Report A2J, 2022

The fund assisted five lactating mothers of GWO members from Sarlahi to actively participate in reflective dialogues held in Kathmandu and Sarlahi districts, video-making training in Sarlahi, and gender-responsive justice training in Sarlahi. Additionally, an interpreter was engaged during the Ward Members' Gender-Responsive Justice training to facilitate communication in the Maithili language. This service enabled 30 Ward members to actively participate in the training. Furthermore, interpretation services were provided to 12 GWO members during the video-making training, enhancing their participation.

#### **Finding 12**

**The development and dissemination of various knowledge products played a significant role in facilitating learning for all relevant stakeholders and rights holders. The project, in collaboration with LGUs, allocated budgets for the development of three policies, training manuals, and other knowledge product resource packages that have been developed and endorsed. The knowledge products were a Handbook on enhancing GRJ: A- friendly Resource Book for Judicial Committees; Guideline on Gender Responsive Justice for IJAs, 2021; User-friendly picture-based large posters illustrating the types of cases handled by JCs in a simple manner; An educational video on Gender-Responsive Justice; A discussion guide for Reflective Dialogues with GWOs.**

These knowledge products have not only been developed but have also been adopted by the 10 LGUs in the project districts. The project has contributed to the systematization of legal procedures and proper documentation of cases by developing formats for case registration, record-keeping, and resource materials on legal frameworks and the roles of JCs and other informal justice actors. These resources are expected to continue being utilized even after the project phases out to a large extent.

Furthermore, with the training manual and ToT provided by the project, JCs have initiated similar training for different stakeholders and allocated budgets for such initiatives. However, it's worth noting that the TOT participants were selected from different communities and sectors, and they have not yet coordinated as expected at the moment.

### 3.3 Efficiency

#### **Finding 13**

**The project demonstrated efficiency in its technical and organizational approaches by effectively mobilizing human and financial resources, ensuring the timely delivery of project activities. The project strategically allocated various resources and activities to achieve its intended results, directly contributing to its overall purpose. While the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted some physical activities, they were successfully transitioned to virtual platforms, and any outstanding tasks were carried over to subsequent quarters, ultimately meeting all project objectives within the scheduled timeframe.**

Regarding the disbursement of funds from UN Women to its implementing partners, there was a slight delay due to the introduction of a new UN system. Nevertheless, the project partners exhibited remarkable efficiency, flexibility, and transparency, ensuring the smooth execution of the project until its completion. Human resources mobilized by the project were both adequate and dedicated, actively working towards achieving the desired results.

#### **Finding 14**

**The project established efficient monitoring and evaluation mechanisms that significantly contributed to informed decision-making and ensured the project's activities remained on course. Regular follow-up procedures involved close coordination with the LACC Nepal and district coordinators in two districts, which included field officers and legal advisors. These mechanisms encompassed one-on-one meetings and periodic coordination meetings, primarily facilitated by the prime implementing partner, LACC Nepal. Despite limited human resources at the local level, the project maintained efficiency due to the staff's close ties to their communities, resulting in cost-effective and timely project management.**

Some LGs also allocated budgets to support the project, contributing to the development of three policies and guidelines, training manuals, and other knowledge products. LGs facilitated the placement of mediators at the ward level and allocated funds for the mobilization of IJAs within the community. Additionally, the project included planned monitoring visits by UN Women's Project team to the field twice a year. Data collected at various levels were systematically recorded.

in the UN Women’s Monitoring and Evaluation system, empowering decision-makers to inform future planning and project enhancements. However, it was recommended there should be provision of conducting follow-up assessments even after the project’s termination is essential for measuring its long-term impact and identifying areas for improvement or further support to some conditions if feasible.

### 3.4 Sustainability

#### Finding 15

**The project has achieved lasting impact by effectively institutionalizing its outcomes, ensuring sustainability beyond its initial duration. This success is attributed to a comprehensive approach that includes the development of policies, procedures, and resource allocation. Capacity-building initiatives have been instrumental in raising awareness and enhancing the capabilities of formal and informal justice actors, grassroots organizations, and community members. Crucially, the endorsement and ownership of the project by the local government, manifested through their support of plans, policies, and procedures, have played a pivotal role. The high-level commitment to reform the jurisdiction of JC, underscores a dedication to long-term structural improvements. Together, these factors create a solid foundation for the enduring impact of the project, ensuring its continued positive influence in the realm of justice beyond its initial project lifespan.**

*Development of Policies and Resources:* The project, in collaboration with LGUs, allocated budgets to develop three policies, training manuals, and other knowledge resources. These include a “Handbook on Enhancing Gender-Responsive Justice,” a “Guideline on Gender-Responsive Justice for Informal Justice Actors,” user-friendly posters explaining the types of cases handled by JCs, an educational video on gender-responsive justice, and a discussion guide for reflective dialogues with grassroots women’s organizations. MoJPA has expressed interest in using the project’s GRJ Handbook as reference material in their training manual for the Judicial Committee.

*Capacity Building and Awareness:* The project provided capacity-building support, interactions, and dialogues that raised awareness about gender-sensitive justice, women’s rights GBV, and gender-related issues. Peer group mentoring between former and new Judicial Committees within Local Governments was

institutionalized. While its long-term impact is still unfolding, it is expected that JCs will realize the benefits of this knowledge-sharing in the future.

*Connecting Informal Justice Actors:* The project played a pivotal role in connecting informal justice actors with local governments. In some areas, financial support is now provided to informal justice mechanisms by the Judicial Committees. The LGUs in Kailali acknowledge the role of Bhalmansa in the community, which is an informal justice mechanism of Tharu indigenous communities in access to justice, and the LGUs are encouraging their work and supporting the operationalization of Bhalmansa.

*Ownership by Local Governments:* Local governments have taken ownership of certain capacity-building activities initiated by the project. For example, they have allocated budgets for providing mediator training (for gender-responsive justice) to more mediators in various LGUs, ensuring that these activities continue without external support.

*High-Level Commitment and Legal Revisions:* High-level discussions and commitments have been made to revise the LGOA regarding the jurisdiction of the Judicial Committee. This addresses the coordination mechanism between JCs, other justice actors, and local stakeholders, ensuring a more integrated approach.

*Community Outreach and Help-Seeking Behaviour:* The project’s community outreach activities, dialogues, and radio programmes have promoted help-seeking behaviour among community members and fostered accountability among Judicial Committees. These activities are likely to continue in the future.

*Empowering GWOs:* GWOs have become self-sustained entities, leveraging the knowledge and skills acquired through the project. They coordinate with local authorities, engage in financial literacy, and continue awareness-raising activities. They also collect funds for future activities and provide loans to women in need. These empowered women are expected to continue seeking justice through informal and formal mechanisms and share their knowledge with their families and communities. They GWO members are playing an active role in enabling accessing to justice for women and marginalized groups.

*Project-Supported Legal Advisors:* Project-supported legal advisors continue to provide justice and counselling services free of cost to those who cannot afford

them, ensuring access to justice for vulnerable individuals.

Overall, the project's initiatives, partnerships, and knowledge dissemination have created a solid foundation for the continued promotion of gender-responsive justice and women's rights even after the project's conclusion.

### 3.5 Gender Equality and Human Rights

#### Finding 16

**The project has effectively implemented a comprehensive gender equality and human rights-based approach in all its interventions, with a strong focus on empowering women and safeguarding their rights. Women from diverse caste groups, including Dalit, Janjati, Muslim, and Marginalized communities, were the primary beneficiaries of the project. The project's activities were specifically designed to uplift and empower women, ensuring their active participation and collective voice.**

The project took deliberate steps to work with women from marginalized backgrounds, recognizing the importance of intersectionality in addressing their needs. Capacity-building activities were tailored to promote women's help-seeking behaviour, encourage their participation in community informal justice mechanisms, and enhance their knowledge and self-confidence

Significant efforts were made to include women in various committees, such as Panchavaladmi and Bhalmansas, which was not common in the past. The project's training and awareness initiatives led to a positive shift in community attitudes, making men more receptive to women's participation and perspectives in these committees.

While progress has been made, there are still women and men in the community who remain unaware of various forms of violence prevalent within their families, communities, and institutions. The project aimed to address this by promoting access to justice as a fundamental right for women, aligning with international and national frameworks.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, GWOs played a crucial role in supporting community women by providing essential household supplies, masks, and sanitizers. Additionally, the project facilitated the review of annual plans and activities of local authorities (Palikas) from a gender and inclusion perspective, further promoting gender equality and women's rights.

The commitment of local representatives to gender equality and women's empowerment, as expressed during meetings with project staff, underscores the project's positive impact on promoting gender equality and human rights in the project areas.

Women have been part of IJAs (of Panchavaladmi, Bhalmansas) and other committees nowadays unlike in the past. "In the past, it was difficult for women to be part of the Panchavaladmi group to address the social disputes in our community. We were barred and denied access to these committees. However, this project provided a lot of training and awareness activities to community people and taught them about gender equality and women's rights. Now community men are open to our participation and views. Now in every Panchavaladmi meeting, they invite me and I speak more than men in such meetings. Now Panchavaladmis are more sensitive than before in women's cases and they seek my suggestion on how to deal with such issues" (Kusum Singh Danuwar-IJA, Chandranagar-6, Sarlahi)."

1 For Transmission to Sida 2022, A2J

*In the past, both duty bearers and informal justice actors often used unpleasant and discriminatory words when referring to women, LGBTIQ individuals, marginalized groups, and people with disabilities (PWDs). However, these harmful language practices have been gradually changing due to the intervention of the project.*

*The project played a crucial role by providing training on sensitive topics such as sex and sexuality, as well as addressing stereotype attitudes. This training has been highly effective in helping individuals understand and internalize the need for change. As a result, cases related to citizenship and birth registration, which were previously problematic, have been successfully resolved.*

*Furthermore, GWOs have established welfare funds to support women victims in various ways, including covering transportation costs for them to reach court and seek justice for their registered cases. These initiatives are contributing to a more inclusive and just society.*

*“Women who previously sought help from the police before the project intervention have shared that they used to fear the behaviour and language used in those encounters. However, as a result of the project’s intervention, women now feel more comfortable approaching a wider range of justice actors, including judicial committees, police, lawyers, courts, and IJAs for mediation.*

*The process typically begins with women reaching out to GWOs. GWOs actively listen to their cases and then refer them to the appropriate entities, whether it be judicial committees, mediators, the police, or courts/lawyers. Importantly, women now have a better understanding of the steps involved in handling and referring cases, including the importance of documentation and obtaining consent before taking pictures or videos of the victims. This shift in behaviour and knowledge has empowered women to seek justice through various channels with greater confidence, shared by right holders in FGD.”*

### 3.6 Best Practices and Lessons Learned

#### Best practices

- **Effective Coordination:** Good coordination observed among duty bearers and Informal Justice Actors (IJAs) in Local Government Units (LGUs) demonstrates the importance of collaboration for an efficient justice system.
- **Knowledge Sharing through Interaction:** Interactions, dialogues, and peer learning platforms among various tiers of government were effective in sharing knowledge and promoting a culture of learning.
- **Inclusive Training with Flexible Funds:** The use of flexible funds to facilitate the participation of mothers, pregnant women, and differently-abled individuals in training programmes is a best practice for ensuring inclusivity in capacity-building efforts.
- **Replication of Successful Models:** Many Palikas stated that they provide transportation cost (USD 5 to 10) to mediators only after the case is settled and only once. Due to this mediator attempted to settle the cases in a single session, and this

could lead to forced mediation. Dhangadhi Municipality, on the other hand, shared in the program that they had allotted USD \$10 (i.e., NPR 1300 - 1000 for transportation and 300 for communication) for Mediators in each mediation sitting regardless of the result of the mediation. This has prevented and discouraged forced mediation scope. Everyone appreciated this practice as one of the best ways to provide GRJ to service seekers.

- **Institutional Support for Advocacy:** The institutional support fund that enabled GWOs to conduct advocacy events and promote women’s rights illustrates the importance of financial backing for community-driven initiatives.
- **Enhanced Coordination between Courts and Judicial Committees:** Strong coordination between courts and JCs improves the effectiveness of the justice system.
- **Knowledge Sharing Among Local Committees and Mediators:** Organized sharing of best practices and experiences among local judicial committees and mediators contributes to capacity building and improvement within the justice system.
- **Consideration of Gender-Specific Facilities:** During monitoring visits, the consideration of gender-specific facilities, such as breastfeeding corners and facilities for persons with disabilities, reflects a commitment to inclusivity and accessibility in access to justice projects

#### Lessons Learned

- **Data Collection and Management:** The collection and management of data on service seekers, despite issues with uniformity, highlight the importance of tracking and assessing the impact of the project.
- **GBV Fund Mobilization:** The activation and mobilization of GBV funds demonstrate proactive efforts to address critical social issues within LGUs..
- **Empowering Informal Justice Actors:** Providing IJAs in the community with knowledge about the types of cases they can mediate and refer to formal justice actors empowers them to play a more effective role in the justice system.



- Confidential Case Documentation: GWO members' practice of documenting cases confidentially and prioritizing the needs of women with intersectional identities underscores the importance of sensitivity and privacy in handling cases.
- Establishment of Mediator Rosters: The establishment of mediator rosters in Kailali District's Municipalities are practical step toward ensuring a readily available pool of trained mediators for dispute resolution.

### 3.7 Challenges

- Lack of dedicated legal advisors for judicial committees in some LGUs.
- Knowledge exchange gaps between former and newly elected committee members
- Difficulty in resolving disputes and cases on time, as opponents often did not attend hearings.
- Delay in implementing the GEDSI policy due to the absence of comprehensive municipal-level data.

### 3.8 Conclusion and Recommendations:

The Women's Access to Justice (WA2J) project in Nepal has made significant strides in promoting gender-sensitive and people-centred justice. Its alignment with national priorities, international commitments, and the SDGs underscores its relevance and importance. By addressing GBV and enhancing access to justice, particularly in regions with high GBV rates, the project has contributed to Nepal's constitutional commitment to equal and impartial justice for all citizens, including marginalized communities. The project's effectiveness is evident in its success in bridging gaps between formal and informal justice systems, raising awareness about women's rights, and promoting gender-responsive justice. Advocacy efforts and training initiatives have led to positive changes in the attitudes and behaviours of justice providers, resulting in improved access to justice for women.

Efficiency is a hallmark of the project, as it effectively mobilized resources, adapted to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, and maintained transparency and flexibility in managing funds. Human resources were dedicated and sufficient, contributing to the project's success. Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms were effective in tracking progress and informing decision-making. The project's sustainability

is evident in its contribution to policy development, budget allocations in some local governments, and the creation of valuable knowledge resources and materials. Capacity-building efforts, awareness-raising, and the strengthening of connections between informal justice actors and local government bodies have set the stage for continued progress in gender-responsive justice.

The project's commitment to gender equality and human rights is evident in its inclusive approach, focusing on empowering women from marginalized backgrounds and fostering intersectionality. It has advanced gender equality and human rights by raising awareness, providing essential support during emergencies, and collaborating with local governments to promote gender-sensitive planning. The project's best practices, such as good coordination, enabling measures, and fixed mediation costs has been started in few LGUs, serve as valuable lessons for future initiatives. However, challenges such as the lack of dedicated legal advisors for judicial committees and unresolved cases remain. To address these challenges, recommendations include the continuation of legal support, standardized coordination, behavioural change programmes, and expanded reach within local governments.

In summary, the Women's Access to Justice project has been a vital force in promoting gender-responsive and people-centred justice in Nepal. Its successes and lessons learned provide a strong foundation for future initiatives to build upon, ensuring that access to justice remains equitable and inclusive for all citizens, including marginalized and vulnerable groups.

### Recommendations

The recommendations below highlight the importance of ongoing support, effective communication, knowledge sharing, and a holistic approach to justice that addresses not only legal but also social and psychological aspects. They collectively contribute to the project's sustainability and its ability to make a lasting positive impact on the community

#### Recommendation 1

**Ensure continuous legal support for judicial committees to enhance their effectiveness in providing access to justice.**

*Recommendation targeted at UN Women, mid-term priority, based on findings 9 and 14*

The evaluation recommends that UN Women should continue to advocate for a permanent legal advisor position to assist judicial committees who lack legal expertise, addressing pending cases and challenges through collaboration with relevant government bodies

### **Recommendation 2**

**There should be standardized and improved coordination and communication mechanisms among community-based justice actors to ensure working together cohesively, reducing redundancies and resolving the cases effectively.**

*Recommendation targeted at UN Women, mid-term priority, based on findings 7 and 8*

The evaluation recommends that there should be established standardized coordination and communication mechanisms among community-based justice actors to improve efficiency and effectiveness in addressing and resolving the cases. It is necessary to create a common communication platform connecting ward mediators, IJAs, and judicial committees to streamline information flow and facilitate collaboration.

### **Recommendation 3**

**Promote inter-municipal coordination for sharing best practices and peer-based learning allows for the cross-pollination of successful approaches, promoting efficiency and innovation.**

*Recommendation targeted at UN Women, long-term priority, based on finding 7*

The evaluation recommends that UN Women in association with the Municipality Association of Nepal should initiate sharing the best practices within LGUs of project intervention outcomes. The peer learning approach through mentoring support of UN Women from former JCs to newly elected JCs was found effective and innovative. Hence, it should be continued to be aware of gender-responsive justice. Every five years, there is a local election held in Nepal and every time, there are new faces and political parties nominate the candidates as per their prejudice, hence there is a very low chance of electing experienced women on GRJ. During the nomination of a candidate money and power are dominant at all parties. Additionally, JC heads have a self-image as they are elected because of their quality and capacity and think they know everything and are not even prepared to listen to others.

Hence along with awareness in the Gender Responsive Justice programme, it is also necessary to introduce a behaviour-changing programme among JCs.

### **Recommendation 4**

**Implementing behavioural change programmes for community-based justice actors and service seekers can contribute to improved understanding, trust-building, and more positive interactions within the justice system**

*Recommendation targeted at UN Women, long-term priority, based on findings 10*

The evaluation recommends that behavioural change programmes for community-based justice actors and service seekers foster unbiased and effective service delivery. These programmes should address misconceptions and prejudices among CJIAs and provide counselling services to empower service seekers.

### **Recommendation 5**

**Offering psychosocial counselling programmes, particularly for vulnerable groups like adolescent girls, addresses the holistic needs of the community and helps individuals cope with emotional and psychological challenges.**

*Recommendation targeted at UN Women, mid-term priority, based on findings 15*

The evaluation recommends that it is necessary to introduce psychosocial counselling programmes, particularly for vulnerable groups like adolescent girls, to address emotional and psychological challenges. Focus on comprehensive sex education and parental education to support the target group.

### **Recommendation 6**

**Expanding the project's working area within the same local government broadens the reach of the project, allowing it to impact more communities and individuals.**

*Recommendation targeted at UN Women, mid-term priority, based on findings 7*

The evaluation recommends that there should be an expansion of the project's reach within the same local government to maximize its impact. Prioritize coverage of at least one LG's wards to concentrate project activities for better impact measurement.

## Annex 1

### List of documents reviewed

- A2J UN Women PRODOC (2018)
- Asia Foundation (2017), Diagnostic Study of Local Governance in Federal Nepal, at page 18.
- CBJ in Nepal
- For Transmission to Sida Nepal, A2J Evaluation Report (2021)
- Government of Nepal, Ministry of Health. 2017. Nepal Demographic and Health Survey 2016. Kathmandu.
- Government of Nepal, National Planning Commission, “14th Development Plan of Nepal (2017-2019)”
- Government of Nepal, National Planning Commission, “15th Strategic Plan of Nepal (2020-2024)”
- Government of Nepal, Nepal Police. Women, Children and Senior Citizen Service Directorate
- <https://fwld.org/core-areas/access-to-justice/>
- <https://kathmandupost.com/national/2022/07/06/gender-responsive-budgeting-good-on-paper-poor-on-implementation>
- <https://www.adb.org/Documents/RRPs/?id=55092-001-2>
- <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/linked-documents/55092-001-ssa.pdf>
- Human Interest Story
- ICJ (2019, 2020, 2021 & 2022), Bi-annual report
- Inception Report Final (2023)
- Local Government Operation Act 2017
- Mapping for Women’s Access to Justice in Nepal (2018)
- Progress Report, LACC (Q1) 2022
- Progress Report, LACC (Q2) 2022
- Progress Report, LACC (Q3) 2022
- Progress Report, LACC (Q4) 2022
- Progress Report, UN Women, A2J (2023)
- Project Completion Report (2022)
- Progress Report, SIDA (2019, 2020, 2021 & 2022)
- Sustainable Development Goals Status and Roadmap 2016-2030, Government of Nepal, National Planning Commission, December 2017, at page 3.
- United Nations Country Team Nepal (2018), United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2018-2022, at page 15.
- We for Us
- Women Access to Justice, Mid-term Review (2021)

## Annex 2

### List of Stakeholders Interviewed

SN	Interviewees	Quantity	Methods	Respondent	Gender
1	ICJ	1	KII/Online	Laxmi Pokharel	F
2	UN Women	1	KII/Online	LACC	F
3	LACC	1	KII/Online	Saraswati Yonzan/Anita Thapaliya	F
4	VCDC	1	KII/Online	Laxmi Singh	F
5	DWRF	1	KII/Online	Indira Danpali/Sabitra Ghimire	F
6	Judicial Committee	2	KII/Online	Raju Tiruwa, Deputy Mayor, Bhajani Municipality (Kailali)	F
				Ram Babu Sah, Deputy Mayor Barahattwa Municipality (Sarlahi)	M
7	Mediator	2	KII/Online	Lilamati Rana (Kailali)	F
				Raghunath Rawat, Bramhapuri Rural Municipality	M
8	Legal Advisor	2	KII/Online	Pushpa Bikram Shahi (Kailali)	M
				Shiv N. Singh (Sarlahi)	M
9	GWOs	2+1	FGDs and KII	Kaushila Nepali	F
10	Informal Justice Actors	2	KII/Online	Manju Devi (Sarlahi)	F
				Ramchandra Chaudhary (Kailali)	M
11	Service Recipients (JC, GWOs)	2	Case story	Khima Rawal & Shanti B.K. Sunar	
12	District Court Judge	1	KII/Online	Hon Kamal Prasad Pokharel	M
<b>Total</b>		<b>19</b>			

## Annex 3

### Case Stories (Women Empowering)

#### Case story 1

##### *Resolving a Land Dispute with the Support of a Judicial Committee*

Meet Shanti B.K. Sunar, a 25-year-old resident of Kailali represents the Dalit community. Shanti is a young lady with a joint family, living with her in-laws, including her father-in-law, mother-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, and their two kids. She shares her home with her husband and their seven-month-old baby boy. Shanti completed her education up to the Intermediate level (19 years) and pursued her occupation in cosmetics and beauty parlour. Three years ago, before her marriage, she even undertook an advanced beauty parlour course in India and started her own business with the support of an organization and her own contributions.

Shanti is not just an educated woman in her family; she is also a determined advocate for her family's inheritance rights. Her in-laws were elderly and unable to navigate the complexities of the justice system, and her husband, although innocent, couldn't speak up against his own relatives for their rights.

One day, Shanti decided to confide in the chairperson of a grassroots women's organization, who also belonged to the same community. Shanti and her family had endured violence, including insulting words, disrespectful behaviour, and even physical abuse from their close relatives. The grassroots women's organization quickly referred Shanti's case to the judicial committee. The members of the grassroots women's organization understood the demarcation of cases that needed to be referred to judicial committees. Without delay, Shanti registered her case with the help of a member of the grassroots women's organization, and the judicial committee summoned the opponents to attend the verdict.

Remarkably, within just two months of registering the case, Shanti received justice from the judicial committee. This outcome provided her with the encouragement to live without fear in her community. She expressed that if she had approached other justice actors such as the ward office, police, or court, she wouldn't have received timely justice due to their lengthy processes. She would have continued to endure numerous violations if she hadn't turned to the judicial committee.

Now, her opponents have adopted a politer and amicable behaviour, behaviour is good harmony in the community. Shanti and her family have started rice cultivation on the disputed land, eliminating the need to purchase rice from the market. She emphasizes that many women in society continue to endure violence and live under the shadow of societal stereotypes. Shanti and her community have taken a step towards social harmony and a discrimination-free society.

Shanti acknowledges the support provided by LACC Nepal to grassroots women's organizations and judicial committees in her community, emphasizing that no other organization has initiated such efforts to date. She believes that gender-based violence, caste discrimination, and gender discrimination have significantly reduced in their community, benefiting women from the Dalit and marginalized groups. These women are now aware of their rights, contributing to social harmony and peace for everyone.

## Case story 2

### *Enduring Torture: A Tale of Perseverance and Hope*

Meet Khima Rawal, a 23-year-old young woman from Dhangadi-7, Kailali. Her story is one of courage, resilience, and the pursuit of justice. At the tender age of 18, Khima entered into a love marriage, hoping for a lifetime of happiness. Little did she know that her journey would be marred by years of suffering.

Her husband's unexpected demise after four years of marriage left her not only widowed but scarred by the years of torment she endured. Khima faced violence, not just within her marriage, but also from her own family and relatives. The source of this cruelty was her caste, which was deemed lower than her husband's, who belonged to the Brahmin community. She was subjected to hurtful words and discrimination from her in-laws.

Khima's husband turned to alcohol and drugs, unleashing a torrent of physical abuse upon her. To escape his brutality, she sought refuge in her parents' home. It was there that she realized the extent of her husband's addiction, something she had been oblivious to before they were married. Moreover, she discovered his extra-marital affairs, which shattered her trust.

Although she did not initially consider divorce, Khima sought help from the women's cell, a formal justice actor, to address her grievances. Her husband, however, refused to attend when summoned for mediation.

Those days were dark for Khima as her family also refused to accept her and would not eat food cooked by her. It was during this tumultuous period that she encountered the DWRF, Kailali, a project partner of LACC/UN Women. The chairperson of the organization offered her words of encouragement, saying, "Do not be discouraged; please move ahead. We are here to support you."

Inspired by this newfound support, Khima resolved to continue her education and embark on a new life once the mourning period for her husband had passed. It was only a few days later, at the age of 24, that I had the privilege of interviewing her.

Khima's story is just one among many in our community. Even educated individuals like her face similar or even more complex situations. To combat violence against women, we need more initiatives focused on behaviour change and psychosocial counselling, especially in today's context. With the advent of technology and social media, various forms of social disorders affect both men and women.

Khima's journey is a testament to the strength of the human spirit and the enduring hope for a brighter future, free from violence and discrimination.

## Annex 4

### Evaluation Questions/Checklist

#### Interview with LACC

Introductions, explanation of how data will be used, and informed consent protocol. Please introduce yourself and tell us briefly about your engagement now.

#### Relevance/Coherence

- Please briefly describe your role in the organization, including how long you have held the role.
- Do you think the project is relevant in your country?
- What do you think are the biggest challenges for women in accessing justice in your country, including policy and legislative challenges? Are there different challenges for different groups of women (e.g. those with intellectual and psycho-social disabilities, sexual minorities, indigenous women, migrants etc.)?
- What types of capacity-building support did you provide including training and technical advisory support through this project to different stakeholders?
- Who do women trust the most in your community if they need any advice/support to get access to justice? Has this changed at all due to the project interventions?
- To what extent were the interventions relevant to beneficiaries to respond to the new challenges posed by COVID-19? How does it affect the project outcomes/objectives?
- Which other stakeholders provide support in the field of WA2J? In your opinion, what is the extent of synergy and cooperation between these other stakeholders and the project? Could this be further strengthened?
- To what extent do you cooperate (outside of the scope of the project) with other stakeholders active in the field of WA2J including community-level justice providers, CSOs, NHRIs etc.?
- How did the project align or harmonize the interventions with the local government's existing justice mechanisms and systems?
- In your opinion, has the project strengthened local/national/regional capacity for WA2J? If yes, in what areas?

#### Effectiveness

- How far has the project been successful in bridging the gap between the formal and informal justice system? Is this still pertinent? Has this contributed to or created a conducive environment to increase the number of women who have access to justice?
- How effective has the project been in strengthening Judicial Committees to serve justice to women and promote human rights and gender equality?
- What is the level of engagement between the partners and key stakeholders at all levels to promote gender justice?
- To what extent were the project strategies (capacity building, advocacy, dialogues, community outreach, technical support, etc.) effective to achieve the intended outcomes?
- How is the change being assessed and tracked?
- What are the areas for improvement or what could be done better in future interventions to advance women's access to justice?
- How often did you organize the learning and sharing meetings and how did you use those learnings to improve the project outcomes?

- What were the enabling and limiting factors that contributed to the achievement of results and what actions were needed to overcome any barriers that might have limited the progress of women's access to justice?

### Efficiency

- To what extent have you used your human and financial resources efficiently? Were funds received/dispensed on time? Why or why not?
- In your opinion, do your organizational structures, managerial support and coordination mechanisms effectively support the coherent delivery of the project?
- Is there any M&E system in your organization? If yes, what are the strengths and weaknesses of the M&E system, and the extent to which it has been used for decision-making?
- What is your perception of the human and financial capacities and resources of UN Women? What are UN Women's strengths and weaknesses with regard to about country/region?
- Were there any challenges or issues related to your cooperation with UN Women? In your collaboration with UN Women, are the planned interventions delivered on time?

### Impact

- What specific changes have the project brought in the lives of women?
- What are the social changes to address discrimination against women the intervention contributed to at the community level (i.e., attitudes, trust in justice providers, behaviour, knowledge, sociocultural practices & norms related to gender equality)? Refer also to the identified most significant changes/case studies
- Have you observed any unintended outcomes positive and negative- that the project brought through its interventions?
- Have you observed any changes in the knowledge, attitude, and behaviour of the police, members of JC, lawyers, judges, community mediators, and religious and political leaders towards addressing women's issues and providing gender-responsive justice? If yes, please share them with examples.
- What more needs to be done to make the justice system more accountable in addressing women's issues in the future?

### Sustainability

- How is the ownership of the local government about the project interventions on access to justice and the potential sustainability of the interventions to advance women's access to justice, including to what extent have government partners committed to it?
- Do you consider this project approach to be scalable? Do you think local governments would benefit from a strengthened community-justice approach as initiated by the project?
- To what extent were you able to coordinate with stakeholders from national to local level levels and how did you ensure government ownership of the project interventions?
- To what extent are the capacities of stakeholders being developed to effectively implement WA2J interventions?
- What kind of resources and capacity has been built among the judicial committees, mediators, informal justice actors, GWOs, media, legal advisors, elected representatives, and women by the project? and what are the areas for improvement or what could be done better in future interventions to advance women's access to justice?



- Will you continue with any of the project activities beyond the lifespan of the project? If so, which ones? Please share with us any specific actions that your organization has taken or will take to carry forward the work with the project. And if not, why not?

### Gender Equality and Human Rights

- To what extent has your cooperation with UN Women contributed to addressing underlying social norms and structural barriers to achieving gender-responsive people-centred justice in Asia Pacific? How?
- How were the most marginalized groups, including women in remote locations, women from low socio-economic groups, women with disabilities and persons with diverse SOGIESC, reached in your programme and what were the most effective strategies for reaching them? What more could have been done? What are the key benefits and changes achieved for these groups?
- To what extent is the project bringing about gender transformative changes that address the root causes of gender inequalities – including prevailing social norms, attitudes and behaviours, legislation, policy, discrimination and social systems in particular those affecting women’s access to justice in your community? Can you share the changes and reasons for changes?
- Has trust in the local justice mechanism increased or decreased (social contract strengthened)?

### Challenges and Lessons Learned

- What are the key challenges in implementing the project/activities?
- Has the approach changed during the project implementation period? If so, why?
- What do you think are the most important lessons learned arising from the project? (Can be positive and negative)
- Based on your experience and cooperating with the project, which areas of work have the most potential for catalysing further advancements for GEWE and women’s access to justice in Asia Pacific?

### Recommendations

- What are your priorities in terms of WA2J in the short (1-2 years) and mid-long term (3+years)? How 3+ years the project support you with these priorities?

## Key Informants Interview (KII) with Informal Justice Actors

Introductions, explanation of how data will be used, and informed consent protocol. Please introduce yourself and tell us briefly about your engagement now.

### Relevance

- Please briefly describe your role as an informal justice provider in your community and how long you have been in this role.
- How familiar with WA2J project and what activities have you done with this project?
- Can you share your understanding of Women's rights and their access to justice in your community? What specific problems were faced in accessing justice in the past?
- To what extent did the project address the major obstacles to WA2J at the country and community level?
- What specific support did you get through this project to address women's barriers to justice (training, technical and advisory support)?
- How did you apply the knowledge you gained from the project?
- How do you respond if family conflict including women's issues occurred in your village?

### Effectiveness

- How far has the project been successful in bridging the gap between the formal and informal justice system? Is this still pertinent? Has this contributed to or created a conducive environment to increase the number of women who have access to justice?
- To what extent did the project enhance the capacity of stakeholders to effectively implement WA2J interventions?
- To what extent were the project strategies (capacity building, advocacy, dialogues, community outreach, technical support, etc.) effective to achieve the intended outcomes?
- To what extent did the project influence policy and legislative developments?
- What are the areas for improvement or what could be done better in future interventions to advance women's access to justice?
- Can you share your experience on how were you able to promote A2J for women in your community and what more needs to be done to achieve it fully?
- Who do women trust the most in your community if they need any advice/support to get access to justice? Has this changed at all due to the project interventions?
- What more needs to be done to make the justice system more accountable in addressing women's issues in the future?

### Impact

- What specific changes have the project brought in the lives of women?
- How did the project change the understanding of women's rights and WA2J within the selected legal community, including the judiciary and other service providers?
- How has the legal community been impacted by the project (i.e., lawyers, judges, law enforcement agencies)? Have attitudes changed?
-

### Sustainability

- To what extent are the capacities of stakeholders being developed to effectively implement WA2J interventions?
- What kind of resources have been developed and capacity has been built among the judicial committees' mediators, informal justice actors, and legal advisors, by the project? and what are the areas for improvement or what could be done better in future interventions to advance women's access to justice in a sustainable way and sustainably contextual factors for sustaining and replicating the project interventions and their impact at the national level?

### Gender Equality and Human Rights

- Do you see any changes in discriminatory and harmful social practices since the project started in your community? If yes, can you share what are they and the reasons for such changes?

### Key Informants Interview with Informal Justice Actors

Introductions, explanation of how data will be used, and informed consent protocol. Please introduce yourself and tell us briefly about your engagement now.

### Relevance

- Please briefly describe your role at the district as a legal advisor and how long you have been in this role.
- How familiar with the WA2J project and what activities have you done with this project?
- Can you share your understanding of Women's rights and their access to justice in your community? What specific problems have women faced in the past?
- To what extent did the project address the major obstacles to WA2J at the country and community level?
- What specific support did you get through this project to address women's barriers to justice (training, technical and advisory support)?
- How did you apply the knowledge you gained from the project?
- How do you respond if family conflict including women's issues occurred in your village?

### Effectiveness

- How far has the project been successful in bridging the gap between the formal and informal justice system? Is this still pertinent? Has this contributed to or created a conducive environment to increase the number of women who have access to justice?
- To what extent did the project enhance the capacity of stakeholders to effectively implement WA2J interventions?
- To what extent were the project strategies (capacity building, advocacy, dialogues, community outreach, technical support, etc.) effective to achieve the intended outcomes?
- To what extent did the project influence policy and legislative developments?
- What are the areas for improvement or what could be done better in future interventions to advance women's access to justice?
- Can you share your experience on how were you able to promote A2J for women in your community and what more needs to be done to achieve it fully?
- Who do women trust the most in your community if they need any advice/support to get access to justice? Has this changed at all due to the project interventions?
- What more needs to be done to make the justice system more accountable in addressing women's issues in the future?

## Impact

- What specific changes have the project brought in the lives of women?
- How did the project change the understanding of women's rights and WA2J within the selected legal community, including the judiciary and other service providers?
- How has the legal community been impacted by the project (i.e., lawyers, judges, law enforcement agencies)? Have attitudes changed?

## Sustainability

- To what extent are the capacities of stakeholders being developed to effectively implement WA2J interventions?
- What kind of resources have been developed and capacity has been built among the judicial committees' mediators, informal justice actors, legal advisors, by the project, etc.? And what are the areas for improvement or what could be done better in the future interventions to advance women's access to justice in a sustainable way?
- What are the factors for sustaining and replicating the project interventions and their impact at the national level?

## Gender equality and Human Rights

- Have you seen any changes in discriminatory and harmful social practices since the project started in your community? If yes, can you share what are they and the reasons for such changes?

## Key Informants Interview with Informal Justice Actors

Introductions, explanation of how data will be used, and informed consent protocol. Please introduce yourself and tell us briefly about your engagement now.

## Relevance

- Please briefly describe your role in the organization, including how long you have held the role.
- Can you share your understanding of Women's rights and their access to justice in your community?
- To what extent was the intervention relevant to the needs and priorities as defined by beneficiaries?
- What activities have you done with the WA2J project?
- What types of capacity-building support did you receive including training and technical advisory support through this project?
- How compatible is the project with other women's human rights interventions in the target area?
- Who do women trust the most in your community if they need any advice/support to get access to justice? Has this changed at all due to the project interventions?
- To what extent were the interventions relevant to beneficiaries to respond to the new challenges posed by COVID-19 and the political landscape? Did it lead to a change in the project outcomes/objectives?
- How did you apply the gained knowledge from the training?
- How do you respond if family conflict including women's issues occurs in the village here?
- What specific support did you provide through this project to address women's barriers to justice?

## Effectiveness

- How far has the project been successful in bridging the gap between the formal and informal justice system? Is this still pertinent? Has this contributed to or created a conducive environment to increase the number of women who have access to justice?
- To what extent did the project enhance the capacity of stakeholders to effectively implement WA2J interventions?
- To what extent were the project strategies (capacity building, advocacy, dialogues, community outreach, technical support, etc.) effective to achieve the intended outcomes?
- To what extent did the project influence policy and legislative developments?
- What are the areas for improvement or what could be done better in future interventions to advance women's access to justice?
- What is the focus of your organization? What specific activities have you done so far to advocate for gender-responsive justice?
- What type of support have you received from LAAC to monitor, document, and advocate for gender-responsive justice?
- Can you share your experience on how were you able to promote A2J for women in your community and what more needs to be done to achieve it fully?
- How often did you participate in learning and sharing meetings with LACC and UN Women?

## Impact

- What specific changes have the project brought in the lives of women?
- What are the social changes to address discrimination against women the intervention contributed to at the community level (i.e., attitudes, trust in justice providers, behaviour, knowledge, socio-cultural practices & norms related to gender equality)? Refer also to the identified most significant changes/case studies
- How has the legal community been impacted by the project (i.e., lawyers, judges, law enforcement agencies)? Have attitudes changed?
- Have you observed any changes in the knowledge, attitude, and behaviour of the police, members of JC, lawyers, judges, community mediators, and religious and political leaders towards addressing women's issues and providing gender-responsive justice? If yes, please share them with examples.
- What more needs to be done to make the justice system more accountable in addressing women's issues in the future?

## Sustainability

- To what extent are the capacities of stakeholders being developed to effectively implement WA2J interventions?
- What kind of resources and capacity has been built among the judicial committees, mediators, informal justice actors, GOWs, media, legal advisors, elected representatives, and women by the project? and what are the areas for improvement or what could be done better in future interventions to advance women's access to justice?
- To what extent were you able to coordinate with the local government?

## Gender Equality and Human Rights

- Do you see any changes in discriminatory and harmful social practices since the project started in your community? If yes, can you share what are they and the reasons for such changes?

## Key Informants Interview with Mediators

Introductions, explanation of how data will be used, and informed consent protocol. Please introduce yourself and tell us briefly about your engagement now.

### Relevance

- Please briefly describe your role at the district as a mediator and how long you have been in this role.
- How familiar with the WA2J project and what activities have you done with this project?
- Can you share your understanding of Women's rights and their access to justice in your community? What specific problems women were facing in the past?
- To what extent did the project address the major obstacles to WA2J at the country and community level?
- What specific support did you get through this project to address women's barriers to justice (training, technical and advisory support)?
- How did you apply the knowledge you gained from the project?
- How do you respond if family conflict including women's issues occurred in your village?

### Effectiveness

- How far has the project been successful in bridging the gap between the formal and informal justice system? Is this still pertinent? Has this contributed to or created a conducive environment to increase the number of women that have access to justice?
- To what extent did the project enhance the capacity of stakeholders to effectively implement WA2J interventions?
- To what extent were the project strategies (capacity building, advocacy, dialogues, community outreach, technical support, etc.) effective to achieve the intended outcomes?
- To what extent did the project influence policy and legislative developments?
- What are the areas for improvement or what could be done better in future interventions to advance women's access to justice?
- Can you share your experience on how were you able to promote A2J for women in your community and what more needs to be done to achieve it fully?
- Who do women trust the most in your community if they need any advice/support to get access to justice? Has this changed at all due to the project interventions?
- What more needs to be done to make the justice system more accountable in addressing women's issues in the future?

### Impact

- What specific changes have the project brought in the lives of women?
- How did the project change the understanding of women's rights and WA2J within the selected legal community, including the judiciary and other service providers?
- How has the legal community been impacted by the project (i.e., lawyers, judges, law enforcement agencies)? Have attitudes changed?

### Sustainability

- To what extent are the capacities of stakeholders being developed to effectively implement WA2J interventions?

- What kind of resources have been developed and capacity has been built among the judicial committees' mediators, informal justice actors, and legal advisors, by the project? and what are the areas for improvement or what could be done better in future interventions to advance women's access to justice in a sustainable way?
- What are the sustainable factors for sustaining and replicating the project interventions and their impact at the national level?

### Gender Equality and Human Rights

- Do you see any changes in discriminatory and harmful social practices since the project started in your community? If yes, can you share what are they and the reasons for such changes?

### Key Informants Interview with GWOs

Introductions, explanation of how data will be used, and informed consent protocol. Please introduce yourself and tell us briefly about your engagement now.

#### Relevance

- Please briefly describe your role in the organization, including how long you have held the role.
- Can you share your understanding of Women's rights and their access to justice in your community?
- To what extent was the intervention relevant to the needs and priorities as defined by beneficiaries?
- What activities have you done with the WA2J project?
- What types of capacity-building support did you receive including training and technical advisory support through this project?
- How compatible is the project with other women's human rights interventions in the target area?
- Who do women trust the most in your community if they need any advice/support to get access to justice? Has this changed at all due to the project interventions?
- To what extent were the interventions relevant to beneficiaries to respond to the new challenges posed by COVID-19 and the political landscape? Did it lead to a change in the project outcomes/objectives?
- How did you apply the gained knowledge from the training?
- How do you respond if family conflict including women's issues occurs in the village here?
- What specific support did you provide through this project to address women's barriers to justice?

#### Effectiveness

- How far has the project been successful in bridging the gap between the formal and informal justice system? Is this still pertinent? Has this contributed to or created a conducive environment to increase the number of women who have access to justice?
- To what extent did the project enhance the capacity of stakeholders to effectively implement WA2J interventions?
- To what extent were the project strategies (capacity building, advocacy, dialogues, community outreach, technical support, etc.) effective to achieve the intended outcomes?
- To what extent did the project influence policy and legislative developments?
- What are the areas for improvement or what could be done better in future interventions to advance women's access to justice?

- What is the focus of your organization? What specific activities have you done so far to advocate for gender-responsive justice?
- What type of support have you received from LAAC to monitor, document, and advocate for gender-responsive justice?
- Can you share your experience on how were you able to promote A2J for women in your community and what more needs to be done to achieve it fully?
- How often did you participate in learning and sharing meetings with LACC and UN Women?

### Impact

- What specific changes have the project brought in the lives of women?
- What are the social changes to address discrimination against women the intervention contributed to at the community level (i.e., attitudes, trust in justice providers, behaviour, knowledge, socio-cultural behaviours & norms sociocultural equality)? Refer also to the identified most significant changes/case studies
- How has the legal community been impacted by the project (i.e., lawyers, judges, law enforcement agencies)? Have attitudes changed?
- Have you observed any changes in the knowledge, attitude, and behaviour of the police, members of behaviours, judges, community mediators, and religious and political leaders towards addressing women's issues and providing gender-responsive justice? If yes, please share them with examples.
- What more needs to be done to make the justice system more accountable in addressing women's issues in the future?

### Sustainability

- To what extent are the capacities of stakeholders being developed to effectively implement WA2J interventions?
- What kind of resources and capacity has been built among the judicial committees, mediators, informal justice actors, GOWs, media, legal advisors, elected representatives, and women by the project? and what are the areas for improvement or what could be done better in future interventions to advance women's access to justice?
- To what extent were you able to coordinate with the local government?

### Gender Equality and Human Rights

- Do you see any changes in discriminatory and harmful social practices since the project started in your community? If yes, can you share what are they and the reasons for such changes?

### Key Informants Interview with Judicial Committee Members

Introductions, explanation of how data will be used, and informed consent protocol. Please introduce yourself and tell us briefly about your engagement now.

### Relevance

- Please briefly describe yourself as an elected representative at the local level and how long you have been here.
- How familiar with the WA2J project and what activities s have you done with this project?
- Can you share your understanding of Women's rights and their access to justice in your community? What specific problem women were facing in the past?
- To what extent did the project address the major obstacles to WA2J at the country and community level?



- What specific support did you get through this project to address women’s barriers to justice (training, technical and advisory support)?
- How did you apply the knowledge you gained from the project?
- How do you respond if family conflict including women’s issues occurred in your village?

### Effectiveness

- How far has the project been successful in bridging the gap between the formal and informal justice system? Is this still pertinent? Has this contributed to or created a conducive environment to increase the number of women who have access to justice?
- To what extent were the project strategies (capacity building, advocacy, dialogues, community outreach, technical support, etc.) effective to achieve the intended outcomes?
- To what extent did the project influence policy and legislative developments?
- Who do women trust the most in your community if they need any advice/support to get access to justice? Has this changed at all due to the project interventions?
- What are the areas for improvement or what could be done better in future interventions to advance women’s access to justice?
- Can you share your experience on how were you able to promote A2J for women in your community and what more needs to be done to achieve it fully?
- What more needs to be done to make the justice system more accountable in addressing women’s issues in the future?

### Impact

- What specific changes have the project brought in the lives of women?
- How did the project change the understanding of women’s rights and WA2J within the selected legal community, including the judiciary and other service providers?
- How has the legal community been impacted by the project (i.e., lawyers, judges, law enforcement agencies)? Have attitudes changed?

### Sustainability

- To what extent are the capacities of stakeholders being developed to effectively implement WA2J interventions?
- What kind of resources have been developed and capacity has been built among the judicial committees’ mediators, informal justice actors, and legal advisors, by the project? and what are the areas for improvement or what could be done better in future interventions to advance women’s access to justice in a sustainable way?
- What sustainably factors for sustaining and replicating the project interventions and their impact at the national level?

### Gender Equality and Human Rights

- Do equality changes in discriminatory and harmful social practices since the project started in your community? If yes, can you share what are they and the reasons for such changes?

## Focus Group Discussion with Grassroot Women Organizations (GWOs)

Introductions, explanation of how data will be used, and informed consent protocol. Please introduce yourself and tell us briefly about your engagement with the WA2J project in Nepal.

### Relevance

- Please briefly describe your role in the organization, including how long you have held the role.
- Can you share your understanding of Women's rights and their access to justice in your community?
- To what extent was the intervention relevant to the needs and priorities as defined by beneficiaries?
- What activities have you done with the WA2J project?
- What types of capacity-building support did you receive including training and technical advisory support through this project?
- How compatible is the project with other women's human rights interventions in the target area?
- Who do women trust the most in your community if they need any advice/support to get access to justice? Has this changed at all due to the project interventions?
- To what extent were the interventions relevant to beneficiaries to respond to the new challenges posed by COVID-19 and the political landscape? Did it lead to change in the project outcomes/objectives?

### Effectiveness

- How far has the project been successful in bridging the gap between the formal and informal justice system? Is this still pertinent? Has this contributed to or created a conducive environment to increase the number of women who have access to justice?
- To what extent did the project enhance the capacity of stakeholders to effectively implement WA2J interventions?
- To what extent were the project strategies (capacity building, advocacy, dialogues, community outreach, technical support, etc.) effective to achieve the intended outcomes?
- To what extent did the project influence policy and legislative developments?
- What are the areas for improvement or what could be done better in future interventions to advance women's access to justice?
- What is the focus of your organization? What specific activities have you done so far to advocate for gender-responsive justice?
- What type of support have you received from LAAC to monitor, document, and advocate for gender-responsive justice?
- Can you share your experience on how were you able to promote A2J for women in your community and what more needs to be done to achieve it fully?
- How often did you participate in learning and sharing meetings with LACC and UN Women?

### Impact

- What specific changes have the project brought in the lives of women?

- What are the social changes to address discrimination against women the intervention contributed to at the community level (i.e., attitudes, trust in justice providers, behaviour, knowledge, sociocultural practices & norms related to gender equality)? Refer also to the identified most significant changes/case studies
- How has the legal community been impacted by the project (i.e., lawyers, judges, law enforcement agencies)? Have attitudes changed?
- Have you observed any changes in the knowledge, attitude, and behaviour of the police, members of JC, lawyers, judges, community mediators, and religious and political leaders towards addressing women's issues and providing gender-responsive justice? If yes, please share them with examples.
- What more needs to be done to make the justice system more accountable in addressing women's issues in the future?

### Sustainability

- To what extent are the capacities of stakeholders being developed to effectively implement WA2J interventions?
- What kind of resources and capacity has been built among the judicial committees, mediators, informal justice actors, GOWs, media, legal advisors, elected representatives, and women by the project? and what are the areas for improvement or what could be done better in future interventions to advance women's access to justice?
- To what extent were you able to coordinate with the local government?

### Gender Equality and Human Rights

- Do you see any changes in discriminatory and harmful social practices since the project started in your community? If yes, can you share what are they and the reasons for such changes?

### Checklist \_Case story\_ Right holders/women service recipients

Introductions, explanation of how data will be used, and informed consent protocol. Please introduce yourself and tell us briefly about your engagement now.

#### Main questions:

- Name, age, family background, sex, marital status, Kids (if any), Name of place,
- Education background
- What are you doing now?
- Can you please share about the situation before you were?
- How have you been treated in your community?
- How did you know that the Judicial Committee provides support/ legal advisor justice to women?
- When did you first approach the Judicial Committee/legal advisor and for what?
- Who did you approach in the JC first and who took you there?
- How did you feel about their approach and attitude while dealing with your case?
- How did you feel when your issue was addressed? Did you feel that justice was delivered to you in a gender-sensitive way? If yes, can you share your feelings in detail?
- What kind of support have you received from the Judicial Committee to get access to justice?



## Annex 5

### Target Vs Achievement -UN Women Nepal

Results	Indicators	BL	Tgt.	Ach.	BL	Tgt	Ach	Progress (%)	Progress note
		(2018-2022)			(2022-2023)				
Outcome	Outcome Indicator 1: Number of policies/procedures related to gender-responsive justice reviewed and/or formulated at the local level.	0	2	2 resource packages were developed and disseminated to JCs and IJAs; 5 LGUs developed GBV fund guidelines	0	3	3	100	10 judicial committees adopted a GESI procedure elaborated in "Enhancing Gender-Responsive Justice: User-Friendly Resource Book for Judicial Committees" during the launch events held on November 28 and 7, 2021, respectively. This is also evidenced in the letter regarding the adoption of the GESI procedure by all 10 local government units. (phase 1)  Target: 3 policies/procedures develop/review Final: 3 policies/procedures developed 1) Mediation Procedures of 11 LGUs 2) Judicial Committee Procedural Law - 2 LGUs (Gauriganga Municipality and Dhangadhi Sub-Metro Politian City) 3) GEDSI Policy - 2 LGUs (Gauriganga Municipality and Dhangadhi Sub-Metro Politian City) (Phase 2)
	Outcome Indicator 2: Number of women who access justice through judicial committees and informal justice systems (linked to regional indicator)	0	100	IJAs referred 138 cases and GWOs referred 194 to JCs; Of the 544 cases, 406 were settled by JCs	1386 (248 F; 1138 M)	100	159	159	Of the 406 cases, 161 cases of women have been settled by judicial committees through gender-sensitive mediation mechanisms. The Judicial Committees have enabled gender-responsive justice by maintaining confidentiality, use of gender-sensitive language, and identifying and addressing the immediate needs of victims, such as shelter support, while delivering justice. (Phase 1)  Target: access to justice for 100 women (includes cases of women referred by JC committees to another justice actor, cases registered in JCs or cases that have been settled, and number of cases referred by IJAs) Achievement: 159 women received access to justice (Phase 2)
Output 1 & Output 2	Output Indicator 1.1: Number of community-based justice actors (judicial committees, mediators, and informal justice actors and ward representatives) with strengthened capacity on gender-responsive justice (with project support)	0	655	705	705	405	422	104	A total of 705 community-based justice actors- 46 judicial committee members including key staff (19 women; 27 men), 325 mediators (167 women; 158 men), and 334 informal justice actors (175 women and 159 men) who have demonstrated strengthened their capacities on gender-responsive justice. This is evidenced by the pre- and post-assessment results showing a 70 per cent increase in JCs and an 83 per cent increase in mediators and IJAs respectively, whose capacity on gender-responsive justice (GRJ) increased after the training on gender-responsive justice. (Community-Based Justice Actors Strengthened capacity on GRJ) Achievement: 422 Community-Based Justice Actors Strengthened capacity on GRJ (Phase II)
	Output Indicator 1.2: Proportion of community-based justice actors with increased understanding of gender discriminatory social norms (with project support)	0		90%	40%	80%	80%	100	Out of 422 Community-Based Justice Actors (CBOs), 95% increased their understanding of gender discriminatory social norms by 100% i.e. 400 CBOs. And, 5% increased understanding of gender discriminatory social norms by 80% i.e. 22 CBOs
	Output Indicator 2.1: Number of dialogues conducted between/among formal and informal justice actors (with project support)	0		A total of 56 (602 CBJAs)	32	4	12	300	A total of 56 dialogue/ interaction events among and between judicial committees, mediators, and informal justice actors were including representatives of district court, mayors, p, lawyers and WHRDs have facilitate dialogue among 604 frontline justice actors - 60 judicial committee members including key staff (34 women; 26 men), 234 mediators (125 women and 109 men); 202 IJAs (84 women and 118 men) and 108 other justice actors (55 women and 53 men). (Phase 1) A total of 12 dialogues (4 local level, 7 provincials, and 1 federal level) were conducted.
	Output Indicator 2.3: Number of dialogues conducted between justice actors (formal and informal) and community participation and/or engagement. (with project support)	0		A total of 12 (456= 336 F, 100 M; 76 D, 100 I, 115 Khas/A, 139 Madh, 6 Mus	4	4	8	200	Target: 4 dialogues Achievement: 8 dialogues (Phase 2)
Output 3	Output Indicator 3.1: Number of GWO members who have enhanced their capacities on documentation, monitoring and advocacy of women's access to gender-responsive justice (with project support)	0		64	64	60	60	100	Target: 60 GWO members Achievement = 60 GWO members
	Output Indicator 3.2: Number of women whose access to justice is facilitated by the GWOs/CBWOs linked to A2J Regional Indicator Number of women accessing legal aid with UN Women's support in the framework of the programme)	0	200	83 cases supported by GWOs	277	50	128	256	The facilitation role of GWOs/ CBWOs signifies the number of cases that has been referred to the Judicial Committees. Among 277 cases facilitated, 83 women were supported by GWO members, through phone calls to check in on their wellbeing amid 1st phase of lockdown led by COVID-19. They also provided information on the preventive measures of COVID-19 in line with government guidance, contact details of helplines/service providers such as 100 for Nepali Police and 1145 NWC hotline, and advocacy with the local government for the women's access to relief. (Phase 1) Target: 50 women whose access to justice is facilitated by the GWOs/GWO members  Achievement = 128 women whose access to justice is facilitated by the GWOs/GWO members (Phase 2)
	Output Indicator 3.3: Number of media persons sensitized on gender-responsive reporting (Phase 1)	0	20	30			45		30 media persons trained (Phase 1) 45 media persons trained (Phase 2)

Results	Indicators	BL	Tgt.	Ach.	BL	Tgt	Ach	Progress (%)	Progress note
		(2018-2022)			(2022-2025)				
Output 3	Output Indicator 3.4: Number of women at the community level who have increased their knowledge of their rights	0	60% (3665)	3512 (86 % of 4084)					Of the 4084, 3512 (86% of 4084) women who participated in the interaction held for at the community level have increased their knowledge their rights. The interaction created a platform for women, particularly from vulnerable and marginalized groups, to raise their knowledge and resilience to access to justice (phase 1)
	Output Indicator 3.3: Number of priority actions identified and implemented by GWO members to advocate with formal, and informal justice actors and service providers to enhance access to justice for women (Phase 2)	0			0	5	11	220	Target: 5 priority actions identified and implemented by GWO Members Achievement: 11 priority actions identified and implemented by GWO Members
	Output Indicator 3.6: Number of conflict victim National Women network members who have enhanced their capacities on evidence-based advocacy	0	20	19					Through a show of hands, a brief pre- and post-poll on national and international practices/legal procedures for conflict-affected survivors, as well as advocacy approaches, showed a 72 per cent increase in the number of participants whose understanding had increased after the workshop. (Phase 1)
	Output Indicator 3.5: Percentage of community people who have gained knowledge related to services for women's access to justice, gender-based violence and discriminatory social norms through radio programmes.	0		70%	50%	70%	91.70%	151	225 (75 per cent of 300) have gained knowledge on various forms of gender-based violence, and information on key legal provisions and service providers for access to justice. (Phase 1)  Target: 50% of community people who have gained knowledge related to services for women's access to justice, gender-based violence and discriminatory social norms through radio programmes.  Achievement: 70% of community people have gained knowledge related to services for women's access to justice, gender-based violence and discriminatory social norms through radio programmes.

Based on has/Arya; D= Dalit; Madh= Madhesi; Mus= Musl; J= Janjati; F= Female; M= Male; IJAs= Informal Justice Actors; FJAs= Formal Justice Actors; JCs= Judicial Committees; LGUs= Local Government Unit

## Target Vs Achievement –ICJ Programme Nepal

	Indicator	Baseline and Target (Regional)	Achievement (Nepal)
Outcome 1	Number of Countries in Asia and the Pacific whose court system formally adopts and uses the Bangkok General Guidance	Baseline: (2018); Target:	Not formally adopted but internalised some provisions through strategic planning of the judiciary.
Outcome 5	Number of domestic laws passed, and court decisions made in the target country in 2018 that are consistent with International human rights law and standards, including the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).	Baseline: 0 (2018); Target:	<p>ICJ in Nepal has been advocating to make Nepal's TJ legislation gender-sensitive and gender-responsive. The TJ amendment Bill is registered in the parliament and some of the concerns we raised in the Briefing paper is addressed we are continuing our advocacy to incorporate other gender-sensitive issues in the amendment Bill.</p> <p>Total participants – 104 (Male – 93, Female 11 – women's participation in Nepalese judiciary is very low) High Court judges – 14 District Court Judges – 90</p>
Outcome 3/Output 1.1.2	Number of formal justice providers agree on modalities to enhance women's access to the formal justice system in their respective countries	Baseline: 0 (2018); Target: (2023)	<p>Lawyers benefited from the ICJ workshop: Total participants: 142 (4 workshops) Male – 52 Female – 90</p> <p>Training/ Workshop with members of the Judicial committee (province One (Koshi) Total participants from the judicial Committee – 30 Male - 11 Female – 19</p>
Output 1.2.1	Number of Supreme Court or High Court judges (Disaggregated by gender) whose knowledge of Bangkok General Guidelines in increased together with their level of commitment to introduce the guidance within their court systems.	The number	Total participants – 104 (Male – 93, Female 11 – women's participation in Nepalese judiciary is very low) High Court judges – 14 District Court Judges – 90
Output 1.3.2	Number of Judges in the target countries who, after being trained, say that they understand more the root causes of discriminatory attitudes Female behaviours towards women commonly manifested in court decisions and they are willing to work towards eliminating these gender discriminatory attitudes.	Baseline: (2018); get: 2023	The majority participants of in judicial dialogues said that they received sound knowledge about gender discriminatory attitudes and behaviours towards women in society. They said that they are keen to work towards eliminating gender discriminatory attitudes and behaviours towards women
Output 1.5.1	Number of institutions or organizations in targeted countries which receive advocacy materials developed in the framework of the programme on the promotion of domestic laws that are consistent with international human rights laws and standards, including CEDAW.	Baseline: (2018); Target: (2023)	Judiciaries (judges of Supreme Court, High Courts and District Courts) Bar Association Parliamentary Committee Law Ministry

	Indicator	Baseline and Target (Regional)	Achievement (Nepal)
Output 1.5.2	Number of briefing papers published and disseminated to the public and specifically women's human rights groups/advocates in the framework of this project	Baseline: (2018); Target: (2023)	Two briefing papers published during the project period: i) Transitional Justice Mechanisms with a Gender with a gender perspective (May 2021); ii) A critical evaluation of the operation of Nepal's judicial Committees in relation to women's Access to Justice (April 2023)
Output 1.5.2	Number of briefing papers published and disseminated to the public and specifically women's human rights groups/advocates in the framework of this project	Baseline: (2018); Target: (2023)	Two briefing papers published during the project period: i) Transitional Justice Mechanisms with a Gender with a gender perspective (May 2021); ii) A critical evaluation of the operation of Nepal's judicial Committees in relation to women's Access to Justice (April 2023)
Output 1.5.3	Number of bilateral briefings with legislators and advocacy missions to countries in Asia and the Pacific to discuss the amendment or abolition of laws that explicitly discriminate against women	Baseline: (2018) Target: (2023)	Bi lateral briefing meetings with: Law Minister Secretary, Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Chair, Law, Justice and Human Rights Committee of the House of Representatives Secretary, Legislative Committee of National Assembly Chair, Human Rights and International Treaties Directorate of the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers Meeting with influential parliamentarians (individual meetings) Advocacy briefing meetings: Advocacy event with Parliamentarians (Total 62 participants – 25 Male and 37 Female) Attended consultation meetings organised by the government on draft TRC Law (ICJ attended pre-consultation and influential parliamentarian's province of Nepal) Several meetings were organised by the GoN to discuss the amendment to TRC law (ICJ provided its suggestion and feedback in line with international standards and from a gender lens)



# Annex XI

## SOLOMON ISLANDS CASE STUDY

Solomon Islands Women's Access to Justice Solomon Islands (WA2JSI)  
Project

### Final Evaluation

ENHANCING ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR WOMEN IN ASIA  
AND THE PACIFIC: BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN FOR-  
MAL AND COMMUNITY-BASED SYSTEMS THROUGH  
WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

Submitted by:  
Ms Afu Lia Billy – National Individual Consultant  
November 2023



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# ABBREVIATIONS

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<b>A2J</b>	Access to Justice
<b>CEDAW</b>	Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
<b>COVID-19</b>	Corona virus Disease-19
<b>CSOs</b>	Civil Society Organizations
<b>FGD</b>	Focused Group Discussions
<b>GRJ</b>	Gender Responsive Justice
<b>GWOs</b>	Grassroots women’s organizations
<b>ICJ</b>	International Commission Jurists
<b>KIIs</b>	Key Informants Interview
<b>LGBTIQ+</b>	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersexual, Queer plus
<b>LNOB</b>	Leave No One Behind agenda
<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>MTR</b>	Mid-Term Review
<b>OHCHR</b>	Office of High Commissioner of Human Rights
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SIDA</b>	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
<b>ToC</b>	Theory of Change
<b>ToT</b>	Training of Trainers
<b>UNEG</b>	United Nations Evaluation Group
<b>WA2JSI</b>	Women’s Access to Justice Solomon Islands Project
<b>AJ</b>	Authorised Justice
<b>PP</b>	Prescribed Persons
<b>MWYCFA</b>	Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs
<b>MJLA</b>	Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs
<b>FPA</b>	Family Protection Act
<b>IPOs</b>	Interim Protection Order
<b>MCO</b>	Multi Country Office
<b>NGO</b>	Non Government Organisation
<b>SIG</b>	Solomon Islands Government
<b>NACC</b>	National Advisory Committee on Children

<b>TGCFB</b>	Traditional Governance and Customs Facilitation Bill
<b>SPC</b>	Pacific Community
<b>WPEL</b>	Women’s Political and Economic Leadership
<b>LCC</b>	Local Courts Clerk
<b>GPCW</b>	Guadalcanal Provincial Council of Women
<b>MEL</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>HRBA</b>	Human Rights Based Approach
<b>VAWGs</b>	Violence Against Women and Girls
<b>PWD</b>	People with Disabilities
<b>UN Women+</b>	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
<b>WA2J</b>	Women’s Access to Justice

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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The lack of access to justice impacts on vulnerable groups in Solomon Islands including women and girls, in particular victims/survivors of domestic violence and others such as people with disabilities, the elderly, minority ethnic groups and those with different sexual orientation. They are the least able to claim their rights especially in the remote and far-flung areas of the country, where the formal justice infrastructure and services are lacking. Barriers against women and these other vulnerable groups are common across the country and culture plays a major part in suppressing women and girls. Service delivery is very much limited to Honiara, the capital city of Solomon Islands and some provincial government centres and access to information is a major problem in a country with more than 900 small and scattered islands affected by climate change; and six bigger islands that are mountainous with rugged terrain, poor infrastructure, prone to the threats and risks of tropical cyclones, tsunamis and other natural disasters which are frequent occurrences in the country nowadays; making communication, transportation and interisland travel dangerous and costly. Access to justice for women and vulnerable groups is a major challenge in the country.

This report is Solomon Islands contribution to the final evaluation of a regional project, “Enhancing Access to Justice for Women in Asia and the Pacific: Bridging the gap between formal and community-based systems through women’s empowerment” (Women’s Access to Justice). It is a joint evaluation between the UNWomen, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) in accordance with the guidance from the UN Evaluation Group (UNEG). The project was implemented at both the regional as well as the subregional level and designed to work towards that all women will be beneficiaries without leaving anyone behind, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. At the regional level, the Women’s Access to Justice (A2J) Project was implemented by UNWomen in partnership with the OHCHR and the ICJ. At the national level, the project was implemented in Nepal and Solomon Islands.

In Solomon Islands the Women’s Access to Justice

Solomon Islands (WA2JSI) project focused on assisting women to access justice through the the Family Protection Act’s provision to use Authorised Justices (AJs) of the community based Local Courts and community facilitators called Prescribed Persons (PPs) to assist and support victims and survivors of violence to access justice by serving interim protection orders or IPOs on their perpetrators and to refer them to service providers to address their emotional and physical needs in the aftermath of their ordeal; be it counselling, medical attention, mediation, finding them safe accommodation and even going to the police depending on the nature and seriousness of their case.

The other component of the WA2JSI project addresses output 3<sup>1</sup> of the regional project as well as the objectives of the WA2JSI project and its Women’s Political and Economic Leadership focus. This second component is more on raising awareness among women and communities on their rights; advocate for access to justice through legislation reform; capacity build and empower grassroots women including leaders and human rights defenders; and and to advocate for women’s participation in decision making in relation to climate change and traditional governance.

The WA2JSI project was implemented by UNWomen Solomon in partnership with two government ministries, namely the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs (MWYCF) and the Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs (MJLA). The scope of the WA2JSI project was two target provinces in one community per province. The project begun in November 2022 and ended in June 2023. The methodology for this evaluation was limited to qualitative data collection only due to the very short project life span. Qualitative data was gathered through 15 Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and 1 Focus Group Discussion (FGD).

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<sup>1</sup> Grassroots women’s organisations and community-based women’s organisations are empowered and well-positioned to document, monitor, liaise and facilitate interactions with justice

These interviews and discussions were conducted through face to face interviews (11) and 4 telephone interviews from the two target provinces and the 2 selected communities. Interviewees were from the 2 key partner ministries in Honiara, service providers at the national and provincial levels, national and provincial women's organisations as well as with formal and non formal justice providers in Honiara and in the two target communities. The evaluation was conducted using the OECD-DAC evaluation criteria, which include assessing the project's relevance, coherence, efficiency, effectiveness, impact, and sustainability. Additionally, cross-cutting issues such as gender equality and human rights were considered.

### Relevance

The project is very relevant in Solomon Islands where violence against women is one of the highest in the world. Access to Justice is very hard for victims/survivors of violence due to many factors including the physical harsh geographical nature of the country that makes travelling hard and costly, women's lack of confidence to seek justice from the courts and justice providers due to their limited education, the absence of the formal justice system available only in Honiara and some provincial centres, the fear of reporting, cultural barriers, the lack of assurance of safety by the police and courts and many more. The Women's Access to Justice Solomon Islands (WA2JSI) project brought the formal justice system to the communities where through the Family Protection Act (FPA), Authorised Justices (AJs) and Prescribed Persons (PPs) are able to assist victims and survivors of domestic violence access justice right in their own rural communities. The AJs and PPs however are voluntarily performing these roles to assist women although the FPA makes provisions for their roles.

### Effectiveness

The WA2JSI project enabled the completion of a policy paper with drafting instructions for a regulation for the FPA to formally recognize the positions of the AJs and PPs. The drafting instructions are now awaiting endorsement by the Minister of Justice and Legal Affairs and in doing so will give formal/legal recognition to the AJs and PPs to perform their roles as provided for in the FPA in Section 17(2) which provides for AJs to make, vary or revoke Interim Protection Orders (IPOs) and Section 9 which sets out that AJs are

Justices of the Local Courts or prescribed persons (PPs). The Regulation when endorsed will also enable AJs and PPs to be remunerated under the SIGs payroll and the government is obliged to establish mechanisms, systems, procedures, processes and a dedicated budget for the implementation of the FPA through the AJs and the PPs. The WA2JSI project is also enabling community people especially men to access new information on violence, gender equality, human rights, climate change and traditional governance. The project promoted increased collaboration and team work among the stakeholders, the women's organisations, the service providers including the justice providers. The project helped to improve people's interactions with each other in their communities It empowers them to have confidence to share and work together and to know the right people to seek help from.

*"When they do not receive information, they are sitting in the dark. When we reach out to them we are feeding them with information, their eyes are open."*

Stakeholder representative

### Efficiency

Support from UNWomen Solomon in coordinating the WA2JSI project with its two government partners, the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs (MWYCFA) and the Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs (MJLA) is commendable and the service providers, CSOs, women's organisations and community based groups are satisfied with how UNWomen Solomon and the National Project Coordinator are communicating with everyone and ensuring that activities are conducted with as little disturbance as possible. Everyone is happy with their DSAs and helping community people through the payment of caterers and other services provided for the project in the communities. Challenges such as the delay of funds does occur, but these are handled well by the Coordinator. One concern by stakeholders in the provinces is the lack of consultations with them at the beginning of the project and the lack of involving other relevant partners in the project especially in new and unfamiliar areas such as climate change and traditional governance.

## Human Rights and Gender Equality

There are visible signs of the increase in confidence in women to speak out and make recommendations during meetings. The project has strengthened the capacity of women as human rights defenders and they are helping people to know that violence is wrong. If more women become AJ's it will increase the number of women who will be accessing justice as victims/survivors and they will know that there is a safe place and a trusted person to go to to access justice in the community. More community people including women are accessing important information from the WA2JSI project about family violence and how to and when to get help when they are experiencing violence. Women are speaking up and making recommendations.

*"I am proud of the participation and the number of women turning up including elder women and young ones; the women were so outspoken. I was so impressed. I did not expect the elderly women to understand. It's the first time for us to go and provide the information but also the dialogue and the linkages, the fact that we were able to provide the information session then the dialogue and FPA session, gave confidence to the women and community members to give recommendations and to contribute constructively to discussions. I was happy to see women and girls giving recommendations."*

National facilitator during the Malaita community dialogue.

Social inclusion was a weak part of the WA2JSI project. Only one person with disability per target community participated in the community activities. There was no focus on raising awareness on the situations of these vulnerable groups in communities and discriminatory practices against people with disabilities continue in communities.

## Sustainability

The sustainability of the project will depend on the Solomon Islands Government endorsing the FPA Regulation to enable the AJs and PPs to be formally recognized to carry their work in communities to assist women to access justice. The project's sustainability relies also on all the stakeholders, partners, women's

organisations and CSO collaborating and sharing the implementation of the project together with each other. And the sustainability of this project will also depend on further support from the three UNWomen involved in this project, UNWomen Solomon, UNWomen Fiji MCO and the regional UNWomen. This is a very good project that must continue.

## Challenges

The infrastructure to ensure the effective implementation of the AJ and PPs role to assist women to access justice is not there. The police are well known for not being responsive to calls from victims/survivors; police posts are scarce in the provinces and located miles apart from each other which will make safety for victims/survivors a major issue for accessing justice. The AJs and PPs are not in all provinces so there is still a gap in accessing justice if the A2JSI project is to be extended to other provinces or even to other communities of the two current target provinces, however the endorsement of the FPA regulation can mitigate this gap as there are local courts in the other provinces so their local court justices can be recruited to be AJs and other community facilitators could take on the roles of PPs but whether the regulation will be endorsed soon is not assured. Meanwhile the AJs and PPs continue to do work for the government on a voluntary basis many a time using their own resources to ensure the work is done and women victims/survivors access justice in their communities. A major challenge that may hamper the good work that has been going on for the five or six years or so in Solomon Islands to assist women victims/survivors and other vulnerable groups to access justice, is the government's political will to prioritise this work; endorse the FPA regulation and dedicate resources to its realisation. The FPA is there, the Policy is there, the enabling environment is there, the AJs and PPs are there, but whether the government has the resources to commit to this initiative again is not assured

*"When the project stops, no more work will continue and nothing will happen as there will also be no support from the government. As duty bearer the government needs to show more support to this project to enable its sustainability"*.

AJ in the community

## Lessons Learnt

When a project is well coordinated and supported with resources, both technical, financial and other, it will be effective. UNWomen Solomon and its National Project Coordinator were commendable in their coordination of the project all through its short life span. Having the right human resources who are well trained in carrying out their roles is a major good practice for the implementation of projects. The WA2JSI project had this advantage from the Authorised Justices and Prescribed Persons who were trained by SPC in its form A2J project. When planning to implement a project, it is advisable that the implementing agency takes the time to go through all the necessary steps to ensure that the project does not leave anyone behind. It is the thinking of this evaluation that the WA2JSI project was not well thought through by UNWomen and its 2 key government partners. It was probably a case of ensuring that funds were secured before a deadline; so in its 'rush' it did not consult widely with other stakeholders especially those with technical capacity to address some of the substantive topics of the project including climate change, traditional governance and inclusivity to ensure that no one is left behind. Consulting widely may also lead to some sustainability ideas for this very short project in its continuity.

The WA2JSI project was more like a pilot, implemented in only 7 months and restricted to 2 communities only in two provinces hence its representation also raises 'leave no one behind' implications. This is a lesson learnt for the three UNWomen Offices, the UNWomen Solomon, the UNWomen Fiji MCO and the regional UNWomen. Had there been communications among each other and being current with the happenings in the women's space at the national, regional and MCO levels, the SPC A2J project may have been 'found' as it was implemented around the same time that the regional project was implemented and also there were work relating to the outputs of the regional project already happening in Solomon Islands which would have fitted well into the implementation of the regional project in its entirety in Solomon Islands especially for the 5 years period and not for a 7 month period. All in all, a neat and brief project that despite its short life, met its deliverables but in going forward, all three UNWomen and their national, MCO and regional partners must seriously consider the extension of this project or the second phase of this project which must take on the regional project with the same outcome,

the three outputs implemented within the theory of change.

## Lessons Learnt

- That the Minister of Justice and Legal Affairs urgently endorses the Regulation for the Family Protection Act
- That the Solomon Islands Government establishes the necessary mechanisms with a budget to ensure the effective implementation of the FPA and the work of the AJs and PPs to assist women specifically victims and survivors of domestic violence and other vulnerable groups to access justice in the communities.
- UNWomen Solomon to identify other potential partners for the project such as the UNDP Peace building Fund, Safenet, the Ministry responsible for climate change and traditional governance, CSOs such as the Disabled Person's Association of Solomon Islands, the National Disaster Council, the Solomon Islands Law Reform Commission and the Women's Rights Action Movement.
- Include a wider range of stakeholders, non-traditional key stakeholders not in the gender space because they are relevant in new thematic areas such as climate change and traditional governance
- Include other NGOs in this project
- Allow for more time for the information sessions
- UNWomen to consider the following areas when deciding on further and future advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment; land and traditional governance related work that links with climate justice; social inclusion and how to engage the minority and disadvantaged groups in the project as there was a lack of PWDs in the project's activities.
- That the following options be considered when addressing the sustainability of the project
- That UNWomen Solomon further discusses with UNWomen at the regional level and the two current regional partners, OCHRE and ICJ to support Solomon Islands conduct a repeat of the regional project to be implemented in Solomon Islands with the same Outcome and Outputs and the Theory of Change and that a five years core funding secured for the implementation of the project in Solomon Islands.



- The core organisations of the project to collaborate and work together as a team as is their practice now with the WA2JSI project and to implement together using their own resources to contribute to the Access to Justice work of their organisations. The success of this option will depend on the continued cooperation and willingness to share and tolerate each others' differences.
- UNWomen can talk to Oxfam in Solomon Islands which works in this space to collaborate on the next phase of this current project and engage the Solomon Islands National Council of Women (SINCW) which currently partners with Oxfam in its Safe Families project and implement the project but bringing on board the core organisations of the WA2JSI project.
- This can become part of the Solomon Islands Safenet programme. The other key partner of the WA2JSI project is the MWYCFA which said that work already conducted by Safenet could be an option to address the issue of sustainability. The UNWomen WA2JSI project complements the work of Safenet. The project work is not a standalone initiative but aligns to and complements the work of Safe Net which has been rolled out in 8 of the 9 provinces of Solomon Islands. There are two components of the Safe Net. The first is the provision of core services by the Safenet partners in the provinces and the second is the prevention and advocacy component. The work of the WA2JSI project can be easily incorporated into the work of the Safenet.
- The final option is a model shared earlier in this report which one of the provincial government women's organisation has been implementing and that is for individual organisations to incorporate the project work into their own organisational work and to seek funds for the activities and implement as tools for implementation have already been developed by the WA2JSI project.
- Finally and to address the legal requirements of this project, UNWomen can collaborate with the Solomon Islands Law Reform Commission and WRAM to implement Output 1 and 2 of the regional project.
- The project must operate at all the three levels of development in Solomon Islands, the national, provincial and community levels, because it works by linking everyone together. This is the first time for everyone to cooperate in this way. Engaging different actors in this space is a good practice.



Staff member at the Department of Public Prosecution in Honiaria, the Solomon Islands  
Photo credit: UN Women/Patrick Rose

## 1. Country Context Analysis

Under the Solomon Islands 1978 Constitution, every person in the country is entitled to fundamental rights and freedoms of the individual regardless of race, place of origin, political opinion, colour, creed, or sex<sup>1</sup>. The Constitution also protects Solomon Islanders from discrimination on the grounds of race, creed, or sex as stated in Chapter 2, Section 15 subsection 2 which reads, “Subject to the provisions of subsections (7), (8) and (9) of this section, no person shall be treated in a discriminatory manner by any person acting by virtue of any written law or performance of the function of any public office or any public authority.”

Despite these fundamental rights and freedoms, reports on violence against women including sexual violence, appear daily in the Solomon Islands media. In the only Solomon Islands NGO CEDAW Shadow Report on the Status of Women in Solomon Islands’ initial, second and third Report<sup>2</sup> these domestic violence reported cases are the few which comes before the courts and which are reported to the Police and other service providers.

There is very low reporting of domestic violence cases because violence against women is perceived by society as not a crime, but as a private domestic matter and reporting of cases by victims/survivors is only 30% and a very high 70% not reporting. This could be attributed to several factors including women’s lack of confidence and knowledge due to their limited formal education; fear in the justice system to protect them with a limited number of Police Posts in one province, the absence of security and support services in rural areas especially with the abolishing of area constables<sup>3</sup>; trust issues with the Police due to a good number being former militants during the Solomon Islands ethnic tensions.<sup>4</sup> Rural women are often discouraged

by their families and communities from making official complaints and young women have reported that they face sarcasm and abuse by Police when they try to report.

Rural women are often discouraged by their families and communities from making official complaints and young women have reported that they face sarcasm and abuse by Police when they try to report. In Honiara, the most common complaint about reporting gender-based violence is that the police do not take domestic violence seriously and using the lack of transport or staff shortage as an excuse not to provide prompt service or not responding to calls. Gender inequality continues to remain a major issue in Solomon Islands as documented in the World Health Organization report in 2011.<sup>5</sup> Furthermore, the country has one of the highest rates of family and sexual violence (FSV) in the world, with 64% of women aged 15–49 reporting physical or sexual abuse.<sup>6</sup>

Gender inequality is also experienced by women due to their exclusion from formal and traditional governance or decision-making structures, further denying their voice and contributions to decision making impacting negatively on their ability to manage, cope and adapt to changes in the environment due to the impacts of development, climate change, and natural disasters which are frequent occurrences in Solomon Islands. For the majority of women, environmental degradation due to unsustainable ‘development’, effects of climate change, and other natural disasters has given women increased workload, diminishing source of fuel-wood, depletion and pollution of water sources, decreasing access to, and control over, traditionally inherited land and the cause for domestic violence on women and girls. There are no protections in law against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. Same-sex sexual acts are criminalized in Solomon Islands, with the act of ‘unnatural offences’ punishable by up to 14 years in prison. Discrimination against people with disabilities continues in Honiara

1 THE CONSTITUTION OF SOLOMON ISLANDS STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS 1978 NO. 783 PACIFIC ISLANDS The Solomon Islands Independence Order 1978

2 NGO SHADOW REPORT ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN SOLOMON ISLANDS Initial, Second and Third Report (2002 – 2012)

3 Interview with the Local Courts Coordinator, Solomon Islands

4 Disagreements between two ethnic groups in Solomon Islands escalated into armed conflict in the period 1998 to 2003; lives were lost, properties were destroyed and land ownership lost leaving thousands of people homeless and women and girls becoming victims of rape and other violent acts. The conflict ended with the intervention of the Regional

Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI) organised by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and headed by Australia with personnel from New Zealand, Fiji, Papua New Guinea and the other smaller member country islands of the PIFS

5 <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4943125/#ref4>

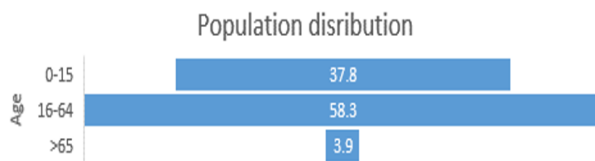
6 <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4943125/#ref5>

## Population

The 2019 projected population of Solomon Islands is 633,378 with males totalling 327, 459 (51.7%) and females, 305,919% (48.3%).<sup>1</sup> The country's Median Age is 19.9 years and 58% of the population are under 25 years and 39% under the age of 15, see Figure 1.

**Figure 1**

### Population distribution by age Solomon Islands 2019<sup>2</sup>



There is a large youthful population and high adolescent fertility with 8%–12% of women aged 15–19 already being mothers.

### Societal norms and gender

Culture and Christianity are two recognized and dynamic influences that shape the lives of Solomon Islanders. The third is the law. These three provide the institutional and legal framework under which Solomon Islanders operate and are managed. Chiefs, elders and church leaders are the gatekeepers of the many unwritten standards, expectations, norms and taboos that regulate people's lives in the communities. People continue to maintain strong cultural beliefs and practices such as the separation of gender roles and respect for marriage protocols.

In Solomon Islands patriarchal attitudes and gender stereotypes are prevalent. These attitudes and norms are typified by the 'bigman' culture whereby communities look to a strong male figure to provide leadership. This and other inherently sexist notions create a society in which gender discriminatory laws and social norms go largely unchallenged. The result is that women are almost invisible in public life and are unable to participate on an equal basis with men on areas of life regulated by law.<sup>3</sup>

1 Live Solomon Islands population (2019) – Countrymeters which can be accessed at: [https://countrymeters.info/en/Solomon\\_Islands](https://countrymeters.info/en/Solomon_Islands)

2 Demographics of Solomon Islands – Wikipedia <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki>

3 Equal Rights Trust. the Secretariat of the Pacific Community

Women are underrepresented in Solomon Islands' major decision making bodies. The ADB Solomon Islands Country Gender Assessment states that key constraints for women to enter leadership positions include low levels of education, high burden of family care responsibility, high levels of violence and underlying discriminatory social attitudes.

### Human Rights, legislation and policy

The SIG has a National Human Rights framework consisting of international human rights conventions as well as national polices. The Solomon Islands Law Reform Commission has been conducting reviews on the laws of the country since 2008.

### Women lack access to the law and judicial systems.

The major challenges for women in this area includes their lack of awareness of their rights, the scarce presence of the justice system beyond Honiara, limited presence of females in the top levels of the judicial system and law enforcement and the intimidating nature of the courts. Local courts do not often handle cases of VAW, even with the introduction of the Family Protection Act (FPA) and women continue to face gender biases as the concept of gender equality is not well versed by legal and judicial professionals. As a result, most court rulings do not support survivors of VAW and only a very small number of cases are heard by magistrates or judges who again are mostly males. It was only in August 2019 that the first ever female local judge was appointed to the High Court of Solomon Islands.

Girls also face the challenge of completing their education without getting pregnant. The World Bank highlights the fact that sexual and reproductive health services are critical to improving the educational experiences of girls, as teen pregnancy is one of the main reasons young women end their schooling, pushing them out of the formal education system at a very young age to join the country's large youthful population with a high adolescent fertility.<sup>4</sup> The literacy rate percentage for young females ages between 15 and 24 years is 80% and for males 90%.<sup>5</sup>

– Solomon Islands Country Office and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community – Regional Rights Resource Team, Stand Up and Fight Addressing Discrimination and Inequality in Solomon Islands, London, January 2016

4 Girls' Education in the Solomon Islands, the Borgen Project, August 3, 2018; <https://borgenproject.org/tag/teenage-pregnancy-in-the-solomon-islands>

5 UNDP, Solomon Islands Youth Status Report, Honiara,

The Sexual offence legislation was amended in 2016 under the Penal Code (Amendment) (Sexual Offences) Bill to criminalize marital rape and replaces previous legislation on sexual offences in gender neutral terms. Same-sex sexual acts are criminalized in Solomon Islands, with the act of ‘unnatural offences’ punishable by up to 14 years in prison. In general, authorities are not believed to enforce these laws. There are no protections in law against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Under the 1945 Islanders’ Marriage Act the legal marriage age for Solomon Islanders is 15 for both males and females. Individuals under the age of 18 require consent from a parent, guardian, or a judge. Efforts in recent years by the National Action Committee on Children (NACC) to increase the legal marriage age to 18 were not addressed and as of May 2022, the legal marriage age remains at 15 for both genders and the minimum age of consent to sex is 15 for both boys and girls.

Solomon Islands have a pluralistic legal system of State law and Customary law that both operate at the national and local level. In State law, both men and women have equal opportunity to acquire land. The majority of the land in Solomon Islands is, however, held in accordance with customary law or ‘kastom’ Under Customary law, decisions regarding land and property related matters and disputes are addressed through a Local Courts system which is male dominated and not gender sensitized placing women at a disadvantage. Land ownership in rural areas determines access to credit and agricultural support services as well as the social power to negotiate access to other resources. There are provinces within Solomon Islands where women are not able to use or hold land independently from their husbands, thus sidelining women of their access to economic, agricultural and other livelihood opportunities.

A Traditional Governance and Customs Facilitation Bill (TGCFB) aims to restore authority of community leaders and chiefs to exercise traditional, informal laws and rights over customary land ownership and its further use, but a gender analysis on the Bill found that it runs the risk of reinforcing existing gender imbalances already experienced in both the formal and traditional governance systems and women’s potential to contribute actively and meaningfully in decision making is overlooked and not given the necessary emphasis it deserves in the Bill. Deficiencies in drafting the first

TGCFB were identified by the Bills and Legislative Parliamentary Committee and a list of recommendations was compiled to address these concerns a main one being to withdraw the Bill and allow for further and more meaningful consultations with marginalized groups, women, youth and churches.<sup>1</sup>

Solomon Islands like other small island states in the Pacific experiences the emerging issue of climate change. For low lying islands and atolls, the risk of sea level rise and diminishing habitable land is becoming a real threat. Rising sea level has affected many coastal communities in Solomon Islands. Beyond the impact on physical environment and land and natural resources the impacts of climate change are impacting the social and economic aspects of people’s day to day lives. Some groups are more vulnerable than others especially when it comes to access to already depleting resources. Women have been historically excluded from decision making regarding land and natural resources as well as access and opportunities in relation to education, employment, basic services and access to justice.<sup>2</sup>

## 1.2. Project background

Solomon Islands was one of two national level countries that the project was being implemented; the other was Nepal. The Women’s Access to Justice Solomon Islands (WA2JSI) project was implemented in the country in partnership with two key government ministries, the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs (MWYCFA) and the Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs (MJLA) and in two target provinces, namely Guadalcanal and Malaita provinces, in one target community per province. UNWomen also invited other stakeholders to participate in the project, including national and provincial women’s organisations, service providers in the domestic violence work space at the national and provincial levels, provincial women’s organisations and rural based grassroots groups.

The WA2JSI project was never a part of the bigger “*Enhancing Access to Justice for Women in Asia and the Pacific: Bridging the gap between formal and community-based systems through women’s empowerment*”, when it started in March 2018 with a five years life span.

1 Initial TGCFB Gender Analysis Report

2 TERMS OF REFERENCE - National Consultant – Enhancing Access to Justice for Women in Asia and the Pacific, August 2022

Solomon Islands only became part of the project in November 2022 which was just seven months away from the end of the regional project in June 2023. Needless to say, the WA2JSI project's life span was very short but UNWomen Solomon and its partners had already been working closely with another A2J project that was implemented in Solomon Islands by the Pacific Community (SPC) Human Rights and Social Development (HRSD) Division funded by the Australian Government; since 2017 and was ending at the end of 2021. UNWomen Solomon role in the SPC project was to support SPC in resourcing some of the project's activities and the two UNWomen Solomon partners, the MWYCFA and the MJLA were the SPC A2J project's Administrative Ministries. It was therefore agreed by SPC, UNWomen Solomon will continue the 'unfinished' business of the SPC A2J project in partnership with the two former project's administrative ministries.

The main thrust of the SPC project was to build the capacity of Authorised Justices (AJs) who were members of the Solomon Islands Local Courts System and responsible for adjudicating community land and customary matters and Prescribed Persons (PPs) who were community facilitators supporting the AJs to assist female victims/supporters of violence to access justice. The FPA had made provisions for the AJs to issue Interim Protection Orders (IPOs) to perpetrators of domestic violence right at the grassroots community levels. This is stated in Section 17(2) of the Family Protection Act (FPA) which gives powers to AJs to make, vary or revoke IPOs. The FPA also mentions Prescribed Persons (PPs) in Section 9 of the FPA which states that Authorised Justices of the Local Courts and prescribed persons are persons belonging to a prescribed class of persons.

In taking over the SPC project, UNWomen Solomon supported SPC with a pre-project training of Prescribed Persons (PPs) in September 2021 for Guadalcanal, attended by 12 participants comprising of 11 females and 1 male. The training was organised according to 2 segments, the first being a refresher on concepts covered during previous trainings on the conduct expected of prescribed persons/AJs in their roles to enable protection and safety of survivors through the FPA, including being role models, not to be violent, intervening during domestic violence incidents and championing respect for women and girls. The training also touched on the skills and qualities that Prescribed Persons/ AJs must attain in their roles which are; to 'do no harm',

'Respecting Privacy and Confidentiality'; 'Respect and non-Discrimination' and Principles of adhering to the rule of law, be free from bias and to exercise reasonable decision. There were also discussions on self-care, where the participants were encouraged to seek assistance when needed for their physical and mental wellness and understanding that their role as AJs is limited to determining cases of DV, serving an IPO when requested, making referrals and not intervening as Counsellors, Police, and legal officers etc.

Also emphasized in the refreshers were the first 7 steps when responding to a survivor seeking an IPO which are: 1. Private place to talk, 2. Duty of confidentiality and informed consent from affected person, 3. providing information about the IPO 4. Medical First Aid, 5. Risk Assessment Checklist; 6. Safety Planning; and the 7th which is making referrals.

The Second half of the training was dedicated to practice of filling in the various forms required under the FPA for victims and survivors of domestic violence. They include, Form 2 which is the 'Application for the Interim Protection Order (IPO), Form 3: 'Protection Order', Form 4; 'Application for Variation or Revocation of the Protection Order, Form 5, Notice of Application for Variation or Revocation of the Protection Order, Form 7, 'Notice to Attend' and Form 8 'Withdrawal of Application of the Protection Order'. To aid the learning, the resource team performed role plays that provided the facts that the participants needed to fill in the forms.

The SPC project was implemented in Malaita and Guadalcanal Provinces and the WA2JSI project naturally continued its work in these two provinces. Over its duration the project trained a total of 46 AJs (15 in Malaita and 31 in Guadalcanal). Out of the total number of AJs, only 2 were women.

The WA2JSI project addressed Output 3 of the Regional Project. UNWomen Solomon and the UNWomen's Office in the Fiji Multi Country Office (MCO) aligned the Solomon project to their Women's Political Empowerment and Leadership (WPEL) thematic area. Under the WPEL program the WA2JSI project aimed at supporting access to justice through legislation reform, empowerment, advocacy and capacity building of grassroots women, including leaders and human right defenders.

Table 1 shows the Implementing Framework for the Solomon Islands WA2JSI project which outlines the Overall Outcome, the three regional projects Outputs and the Solomon Islands WA2JSI project's, Objectives, Components and Activities;

### Family Protection Act (FPA) Regulation

The SPCs 'unfinished business' was a Regulation that needed to be completed and to be endorsed by the Minister of Justice and Legal Affairs for its inclusion in the FPA to formally recognize Authorised Justices (AJs) and Prescribed Persons (PPs) as having the authority to execute their roles as provided for in the FPA. This will also enable the AJs and PPs to be included in the government's payroll. The Solomon Islands Government (SIG) will also be obliged to set up the necessary mechanisms and systems as well as a budget for the implementation of the work of the AJs and the PPs in executing their role to assist victims/survivors of domestic violence access justice in their rural communities. The evaluation saw the focus of the WA2JSI project as two fold; first to ensure that the FPA Regulation was completed and endorsed by the Minister of Justice and Legal Affairs to enable the AJs and PPs to conduct their roles effectively in their continued efforts to enable women victims/survivors of violence to access justice in their rural communities and the second the awareness and advocacy to address Output 3 of the regional project and the Objectives and Project Components of the WA2JSI project as shown in the Implementing Framework below in Table 1.

**Table 1**

### Implementing Framework - Women's Access to Justice Solomon Islands (WA2JSI) Project

**Outcome:** Enhanced utilization of gender-responsive and people-centred approaches in central and community-based justice mechanisms in Asia and the Pacific that enabled and empowered women in all their diversity, to equally access justice for the realization of their rights.

**Output 3:** Grassroots women's organisations and community-based women's organisations are empowered and well-positioned to document, monitor, liaise and facilitate interactions with justice providers.

**Women's Political and Economic Leadership (WPEL):** Supporting access to justice through legislation reform, empowerment, advocacy, and capacity building of grassroots women, including leaders and human right defenders.

**Output 3 Objectives:**

- a) Increase the awareness of women's rights among women and communities through community outreach on Women's Access to Justice (WA2J) in targeted provinces
- b) Conduct national advocacy campaign on the Family Protection Act (FPA), women's access to justice and women's participation in decision making in relation to traditional governance and climate change to create awareness using different tools and
- c) Increase female participation and representation in advocating women's access to justice before formal and informal justice systems through legislative change and consultations.'

**Project Components:** The following components were adopted to support the implementation of Output 3 and its objectives:

- a) The need to ensure that women led CSOs are better informed on human rights and women's rights as well as women's access to justice through improved participation of women in decision making in traditional governance and in climate change situations. In addition, the need to be able to share this information and knowledge back to respective organisations, communities and/or targeted groups.

- b) The need to increase the understanding of women, girls and their communities so that women and girls are equipped to claim their rights and promote their rights and participation in their communities.
- c) The need to provide space to community members to meet justice service providers and to discuss issues which are of interest to communities and individuals in terms of how they could access formal justice services.
- d) The need to provide information awareness materials for advocacy on the Family Protection Act, access to justice, women’s participation in decision making in relation to traditional governance and climate change through media audio podcasts, spot messages, social media spots and training video for authorized justices.
- e) The need to improve access to justice services at community level by empowering authorized justices to be competent and effective in discharging their duties under the Family Protection Act through regulations; and
- f) The need to improve performance of the Access to Justice Project through lessons learnt; by ascertaining whether the project is working towards fulfilling the overall programme outcome; what the opportunities and the gaps are; and what improvements can be made. This way, the programme maintains its integrity let alone is able to determine its future prospects and whether there is a need to continue in Solomon Islands.

**A2J SI Project Activities:** below are the activities implemented to address Output 3 and its objectives;

- a) Conduct consultations with government, civil society, churches, provinces & Authorised Justices (AJs) and develop a policy brief to inform the drafting instructions for AJs in relation to the FPA.
- b) Preparation and submission of drafting instructions for AJs in relation to the FPA to the Attorney General’s Office for the actual drafting.
- c) Pilot the resource kit with targeted women’s organizations as a training of trainers (TOT)
- d) Support monitoring and evaluation of community information sessions led by women’s organizations. Prioritization will be made for sessions for displaced communities impacted by climate change.
- e) Provide technical support to media company with key messages for 3 audio spot messages [in Pijin and English] and 3 audio podcasts [in Pijin and English] on women’s access to Justice (1) Family Protection Act (2) and women’s participation in decision making in relation to Traditional Governance and Climate Change (3).
- f) Provide technical support to the media company with content to develop One Training Video on Family Protection Act Forms; One video on forms of Domestic Violence and; One video to highlight women’s participation in decision making in relation to Traditional Governance and Climate Change. The video will be both in English and Pijin.
- g) 3 short (30-45sec) video for social media platform on the above topics.
- h) Conduct consultations with women led CSO’s and umbrella CSO bodies.
- i) Produce an overall final report.”

*Footnotes from table 1:*

- Output 3<sup>1</sup>
- Women’s Political and Economic Leadership (WPEL)<sup>2</sup>
- i) Produce an overall final report.<sup>3</sup>

1 Output 3 of the regional project “Enhancing Access to Justice for Women in Asia and the Pacific: Bridging the gap between formal and community-based systems through women’s empowerment” (Women’s Access to Justice)

2 UNWomen Fiji MCO thematic area

3 TERMS OF REFERENCE - National Consultant – Enhancing Access to Justice for Women in Asia and the Pacific, August 2022

## Theory of Change

As seen by the above the project’s implementation in Solomon Islands is just starting at the bottom of the re-constructed Theory of Change (ToC) specifically at the fourth tier, column 4 which states, “Provide platforms for dialogue, increase awareness of women’s rights, increase community-engagements, increase female participation and representation, strengthen capacity of women human rights defenders (WHRDs), and develop women’s access to justice strategy.”

## Revised Theory of Change

IMPACT	WOMEN IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC ENJOY ENHANCED ACCESS TO GENDER RESPONSIVE AND PEOPLE CENTRED JUSTICE			ASSUMPTIONS
<b>OUTCOME</b>	A more gender responsive formal justice system in Asia and the Pacific	A more gender-responsive informal/community-based justice system in Asia and the Pacific	Strengthened linkages between community based and centralised justice mechanisms towards a people centred, gender responsive justice system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Legislators willing to amend/abolish laws that discriminate against women and receive inputs from CSOs.</li> <li>Courts are willing to receive amicus briefs and judiciaries are willing to adopt/implement the Bangkok General Guidelines</li> </ul>
<b>OUTPUTS</b>	<p><b>Output 1.1:</b> Influence the change of domestic laws in target countries consistent with international human rights laws including CEDAW.</p> <p><b>Output 1.2:</b> Increased capacity of domestic courts to use applicable international law and standards through the introduction of the Bangkok General Guidance</p> <p><b>Output 1.3:</b> Increased capacity of judges to eliminate gender stereotyping and to incorporate gender perspectives in their judicial decisions.</p> <p><b>Output 1.4:</b> Increased Capacity of frontline formal justice actors to eliminate gender discriminatory attitudes and stereotyped behaviours towards women.</p>	<p><b>Output 2.1:</b> Increased capacity of informal justice adjudicators to eliminate gender discriminatory attitudes and behaviours towards women</p>	<p><b>Output 3.1:</b> Grassroots women’s organisations, community-based justice and central justice mechanisms working together, utilizing a whole of community approach to develop and implement scalable pilot initiatives to advance gender responsive and community-based justice mechanisms.</p> <p><b>Output 3.2:</b> Increased capacity and strengthened networks of GRWO, CRWO and communities to document, monitor and liaise and facilitate interactions with formal and informal justice providers and their resilience is enhanced to build a just and sustainable future.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Judges from 1<sup>st</sup> instance courts are willing to incorporate gender perspectives in their work.</li> <li>Justice actors are open to eliminating discrimination and stereotyped behaviours.</li> <li>Participants in plural justice systems are willing to engage with each other.</li> <li>Communities show political will to strengthen gender responsive justice</li> </ul>



<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	Expand the adoption and use of the Bangkok General Guidance. Strengthen capacity of women’s rights advocates. Strengthen the capacity of domestic courts, Build the capacity of law makers, judges and frontline formal justice actors.	Build the capacity of informal justice adjudicators/community-based justice actors	Provide platforms for dialogue, increase awareness of women’s rights; increase community engagements; increase female participation and representation; Strengthen capacity of women human rights defenders (WHRD), Develop Women’s Access to Justice Strategy	
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The non-inclusion and participation of Solomon Islands in Outputs 1 and 2 of the regional project leaves a major gap for Solomon Islands to fill if it is going to reach the Outcome at the top of the Theory of Change ladder.

### 1.3. Purpose and Scope

This report is Solomon Islands contribution to the Final Evaluation of the regional project, “*Enhancing Access to Justice for Women in Asia and the Pacific: Bridging the gap between formal and community-based systems through women’s empowerment*” (Women’s Access to Justice); and is also an evaluation of the WA2JSI project. The Solomon Islands WA2JSI project evaluation will be based on the WA2JSI project Implementing Framework but in close alignment to the requirements of the regional project’s evaluation. The purpose of the regional project’s evaluation was to assess the effectiveness and relevance of the joint approach to gender-responsive and people-centred justice in Asia and the Pacific. It aimed to identify what worked well, and areas for improvement and serve accountability and decision-making processes for potential future project phases.

The coordination role of UN Women Solomon and its partnership with the 2 key SIG ministries, the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs (MWYCFA) and the Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs (MJLA) will also be assessed and how the project addressed the *Leave No One Behind* (LNOB) SDG agenda, emphasizing inclusivity. The evaluation will also assess the progress made over the project period towards the attainment of the intended project outcome of, “*Enhanced utilization of gender-responsive and people-centered approaches in central and community-based*

*justice mechanisms in Asia and the Pacific, that enabled and empowered women, in all their diversity, to equally access justice for the realization of their rights*” and the relevance/coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, human rights and gender equality, including a look into how women from vulnerable groups were engaged in the project including disability inclusion. Overall the joint evaluation will:

- i) Assess the relevance of the programme to stakeholders, including rights holders with respect to programme design and implementation;
- ii) Assess the effectiveness and efficiency of the approaches implemented in attaining the intended results and any potential unintended consequences (positive or negative);
- iii) Assess the potential for sustainability, and integration of human rights and gender equality in design and implementation; and
- iv) Produce lessons learned and issue actionable recommendations for further iterations of the project or similar programming.

#### Scope

The evaluation scope covered the WA2JSI project from November 2022 to May 2023 in Solomon Islands. Due to the very short life span of the WA2JSI project, the evaluation is not expecting any major impacts to show although anecdotal evidences of some visible changes in behaviour and in community actions will be mentioned. With regards to the Theory of Change’s application to the WA2JSI project, Solomon Islands is focussing on Output 3 of the regional project, which currently places the WA2JSI right at the bottom

of the reconstructed Theory of Change (ToC) specifically at the fourth tier, column 4 which states, “Provide platforms for dialogue, increase awareness of women’s rights, increase community-engagements, increase female participation and representation, strengthen capacity of women human rights defenders (WHRDs), and develop women’s access to justice strategy.”

The WA2JSI project needs to be continued if it is to address 3.2 and Solomon Islands needs to be engaged in the other 2 outputs of the regional project to reach the desired goal/outcome of the project.

## 2. Methodology

The methodology for this evaluation involved a literature review, key informant interviews (15) who were also the key stakeholders of the project; Focus Group Discussions (1) and this 1 case study. The data collection was conducted in two provinces, Guadalcanal and Malaita and in Honiara, the capital of Solomon Islands. The evaluation was conducted using the OECD-DAC evaluation criteria, which included assessing the project’s relevance, coherence, efficiency, effectiveness, impact, and sustainability. Additionally, cross-cutting issues such as gender equality and human rights were considered.

## 3. Findings

### 3.1 Relevance

In Solomon Islands the majority of people (80%) live in rural areas where it is hard to access the formal justice system and institutions, so having AJs and PPs in the communities to serve IPOs on perpetrators and to refer victims/survivors of violence to service providers is indeed relevant to women accessing justice. The rate of violence in Solomon Islands is extremely and alarmingly high with 64% of women aged 15–49 reporting physical and/or sexual abuse by a partner<sup>1</sup> so the project is therefore very relevant in educating Solomon Islanders especially men to understand that domestic violence is not a normal part of life but is a crime punishable by law and must be stopped.

A major barrier to accessing justice is the harsh and rugged country topography and limited or non-existent infrastructure, high cost of transportation and communication. The illiteracy rate among women and their lack of confidence, their dependency on their men, cultural barriers, the ‘right’ of men to beat their

wife due to bride price and being ‘bought’ can lead to the non reporting of cases resulting in a rather low justice seeking behaviour of victims/survivors with about only 30% of women reporting and the remaining 70% not.

For the first time there is a project that makes a deliberate effort/focus on women and girls right at the rural communities to access justice through the formal justice system. People especially women, are scared of the courts, the police, the lawyers and other justice providers. For the formal system to actually get down to them in their own community, is a major breakthrough. In that sense, it came out clearly in Radefasu the target community in Malaita Province, where the church, the traditional leadership and the formal system are working together in this space with a realisation of the great importance and need for collaboration among the different groups and that it is doable and everyone can work together.

Access to information is also a major challenge in Solomon Islands. All information disseminated through the WA2JSI project are all relevant and received with gratitude from the the organisations and groups engaged in the project because for many especially community people, it was their first time, to participate in the community dialogues and other project activities and an eye opener when the AJs and PPs explained the different types of violence, gender equality and the importance of gender balance. Church leaders said that the information they learnt from the project compliments and assists their church and pastoral work.

The WA2JSI project’s Training of Trainers (TOT) in November 2022, targeting especially national and provincial women’s organisations and service providers but also including justice providers, government and CSOs. Information sessions and community dialogues in the two target communities of the two provinces the WA2JSI project was rolled out in, greatly increased and enhanced their knowledge and awareness domestic violence, gender and gender equality/inequality, equity, discrimination, human and women’s rights, women in decision making in relation to traditional governance and climate change, the Family Protection Act (FPA) and access to justice for women victims/survivors of domestic violence connecting how gender and sex, stereotyping and societal norms creates the different roles for females and males which results in issues of discrimination against women.

<sup>1</sup> National Institutes of Health (.gov) <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC4943125>

In Solomon Islands violence against women is perceived by society as not a crime, but a private domestic matter. With the WA2JSI project men's views were changing from being defensive and giving excuses under the guise of custom, men were in both target communities were agreeing that men should take more responsibility for raising and caring for their children and that customs must not be applied unwisely and irresponsibly on women.

The WA2JSI project also introduced new subjects that the women and men were not familiar with such as climate change and traditional governance linking these to women's exclusion from decision making and how onesided decisions made by men can negatively affect women's lives, their work places such as gardens and the sea causing major challenges for women's food gathering role and increasing women's workload.

Another good practice brought about by the WA2JSI project was the promotion of working together among the organisations and groups engaged in the project. In Solomon Islands collaboration among organisations is not often seen or practised but in the case of the WA2JSI project collaboration among stakeholders' service providers, national and provincial women's organisations, CSOs and grassroots based groups was witnessed to effectively raise awareness through the information sessions and community dialogues to address domestic violence and access to justice for women victims/survivors of domestic violence.

Through this collaboration women and people in the two target communities including church and traditional leaders were able to meet service providers and justice providers from the courts, including local courts, the police, justice officials, AJs, PPs, health workers, church leaders, national and provincial women's organisations that offer counselling, legal representations and safe shelters for victims and survivors of domestic violence. The service providers were able to speak about their roles and the services they offered. A good part of a day during the community dialogues was dedicated to individual one-on-one discussions between the women and community people and the service providers, in individual make-do booths that the project team had set up to respond to the questions and issues raised by the people. Women and girls were able to learn about the processes and procedures to access justice providers such as the AJs and PPs in their communities.

Since the rate of violence in Solomon Islands is extremely and alarmingly high with 64% of women aged 15–49 reporting physical and/or sexual abuse by a partner<sup>1</sup> the project was very relevant in educating Solomon Islanders especially men to understand that domestic violence is not a normal part of life but is a crime punishable by law and must be stopped. A Local Court's Coordinator (LCC) was appreciative of the WA2JSI project saying that the approach by everyone working as a team promoted a sense of ownership for the courts by people so that when decisions are made people will be able to accept and own the decisions.

One positive factor of the late implementation of the WA2JSI project in Solomon Islands was that by then, COVID19 restrictions had been lifted so the project was conducted without any major delays or interruptions. Another was that it contributed to Goal 5, 10, 13 and 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In Solomon Islands many women are restricted to attend organised events due to their household and childcare commitments. The flexible nature of the project enabled more women to attend the project's community dialogues and information sessions as UNWomen Solomon and its partners allowed them time in the morning to prepare their children for school before attending the activities. Nursing mothers were also able to bring their babies and babysitters to the workshops.

In-depth discussions were held by the project on challenges to accessing justice especially when the majority of people live in rural area and the difficulties of accessing formal justice and how the informal justice which exists in communities is not convinced or well versed with domestic violence being a crime and have their cultural ways of dealing with the issue which many instances do not favour women victims/survivors. Another major challenge is the need for support services to be available right at grassroots for easier access to justice for victims and survivors of violence. Women and community people were able to see the important link between the AJs and PPs and communities.

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1 National Institutes of Health (.gov) <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC4943125>

Clarifications were also made by the justice providers that there are certain offences that must be dealt with by the formal law (as many think that once domestic violence cases are settled according to custom there is no relevance for them to be heard in the formal courts. It was explained clearly that there are certain acts that can be settled by customs and others that cannot be settled by custom and this where the FPA comes in for the cases to be dealt by the formal law so that people will see that domestic violence is serious and must be addressed by the formal law. Slowly people are starting to understand.

The Project is providing a conducive environment for existing projects and programmes to operate, e.g.; the Solomon Islands Safenet<sup>1</sup>, a referral network made up of organisations with different roles that support each other to assist victims/survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, including providing essential services and to streamline the assistance being provided to help them access more timely and relevant services. SAFENET is led by the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs, one of the key government partners of the WA2JSI project. The WA2JSI project facilitated strengthened relations and networking between the target communities and their respective AJs and PPs, who in Guadalcanal were not known to the majority of the community members until the intervention of the WA2JSI project which paved an easier pathway for women to access justice. Both AJ and the PP had moved to another community and had been inactive due to the lack of resources from the SIG to carry out their work.

In both Guadalcanal and Malaita recognition for the AJs and PPs and their work had increased as a result of the project and the activities of the WA2JSI project conducted in its two provincial target communities. The capacity of the AJs and the PPs was also strengthened by the WA2JSI project through their participation in the national Training of Trainers (TOT) in Honiara and the information sessions and community dialogues held in the two provincial target communities, addressing needed substantive information to enable them to carry out their work effectively. This is boosting

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<sup>1</sup> The Solomon Islands SAFENET is a referral network made up of organisations that provide essential services to victims/survivors of sexual and gender-based violence. It aims to streamline the assistance being provided to survivors and help them access more timely and necessary services. SAFENET is led by the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs, Solomon.

their confidence to continue effectively implementing their work to assist victims/survivors to access justice through the issuing of IPOs on perpetrators and making referrals for victims/survivors. The presence of an AJ and a Prescribed Person (PP) in the community is very relevant.

The project aligns to important government policies and legislations e.g.; it is aligned directly to the FPA and to the 6 SIGs human and women's rights policies including the Solomon Islands Government's (SIG) revised Gender Equality and Women's Development (GEWD) policy which addresses the unequal participation of women in all decision making levels. The project also aligns well to UNWomen's vision and to its governance portfolio and legal frameworks that guide UNWomen's work and to the UN Human Rights international instruments such as CEDAW and the Pacific regional policies. The project also promotes the national and provincial women's policies of the country e.g.; an outcome of the Women's Peace and Security (WPS) National Action Plan (NAP) is ending violence against Women and the Guadalcanal Provincial Council of Women's Strategic Plan also addresses gender based violence including domestic violence while Malaita's Women's Policy also addresses the same.

The challenging geographical nature of the country and the limited resources of organisations makes it quite challenging to touch base with members in the rural areas. The WA2JSI project provided the opportunity for such organisation such as Guadalcanal Provincial Council of Women re-established links with the community groups and women of the Guadalcanal target community who have since sought the GPCW's assistance with the reporting of their cases as the police never responds to their calls; and to accompany them to the police station as well as to provide them safe shelter at the GPCW headquarters. The GPCW also linked up with one of its Ward Presidents who is a PP in her respective ward and they were strategizing on how best they all could collaborate to support the victims/survivors access justice.

### 3.2 Effectiveness

The development of a Policy Paper with drafting instructions for the FPA regulations was completed by the WA2JSI project. UNWomen Solomon and its two key government partners were able to present the Policy Paper to the Chief Justice who commended

their work in moving access to justice to rural women in their communities. The completion of the drafting instructions for the FPA regulation has been a major result for the project. The drafting instructions are now awaiting endorsement by the Minister of Justice and Legal Affairs and in doing so will give formal/legal recognition to the AJs and PPs to perform their roles as provided for in the FPA in Section 17(2) which provides for AJs to make, vary or revoke Interim Protection Orders (IPOs) and Section 9 which sets out that AJs are Justices of the Local Courts or prescribed persons (PPs). The Regulation when endorsed will also enable AJs and PPs to be remunerated under the SIGs payroll and the government is obliged to establish mechanisms, systems, procedures, processes and a dedicated budget for the implementation of the FPA through the AJs and the PPs.

The transfer of of the former SPC A2J Authorised Justices and Prescribed Persons into the WA2JSI project contributed to the effectiveness of the project as they are the focal points of access to justice in the communities. The former SPC A2J project had trained a total of 46 AJs (15 in Malaita and 31 in Guadalcanal). Out of the total number of AJs, 2 were women. It has been identified in the Project evaluations that a majority of women (survivors of DV) prefer to seek help from female AJs. In order to address this the project begin the (AJ's) training with people who could become appointed as "prescribed persons" and majority of those selected are women. In 2020, 18(12 W; 6M) in Malaita, and 18 (17W; 1M) in Guadalcanal have attended the "prescribed persons" training and passed the rigorous competency tests. It must be noted that despite the fact that the project was still under the SPC at that time, UNWomen Solomon was also financially resourcing the trainings and it was at the transitioning stage when the SPC project was taken over by UNWomen Solomon.

A Malaita provincial stakeholder who attended the project TOT and was trained by the project to deliver at a project community activity, which she did successfully, applied and received funds conduct a five days training for the Heads of Division of the Malaita Provincial Government and all heads of Malaita based national line ministries the capital of Malaita. The training will be be attended by 24 participants, the majority of whom are men. She is pleased with this saying that this will enable more men to also be aware of the important information which she learnt from the

project's TOT. She wants the training to help the men identify where in their work they can address these issues and how they will incorporate any activity they want to implement to address the issues they identified into their 2024 divisional and ministerial work plans with a budget. She has also secured another smaller funding to run a shorter programme for the members of a Malaita Children's Choir. She believes in engaging children at a young age and will be also conducting the training but adjusted and modified to enable the understanding of the children. A Honiara based participant at the project's activities is working on mainstreaming gender into the work of her division and to begin with a gender sensitizing training.

In Malaita the AJs and PPs work with the Police, Magistrates, and health centres, the Public Solicitor's Office, Chiefs and Church leaders so refer victims to these gatekeepers. Certain groups which were engaged later on in the project were being helped by their increased knowledge for example church women groups were getting a clear understanding of the meanings of gender equality, human rights, climate change and traditional governance. They are now planning to advocate in their own individual church groups and together through the Solomon Islands Christian Association (SICA) to mainstream gender into its areas of work. There are small visible changes that are emerging but without any continuity of this project, this will be forgotten and people will revert to their old habits which include the following;

- People becoming more alert to issue of domestic violence so that when a person begins swearing in the community, someone will immediately report the incident to the PP and the AJ.
- There are signs of men's attitudes changing due to their newfound knowledge on the existence of the Family Protection Act that penalizes those who commit domestic violence. There are signs of a lull in domestic violence in the target communities.
- It's a major change to see a shift in people's attitudes from being defensive and using custom as a justification for acts of violence especially physical violence against women, to accepting that custom must be used responsibly to not violate women's rights to safety.

- The project has strengthened the capacity of women as human rights defenders and they are helping people to know that violence is wrong. If more women become AJs it will increase more women to access justice as victims/survivors will know that there is a safe place to access justice in the community.

- Also more community people including women are accessing important information about family violence and how to get help when they are experiencing incidents of violence.

- Women speaking up and making recommendations; *“I am proud of the participation and the number of women turning up including elder women and young ones; the women were so outspoken. I was so impressed. I did not expect the elderly women to understand. It’s the first time for us to go and provide the information but also the dialogue and the linkages, the fact that we were able to provide the information session then the dialogue and FPA session, gave confidence to the women and community members to give recommendations and to contribute constructively to discussions. I was happy to see women and girls giving recommendations.”* A facilitator during the Malaita community dialogue.

- There are better tools from the past trainings to supplement their work. They have documents and training manuals that they can use during trainings for AJs and PPs but the training materials can also be adjusted to suit the needs of other audiences.

- A TOT Manual has been completed by the project as well as other training materials developed by the project

The project gave the key partners and the other project participating stakeholders enhanced understanding of community protocols, the way communities operate, learning about community people’s needs and always being alert and prepared as things are bound to happen when least expected; and giving them insights on improving their advocacy work in communities. They also realised community peace issues and the importance of unity within families and provided the example of logging and the rivalry the issue creates between and among families over land ownership and letting these disagreements take over the importance of families supporting each other to living peacefully in their communities and homes.

Getting people from the justice sector to be part of the team was a great initiative of the project. The project

uncovered other violence related issues such as the trafficking of young girls in other communities that they are working in, for example in another part of Guadalcanal (Marau) where there are logging operations, girls as young as 14 enter into relationships with foreign loggers and parents are turning a blind eye since the loggers are providing the girls family with much needed resources that the family cannot afford. The loggers leave at the end of their contracts and the girls are left struggling to care for their babies with no financial or the support from the foreign logger fathers.

The WA2JSI project builds on the previous A2J project of the Pacific Community (SPC) so enabling the continuity of some great work to support the effective implementation of the FPA. From a local courts side the project benefitted the Coordinator as he was able to talk to communities. They were also able to use the community visits to select some of the AJs as they have problems recruiting due to favouritism and current justice officers defending their own interests and working closely with the PPs in cases of human trafficking and opening their accommodation facilities for victims and survivors of violence. Although short term, the project has generated good results.

One of the biggest challenges is the current voluntary nature of the work that the the AJs and the PPs are carrying out their work in supporting women to access justice. They have had to use their own resource aside from a \$50/\$60 payment to the AJs for each IPO that they prepare and serve which is not sufficient for the work that they have to perform and the amount of travelling they do. The A2JSI project has completed the FPA regulation and now awaiting the Minister for Justice and Legal Affairs to sign. This endorsement will enable the AJs and PPs to receive a salary under the SIGs payroll.

### 3.3 Efficiency

The performance of the WA2JSI project's implementation of its deliverables contained in Table 2 below.

**Table 2**

#### Status of the Completion of the Deliverables/Activities of the Solomon Islands WA2JSI Project

Deliverables	Completion Status
Develop Inception Report .√	<b>Completed! .√</b>
2. Pilot Test and finalise the Training of Trainers (TOT) Resource Package on the Family Protection Act, women's access to justice and women's participation in decision making in relation to TGB and climate change for community-based women's organizations.√	TOT workshop Status: <b>Completed! .√</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TOT Resource Package Status: <b>Completed! .√</b></li> <li>• Pilot test -Community Information &amp; Awareness Sessions Status Kusika: <b>Completed! .√</b></li> <li>Status Radefasu: <b>Completed! .√</b></li> <li>• Community Dialogue and Safe Space Status Kusika: <b>Completed! .√</b></li> <li>Status Radefasu: <b>Completed! .√</b></li> </ul>
3. Support consultations/workshop with women led and other selected CSO bodies /submission of consultation findings. .√	In view of the fact that outputs expected from this deliverable could also be met from deliverable 7, deliverable 3 was merged with deliverables 7.
4. Provide technical support to the media company with content for advocacy purposes on the Family Protection Act and its forms for protection orders; domestic violence and women's participation in decision making in relation to Traditional Governance and Climate Change. √.	1) Project consultant to provide technical support to the media company with content for advocacy purposes on the Family Protection Act and its forms for protection orders; domestic violence and women's participation in decision making in relation to Traditional Governance and Climate Change. Status – <b>Completed! .√</b> 2) Media consultant to produce the following: • 3 Audio podcasts • 3 spot messages for radio (30 secs) • 3 social media spot messages (30 - 45 secs) • 1 Training video. (20 mins max) Status – <b>Incomplete! X</b>
5. Conduct consultations with government, civil society, churches, provinces & Authorised Justices (AJs) and develop a policy brief to inform the drafting instructions for AJs in relation to the FPA.√	Status – <b>Completed! √.</b>
6. Develop policy brief and drafting instructions for FPA Regulations and support specific amendment to the FPA regarding service of IPO	Status – <b>Completed! √.</b> Policy brief and drafting instructions now with the responsible ministry (MJLA) to process through SIG
7. Conduct further TOT sessions (if applicable) and attend and evaluate selected community information sessions conducted by trainers from communitybased women's organization.√	No further TOT sessions conducted; instead focus was made on evaluation of TOT, community information sessions, the community dialogue and safe space. These activities were to address deliverables 3 and 7. Status – completed
8. Final Report to UN Women.√	Status – completed!

As shown in Table 2, all the deliverables were completed except for the production of the following which the Media Consultant the project engaged to produce did not deliver;

- 3 Audio podcasts
- 3 spot messages for radio (30 secs)
- 3 social media spot messages (30 - 45 secs)
- 1 Training video. (20 mins max)

The project was implemented right at the grassroots level where the majority of Solomon Islands women are. UNWomen Solomon did an excellent job in its coordination role with its two key government partners, the MWYCFA and the MJLA, government and justice providers, other service providers, stakeholders, CSOs and women's organisations at the national and provincial and community levels. A sound relationship was also forged between them and UNWomen Solomon.

Right from the beginning UNWomen engaged with the MWYCFA and the MJLA by contacting them by phone, emails and later held meetings with them in planning the adjusted WA2JSI project. These were also in consultation with SPC and the UNWomen Fiji MCO which made the connection between the Solomon Islands project to the regional project. The majority of the Stakeholders, service providers, CSOs and national and provincial women's organisations and community groups which were invited by UNWomen Solomon to participate in the project had previously engaged with and established sound relations with UNWomen and were familiar with the National Coordinator and commended her performing in executing her coordination role.

A major strengths of the UN Women Solomon was the dedicated resources that was secured for the implementation of the WA2JSI project unlike its two key government partners which depended very much on UNWomen Solomon for the financing of the project. UN Women's financial support through DSAs and the hiring of venues and catering was helping community people in terms of financial support. UN Women was also good at administering the project and connecting rural women to organisations at the national level.

The only challenge was the continuous delay of funds arriving on time for project activities. This results in the delays of activities and sometimes new dates conflicts with partner and stakeholders' other work obligations but despite this challenge UNWomen Solomon

managed to have all the planned activities completed by the end of the project life.

The partnership and coordination among the national project partners in Solomon Islands is unique because the partners were so responsive and eager to be part of the process. Although there was a consultant she depended also on the team so the work on the video's content was teamwork including the team in Bangkok and Fiji which the project team in Solomon Islands would seek technical and other advice from. An example is the artist's work in producing flash cards and posters. UNWomen Solomon had to liaise closely with the EAW team in Fiji. UNWomen Solomon was flexible in working with the team in country and had to adapt to align to project priorities sometimes. As much as they would like to address the government's priorities, they also had to think of the project priorities.

With regards to MEL, the project national partner's went down to observe at the community activities and provided feedback which was shared with the rest of the participating project organisations. UNWomen Solomon can share activity reports with donors if requested. The regional office provides the combined consolidated report on UNWomen's behalf. UNWomen is limited in staffing so they engaged an International Consultant and other technical person's e.g media and graphics artists, to support them in providing the deliverables on time.

Finances are used diligently according to their allocated use in the project. Disbursement and management of funds are doable as the UNWomen Solomon office is small unlike the bigger offices, where things are a bit cumbersome. UNWomen Solomon is positive that they have responded effectively to the financial requirements of the WA2JSI.

In term of thematic capacities that the UN regional offices area of expertise and they do provide support to the UNWomen Solomon. Another is an expert in climate change. The Solomon Offices expertise has been implemented successfully by the project national coordinator. Follow-ups with partners and communities could be improved.

Communication and collaboration with UN Women and the project team was very good, however some provincial CSOs would like UNWomen to liaise more closely with them when organising events in the rural communities since they are familiar



and knowledgeable with the people and women on the ground to avoid delays. An example was UNWomen Solomon going through the AJ and PP on Guadalcanal who were not living in the target community and were not quite familiar with the community resulting in a lower attendance rate at the community activity. Working with organisations such as the Guadalcanal Provincial Government's Women's Development Office was recommended as they have networks in the rural communities.

Challenges occurred during the inception, implementation and in the application of the thematic and substantive aspect of the project and those anticipated in going forward. During the project's inception consultation were not done with provincial stakeholders or even some national stakeholders. It was felt that a mapping of the stakeholders who are working in the province in this space could have been conducted prior to the project's implementation because there are many stakeholders working in this space and there is already the Safenet which is the Solomon Islands Government's recently established formal referral system made up of both government and non-government organizations/agencies to provide coordinated, frontline services and support to victims/survivors of gender based violence (GBV)/violence against women (VAW). Issues of sustainability may be addressed if the project had been linked to the Safenet and negotiating with Safenet. Other areas such as disasters, climate change can be partnered internally with the UNWomen's disaster, resilience and climate change work or to the Ministry responsible for climate change and disasters. UNWomen is also the lead UN Agency in the Solomon Islands National Disaster Council's Protection Committee/Cluster hence some linkages could have been done at this level.

The briefness of the project did not even allow partners and stakeholders ample time to think it through and even to consider an exit strategy. The project was initiated at the national level and coordinated from on top (national level) with no consultation with the provincial stakeholders. They only knew about the project when it was already finalised and they were invited to participate in two project activities at the national level and two others at the one target community in Malaita Province. They only knew about the project when they invited to participate at the TOT in November 2022. There was no transitional period from the past SPC A2J project to the UNWomen A2J

project to give time for reflection and lessons learnt. The majority of the stakeholders in the current project were also participating in the former project so it was rather confusing for them when they learnt that the SPC project was now under UNWomen and then not long after, the project also ended. A provincial person engaged in the WA2JSI project said that an issue with these short-term projects is that the national level people will come down to the provinces, implement and leave and expect that provincial and community people will be responsible to continue the work voluntarily. This is a big ask as community people do not have the resources to implement activities. They did not know that the project had ended and only knew about it when the UNWomen consultant travelled to Malaita to evaluate the project. They thought that there were going to be other communities in which the project will also be implemented especially in wards that have AJ and a PP in.

A concern from provincial organisations engaged in the WA2JSI project was the lack of wider consultation by UNWomen. It seemed that only UNWomen, its two SIG partners and SPC were planning everything on their own right from the beginning. Had they consulted with other national and provincial stakeholders opportunities for the sustainability of the project could have been explored as stated in the options recommended at the end of this section of the report. Another related concern was the lack of bringing on board partners related to the thematic areas and substance of the project, e.g. the People with Disabilities Association of Solomon Islands (PWDSI) to provide technical knowledge and information in this space. Also the Ministries responsible for Climate Change and Land could also be partners in the project.

Coordination by the communities with service providers and other project stakeholders is weak since there is a lack of regular engagement between the service providers and the communities. This could be an area that UNWomen in its coordination role and its two key government partners could strengthen.

The WA2JSI project is enabling UN Women Solomon to reach the marginalised groups. Different communities in the two target provinces also needed to be considered. One of the stakeholders said

*“We cannot justify covering the majority of marginalised groups if we are working in one community only. I know it will cost a lot of money but it will justify UN Women reaching more marginalised groups.”*

The AJs and PPs are frustrated as they find themselves jumping from one project to another, moving from one organization to another e.g. from the SPC which handed their A2J project to the MWYCFA and the Ministry of Justice in 2021 and then to UNWomen Solomon in 2022. Now the project has ended again so the AJs and PPs do not know what they will expect next. In all this moving they said they have not undertaken any refresher course for a while and no new recruitment of AJs.

The weakness for UNWomen Solomon in this project is that it did not last long so that more communities in remote areas could be targeted. This is more like a pilot program- so when the project ended everything stopped, thus resulting in everybody not knowing what to do next.

*“Yes, I see UN Women are doing their work and it is very good because they are trying to get this project to reach all provinces and not be only limited to Malaita and Guadalcanal. UN Women Solomon has also visited other Provinces but the one I can remember is Western Province. I see that if UN Women continue with what they are doing with trainings and awareness in other provinces this will open up opportunities for the Western Province to also have AJs and PPs. The weakness is that they have to select more AJs so that at least all wards in our constituencies in Solomon Islands can have AJs and PPs.”*

A stakeholder from the Solomon Islands

The evaluation found that provincial stakeholders and participants from the target communities have not heard any update from UNWomen Solomon and its partners and they only knew about the project coming to its end already in June 2023. It seems as if the AJs and PPs are frustrated. He feels that they

are going from one project to another without really completing any one well. He likened the situation to that of a person making a food garden saying that crops are planted and when they are growing they are nurtured and monitored; then they are harvested before the gardener moves to another new location to make another garden. The first SPC project ended without completing the FPA regulation which is much needed to be endorsed by the Minister of Justice and Legal Affairs so that the AJs position can be formalised and recognized by the government so that they can be added to the government’s payroll. The project was then taken over by UNWomen for only 9 months and again this project has ended (June 2023) with still no regulation in place so they are asking for how long are they going to wait and like a garden, all work recommendations should be completed before moving on to another new project.

The UNWomen coordinator said that although they were supposed to work with the other regional partners, they did not due to their non-presence in country but they liaised closely with SPC and where SPC stopped, UNWomen took over. The two SIG project partners in country were aware of this switch as well as SPC in Fiji which UNWomen Solomon liaised with and who were really pleased with UNWomen Solomon taking over the SPC project.

UNWomen’s original plan was to focus on the FPA but it had to be changed to link the project to climate change and traditional governance within the country’s context. With regards to COVID19, there were restrictions beginning in June 2021 but it didn’t affect the project because in August 2021 a refresher training was held in Auki and before September 2021 another refresher was held on Guadalcanal. These refreshers were the beginnings of the collaboration between the former SPC A2J project and UNWomen Solomon. Discussions on UNWomen taking on the project from SPC were starting at this stage. The COVID19 happened during the SPC A2J’s implementation. When in November 2022 when the UNWomen started rolling out its A2J project in Solomon Islands, COVID19 had completely cleared off from the country so the project’s implementation was not hampered by the pandemic.

UNWomen’s relationship with the regional project and if the regional approach was used in the A2JSI project, the coordinators says that a monthly meeting was held by UNWomen Solomon Islands and

UNWomen regional when the coordinator will update them on what is happening, getting the team's input from Doreen. The coordinator shared the project's documents with the regional team including the Concept Note and they will provide their technical input. They also provided legal advice and the UNWomen at the MCO as well as the UNWomen EAW team. Each step of the way was discussed with the UNWomen regional and technical experts especially to prevent 'do no harm' implications for the project.

The national project coordinator is a female and the project associate is a male. The majority of project partners' representatives are females.

GESI and HRBA considerations are core mandates of UNWomen. All presentations begin with gender and human rights and link them to the issues and A2J. The project goes right down to the grassroots but only in the two target communities. The one stop shop provided community people the space to question and to provide feedback as an evaluation tool.

It is too early to determine and see impacts and changes. The only visible thing is the confidence women are displaying in terms speaking out and contribution to discussions. In terms of integrating environmental considerations into UNWomen's work, they are raising awareness on the issue and buying and eating local food. The topics of Disasters, Climate Change and Traditional Governance could have been presented by someone from their relevant ministry or an NGO working in these spaces.

### 3.4 Human Rights and Gender Equality

The project has strengthened the capacity of women as human rights defenders and they are helping people to know that violence is wrong. If more women become AJ's it will increase the number of women who will be accessing justice as victims/survivors and they will know that there is a safe place and a trusted person to go to to access justice in the community. More community people including women are accessing important information from the WA2JSI project about family violence and how to and when to get help when they are experiencing violence. Women are speaking up and making recommendations,

*"I am proud of the participation and the number of women turning up including elder women and young ones; the women were so outspoken. I was so impressed. I did not expect the elderly women to understand. It's the first time for us to go and provide the information but also the dialogue and the linkages, the fact that we were able to provide the information session then the dialogue and FPA session, gave confidence to the women and community members to give recommendations and to contribute constructively to discussions. I was happy to see women and girls giving recommendations."*

National facilitator during the Malaita community dialogue.

Social inclusion was a weak part of the WA2JSI project. Only one person with disability per target community participated in the community activities. There was no focus on raising awareness on the situations of these vulnerable groups in communities. The intellectually challenged are probably the most vulnerable because they cannot speak out, do not understand things happening around them and rely very much on their families for everything.

Discriminatory practices against people with disabilities continue in communities. They are abused in all forms including being sexually abused. One of the provincial women's organisation representative at the Guadalcanal community dialogue said the people with disabilities are used for free labour, those who have not gone to school will be lied to and given wrong change by shopkeepers and friends and are then laughed and joked about. She reported that recently on Guadalcanal two intellectually challenged girls were raped and left on the road unconscious in the night. A cyclone was brewing and it was fortunate that there were no rivers in the area as they would have been at the risk of being swept off by flood waters or tidal waves. How does the project enable these young women to access justice?

With regards to LGBTIQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex or Questioning) the answer received when asked if they participated in the activities, is always that they do not know that anyone of this category exists in the community. This is a rather challenging area for any future phases of this project

to address since the subject is an illegal activity in the country is not accepted by the churches, custom and the general population at large.

The Training of Trainers (TOT) empowered women CSOs at the national and provincial levels to conduct awareness in the communities. They were made to develop presentations and delivered these presentations to the trainers. TOT that guided the women on how to conduct the training in the rural areas with tips and what to do and not to do when advocating for women's issues which was a great approach. It was a really good process enabling the women leaders to understand and present which also boosted their confidence. Whether or not the trainees addressed inclusivity in their trainings is yet to be seen.

In Malaita it was reported that more women are submitting their applications for IPOs men are being supportive with a marked increase in the participation of young people, church and traditional leaders (chief) both target communities' project activities.

An emerging new issue which women raised was the going away of spouses as seasonal workers in Australia and New Zealand for a substantial amount of time away and marital problems arising, resulting in broken marriages with a female or male spouse having extra marital affairs abroad or at home.

Another minority group within the community are those from other provinces who marry into the Guadalcanal community. They expressed their challenges as being new to the place they were very careful of where to make their gardens so had to be shown the plots of land where they can do their gardening. There were also religious differences for example the husband may be a Catholic and the wife being an Anglican follower. The PP too was from another province so her decisions may be questioned as her custom may be different to that of the province she has married into.

There is a twist in the gender equality and human rights discussions. When women are entering into the non-traditional female areas of work, they are burdening themselves with extra work load and responsibilities and are assuming double roles, for example more women are now entering the work force promoting gender equality but when they return in the evenings they still have to do their household duties while their male partners are only assuming their one role responsibilities.

*"When we empower women to speak out, we must empower men to listen, communicate better with women and also share the responsibilities with their women so that gender equality and the balance of power between women and men can be realised."*

Provincial Women's Organisation

The following were pointers relating to inclusivity raised at both target communities. Because the work was conducted in one community per province a Guadalcanal stakeholder said it was easy to rally marginalised groups such as young people, elderly people to participate, however only one person with disability was identified and attended the Guadalcanal activities but there were a fair number of youth, young married couples and older people. The following are some pointers raised to the subject of inclusivity from the two target communities and KILs.

- Men also realised why women should be responsible for family and household income. Men always think that they should hold the household income because they are the heads of the household. But when the project addressed gender equality and that women are responsible for feeding the family and meeting other family needs, men realised that women have the right to hold household funds as they are also capable managing the funds well.
- Men also realised that women raise children and are responsible for the upbringing and welfare of children so women have an important role so they too should be educated in schools. The men realised that girls should also be given the opportunity to attend school and not just boys.
- Men also realised that violence against women and girls is a crime. They were surprised when they learnt about the penalties for VAWGs.
- Teenage mothers and single mothers now know about their obligations, to make gardens for their babies and young men learnt that they must contribute to their children's welfare by building houses for the mother and children to live in.
- With regards to LGBTQ no one knows about them.

- There are communication challenges for different groupings for example e.g. there are people who cannot speak, those who cannot see and other who cannot move so it will be hard for people with special needs to communicate their problems especially when they are abused as they will not be able to easily communicate the name of a perpetrator.
- Women are now also coming out and feeling more comfortable to talk about their problems relating to family violence.
- There still exists in communities people with disabilities who are constantly abused by their family members. An example is that of a young man in the community whose legs were paralyzed. He is constantly abused physically by his family. Although he suffers he does not have support from anyone and knows no one that he trust to confide with about his plight.
- The project does not seem to address the issues of people with disabilities. Separate trainings that focus on people with disabilities and their challenges would be good for the project to conduct or the project can partner with community-based rehabilitation groups to support the project in conducting such an awareness workshop.
- With the project awareness in the community, many women are becoming bold and are reporting their cases.
- Initially men weren't really accepting towards gender equality initiatives such as the sharing of roles and responsibilities but now men are starting to come around and a good example is that there were more male participants than females during the Guadalcanal community dialogue held in the March/April 2023.
- On Guadalcanal, the project has increased the understanding of the prescribed person and she is now involving herself more with women in the community, discussing their ideas on accessing justice.
- Mothers are even strategizing now for their daughters on what to do should they find themselves in violent situations with their spouses in the future.
- The Family Protection Act (FPA) is giving confidence to women to report their cases since they are finding out that there is an Act that helps victims/survivors of domestic violence and punishes perpetrators.
- The project has increased awareness of women's rights especially in giving women avenues to access justice. There are also increased community engagements where women leaders are really involved.
- Women now contributing to decision making in the community and also help out with community activities. There is a need to strengthen the capacity of women human rights defenders, so that they can gain more respect from the community members and to be protected by their community people in their communities.
- UNWomen included young women and young men. They emphasised more on people with disabilities. In Malaita there were a good number of senior women and men.
- The issue of LGBTQ was raised in the Guadalcanal community dialogue and also in the national TOT. The responses given were they are still human beings and should not be discriminated since they have rights. In it is illegal to have a relationship with someone of the opposite sex.
- In relation to LNOB UNWomen ensured that information is open to the whole community. The hall at Kusika the Guadalcanal target community was not accessible to the PWD, so chief, church leaders, elderly women and men, young people ensured that he was carried into the hall.
- Participation of community members is open and varied to avoid discrimination and not to leave anyone behind.
- The sessions are done using a rights based approach and the concept of leaving no one behind before, 'do no harm' by consulting with other stakeholders.
- Women are scared to report their husbands, in case husbands go to prison and no one to take care of them and provide for their kids. If they cannot support themselves then they will not report their husband

### 3.5 Sustainability

The WA2JSI project has two focus areas. The first is the completion and endorsement of the FPA regulation and the second is the continuous awareness and focus to address Output 3 and Output 2 of the regional project, the WPEL thematic area of UNWomen Fiji' included into the WA2JSI project and its Objectives and Project Components as contained in Table 1.

The sustainability of the first focus area will depend entirely on the Solomon Islands Government's (SIGs) political will and commitment to take on this major commitment and responsibility and to meet all the mechanisms, systems, processes and procedures related to the various components of this first focus area to ensure that this part of the FPA is implemented effectively to support the access of justice for women victims/survivors and to contribute to the achievement of the regional and WA2JSI project's overall Outcome. With this focus area the SIG must take the lead on this. Development partners such as the UNWomen can support by way of technical assistance but the bulk of the responsibility needs to be taken on by the SIG.

With regards to the second focus area, the UNWomen Solomon's two key partners as well as the stakeholders, CSOs, national and provincial women's organisations and the grassroots women's groups are sceptical that the SIG will sustain this component of the project. The MJLA said that it is doubtful that the sustainability of the project can be addressed by the MJLA. He said the work of the Local Courts, has a set four year budget and although they can bid annually for an increase, this has never happened so they have stopped bidding because the government's budget to the local courts has not changed in the last four years and there is no funds to address the FPA. If the UNWomen A2JSI project stops, it will not continue, the MJLA representative said. Likewise, the MWYCFA acknowledges the great project that the WA2JSI project is, but if no funding will be forthcoming then its sustainability will be a problem. She said that it is great for donor's to come up with these kinds of excellent projects but then when they end, the government will never take them on.

A probable sustainability option would be for all service providers, national and community women's organisations and other stakeholders to cooperate but they all need to come on board especially justice providers. It was found during the implementation of the project that there needed to be greater engagement

by the other justice providers including the Family Violence Unit of the Public Solicitor's Office who were not so active in the project but should be part of the project as they deal with issues about going to court, involve people going to court so they should be part of the team especially during the community dialogues. The same goes for stakeholders addressing traditional governance because when problems happen in the village, chiefs are the persons that people go to. Someone from the Ministry responsible for climate change should also be engaged in this cooperation.

The transfer of knowledge, compilation of information and reports, production of a resource kit, the advocacy tools such as flash cards and posters are elements of the sustainability of the project. Collaborative partnership with national stakeholders of A2J could open up future partnerships that could sustain the project's focus in the country so that UNWomen provides support and the partners will do the implementation. There are some possible options for the sustainability of the second focus area of the WA2JSI project. They include the following;

- That UNWomen Solomon further discusses with UNWomen at the regional level and the two current regional partners, OCHRE and ICJ to support Solomon Islands conduct a repeat of the regional project to be implemented in Solomon Islands with the same Outcome and Outputs and the Theory of Change and that a five years core funding secured for the implementation of the project in Solomon Islands.
- The core organisations of the project to collaborate and work together as a team as is their practice now with the WA2JSI project and to implement together using their own resources to contribute to the Access to Justice work of their organisations. The success of this option will depend on the continued cooperation and willingness to share and tolerate each others' differences.
- UNWomen can talk to Oxfam in Solomon Islands which works in this space to collaborate on the next phase of this current project and engage the Solomon Islands National Council of Women (SINCW) which currently partners with Oxfam in its Safe Families project and implement the project but bringing on board the core organisations of the WA2JSI project.

- This can become part of the Solomon Islands Safenet programme. The other key partner of the WA2JSI project is the MWYCFA said that work already conducted by Safenet could be an option to address the issue of sustainability. The UNWomen WA2JSI project complements the work of Safenet. The project work is not a standalone initiative but aligns to and complements the work of Safe Net which has been rolled out in 8 of the 9 provinces of Solomon Islands. There are two components of the Safe Net. The first is the provision of core services by the Safenet partners in the provinces and the second is the prevention and advocacy component. The work of the WA2JSI project can be easily incorporated into the work of the Safenet.

- The final option is a model shared earlier in this report which one of the provincial government women's organisation has been implementing and that is for individual organisations to incorporate the project work into their own organisational work and to seek funds for the activities and implement as tools for implementation have already been developed by the WA2JSI project.

- Finally, and to address the legal requirements of this project, UNWomen can collaborate with the Solomon Islands Law Reform Commission and WRAM to implement Output 1 and 2 of the regional project. Support the S The Oxfam Safe families project with their work in Temotu addressing violence right in the rural areas, have established their own safety mechanism, so when a domestic violence incident is happening the community people, starting from a small child to the whole village will chant, 'domestic violence'. The village/community have made a commitment to be responsible for the safety of women.

### 3.6 Challenges

The infrastructure to ensure the effective implementation of the AJ and PPs role to assist women to access justice is not there. The police are well known for not being responsive to calls from victims/survivors; police posts are scarce in the provinces and located miles apart from each other which will make safety for victims/survivors a major issue for accessing justice. The AJs and PPs are not in all provinces so there is still a gap in accessing justice if the A2JSI project is to be extended to other provinces or even to other communities of the two current target provinces, however the endorsement of the FPA regulation can mitigate this gap as there are local courts in the other provinces so

their local court justices can be recruited to be AJs and other community leaders could take on the roles of PPs but whether the regulation will be endorsed soon is not assured. Meanwhile the AJs and PPs continue to do work for the government on a voluntary basis many a time using their own resources to ensure the work is done and women victims/survivors access justice in their communities.

A major challenge that may hamper the good work that has been going on for the five or six years or so in Solomon Islands to assist women victims/survivors and other vulnerable groups to access justice; is the government's political will to prioritise this work; endorse the FPA regulation and dedicate resources to its realisation. The FPA is there the Policy is there, the enabling environment is there, the AJs and PPs are there, but whether the government has the resources to commit to this initiative again is not assured.

Consideration must also be given to the second focus area of the WA2JSI project which is to advocate for and build the capacity of rural women including community leaders and human rights defenders to increase awareness of women's rights, increase female participation and representation in advocating for women's access to justice before the formal and informal justice systems through legislative change and consultations as reflected in the regional projects Output 3 and Output 2 and the WA2JSI projects objectives and project components as contained in Table 1 of this report.

The model of collaboration seen in the implementation of the WA2JSI project in Solomon Islands with the Team approach by all stakeholders, service providers, CSOs, national and provincial women's organisations and grassroots women's groups is a great start to sustain this part of the WA2JSI project. If this can be maintained, the sustainability of this part of the project is doable.

The only challenge in the collaboration model and team approach is that in the WA2JSI project's implementation, not all the important stakeholders and service providers especially those from the government were involving themselves in the team. There is a gap, some of the main players are not active in participation in the team, an example is the police, the public solicitor's office, health, social welfare and other justice providers such as the correctional services.

They need to be on board to address this second focus area of the WA2JSI project and especially to consider the collaboration options outlined under the Sustainability implications for this project in going forward in Solomon Islands.

Finally the three UNWomen may want to consider supporting the sustainability of the project as this will continue the work on access to justice for women and the vulnerable in Solomon Islands, which will die out if this project is not continued.

*“When the project stops, no more work will continue and nothing will happen as there will also be no support from the government. As duty bearer the government needs to show more support to this project to enable its sustainability” with a little help from ‘friends’*

### 3.7 Lessons Learned

When a project is well coordinated and supported with resources, both technical, financial and other, it will be effective. UNWomen Solomon and its National Project Coordinator were commendable in their coordination of the project all through its short life span. Having the right human resources who are well trained in carrying out their roles is a major good practice for the implementation of projects. The WA2JSI project had this advantage from the Authorised Justices and Prescribed Persons who were trained by SPC in its form A2J project. When planning to implement a project, it is advisable that the implementing agency takes the time to go through all the necessary steps to ensure that the project does not leave anyone behind. It is the thinking of this evaluation that the WA2JSI project was not well thought through by UNWomen and its 2 key government partners. It was probably a case of ensuring that funds were secured before a deadline; so in its ‘rush’ it did not consult widely with other stakeholders especially those with technical capacity to address some of the substantive topics of the project including climate change, traditional governance and inclusivity to ensure that no one is left behind. Consulting widely may also lead to some sustainability ideas for this very short project in its continuity. The WA2JSI project was more like a pilot, implemented in only 7 months and restricted to 2 communities only in two provinces hence its representation also raises ‘leave no

one behind’ implications. This is a lessons learnt for the three UNWomen Offices, the UNWomen Solomon, the UNWomen Fiji MCO and the regional UNWomen. Had there been communications among each other and being current with the happenings in the women’s space at the national, regional and MCO levels, the SPC A2J project may have been ‘found’ as it was implemented around the same time that the regional project was implemented and also there were work relating to the outputs of the regional project already happening in Solomon Islands which would have fitted well into the implementation of the regional project in its entirety in Solomon Islands especially for the 5 years period and not for a 7 month period.

All in all, a neat and brief project that despite its short life, met its deliverables but in going forward, all three UNWomen and their national, MCO and regional partners must seriously consider the extension of this project or the second phase of this project which must take on the regional project with the same outcome, the three outputs implemented within the theory of change.

### 3.8 Recommendations

- The Minister of Justice and Legal Affairs urgently endorses the Regulation for the Family Protection Act
- That the Solomon Islands Government establishes the necessary mechanisms with a budget to ensure the effective implementation of the FPA and the work of the AJs and PPs to assist women specifically victims and survivors of domestic violence and other vulnerable groups to access justice in the communities.
- UNWomen Solomon to identify other potential partners for the project such as the UNDP Peace building Fund, Safenet, the Ministry responsible for climate change and traditional governance, CSOs such as the Disabled Person’s Association of Solomon Islands, the National Disaster Council, the Solomon Islands Law Reform Commission and the Women’s Rights Action Movement.
- Include a wider range of stakeholders, non-traditional key stakeholders not in the gender space because they are relevant in new thematic areas such as climate change and traditional governance.
- Include other NGOs in this project.
- Allow for more time for the information sessions.



- UNWomen to consider the following areas when deciding on further and future advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment; land and traditional governance related work that links with climate justice; social inclusion and how to engage the minority and disadvantaged groups in the project as there was a lack of PWDs in the project's activities.
- That the following options be considered when addressing the sustainability of the project
  - That UNWomen Solomon further discusses with UNWomen at the regional level and the two current regional partners, OCHRE and ICJ to support Solomon Islands conduct a repeat of the regional project to be implemented in Solomon Islands with the same Outcome and Outputs and the Theory of Change and that a five years core funding secured for the implementation of the project in Solomon Islands.
  - The core organisations of the project to collaborate and work together as a team as is their practice now with the WA2JSI project and to implement together using their own resources to contribute to the Access to Justice work of their organisations. The success of this option will depend on the continued cooperation and willingness to share and tolerate each others' differences.
  - UNWomen can talk to Oxfam in Solomon Islands which works in this space to collaborate on the next phase of this current project and engage the Solomon Islands National Council of Women (SINCW) which currently partners with Oxfam in its Safe Families project and implement the project but bringing on board the core organisations of the WA2JSI project.
  - This can become part of the Solomon Islands Safenet programme. The other key partner of the WA2JSI project is the MWYCFA said that work already conducted by Safenet could be an option to address the issue of sustainability. The UNWomen WA2JSI project complements the work of Safenet. The project work is not a standalone initiative but aligns to and complements the work of Safe Net which has been rolled out in 8 of the 9 provinces of Solomon Islands. There are two components of the Safe Net. The first is the provision of core services by the Safenet partners in the provinces and the second is the prevention and advocacy component. The work of the WA2JSI project can be easily incorporated into the work of the Safenet.
- The final option is a model shared earlier in this report which one of the provincial government women's organisation has been implementing and that is for individual organisations to incorporate the project work into their own organisational work and to seek funds for the activities and implement as tools for implementation have already been developed by the WA2JSI project.
- Finally and to address the legal requirements of this project, UNWomen can collaborate with the Solomon Islands Law Reform Commission and WRAM to implement Output 1 and 2 of the regional project. Support the S The Oxfam Safe families project with their work in Temotu addressing violence right in the rural areas, have established their own safety mechanism, so when a domestic violence incident is happening the community people, starting from a small child to the whole village will chant, 'domestic violence'. The village/community have made a commitment to be responsible for the safety of women.
- The project must operate at all the three levels of development in Solomon Islands, the national, provincial and community levels, because it works by linking everyone together. This is the first time for everyone to cooperate in this way. Engaging different actors in this space is a good practice.

## Annex 1

### List of Documents Reviewed

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18. The Constitution of Solomon Islands Statutory Instruments 1978 Pacific Islands, the Solomon Islands Independence Order 1978

19. The Law Reform Commission, Honiara, Marriage and Divorce Laws Consultation Paper, Solomon Islands, April 2022
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21. UNWomen, Impact Evaluation Framework and Guidance Note
22. UNWomen, Access to Justice for Women in Asia & the Pacific Preliminary Findings Presentation, 13th October 2023
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24. UNWomen Solomon, Malaita Province Prescribed Persons training 18-21 October 2021
25. UN Women, Method Note V1 Social Norms Country Case study Understanding shifting discriminatory social norms, and how positive social norms are promoted
26. UNWomen Solomon, Enhancing Women's Access to Justice: Solomon Islands Training of Trainers for Women-Led Civil Society Organisations & Targeted Prescribed Person, November 2022
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28. UNWomen Solomon, Report Awareness Workshop (TOT Pilot) in Radefasu, Central Kwaraáe, Malaita Community Awareness on Women's Rights, Access to Justice, Family Protection Act and Participation of Women in Traditional Governance Decision Making and Climate Change Justice, Solomon Islands, December 2022
29. UNWomen Solomon, TOT Resource Package, Solomon Islands, February 2023
30. UNWomen, Training of Trainers Workshop Report For Women led national, provincial and community based CSOs on Women's Rights, Access to Justice, Family Protection Act and Women's Participation and Decision Making in relation to Traditional Governance and Climate Change, Solomon Islands, November 2022
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## Annex 2

### List of Stakeholders Interviewed

No	Name	Position/Organisation
1	Ethel Sigimanu	National Consultant – UNWomen Solomon
2	Joy Ellen Alfred	Women’s Development Officer, Guadalcanal Provincial Government (GPG).
3	Janet Tuhaika	General Secretary, Solomon Islands National Council of Women
4	Dayson Boso	Local Courts Coordinator, Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs
5	Kyla Venokana	Chief Policy Legal Advisor, Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs
6	Vaela Ngai	Director, Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs
7	Audrey Manu	National Project Coordinator, UNWomen Solomon
8	Alice Hou	President, Guadalcanal Provincial Council of Women
9	Freda Kofana	Women’s Development Desk Officer, Women’s Development Desk, Malaita Provincial Government (MPG)
10	Martha Rurai	President, Malaita Provincial Council of Women
11	Peter Junior Kavao	Authorised Justice – Guadalcanal Province
12	Roselyn Tolia	Prescribed Person – Guadalcanal Province
13	Sarah Ladota	Prescribed Person – Malaita Province
14	Philip Waletobata	Authorised Justice – Malaita Province
15	Casper Fa’asala	Secretary General – Disabled Person’s Association of Solomon Islands (DPASI)

### Malaita Focus Group Discussion Participants.

No	Names (Females)	No	Names (Males)
1	Sarah Ladota	9	Philip Waletobata
2	Mary Paul	10	John Kalu
3	Esther Maevo	11	Philip Ramo
4	Wilmah Teioli	12	Joshua Kere
5	Joyce Luita	13	Philip William
6	Grace Kiri	14	Colin Mauasi
7	Cathy Talu	15	Francis Fa’alimae
8	Betty Caleb	16	Jimmy Batai

# Annex 2

## Inception Report

Submitted by:  
Ms Ethel Sigimanu – National Consultant  
November 2022



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# ABBREVIATIONS

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<b>AJ</b>	Authorised Justice
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organisation
<b>FPA</b>	Family Protection Act
<b>FPO</b>	Final Protection Order
<b>HCC</b>	Honiara City Council
<b>IPO</b>	Interim Protection Order
<b>MHMS</b>	Ministry of Health and Medical Service
<b>MJLA</b>	Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs
<b>MPNSCS</b>	Ministry of Police, National Security and Correctional Service
<b>MWYCFA</b>	Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Cultural Affairs
<b>RSIPF</b>	Royal Solomon Islands Police Force
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goal
<b>TA</b>	Technical Assistance
<b>TOR</b>	Terms of Reference
<b>TOT</b>	Training of Trainers
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>WEE</b>	Women's Economic Empowerment
<b>EVAWG</b>	Ending Violence against Women and Girls
<b>WPEL</b>	Women's Political Empowerment and Leadership

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Inception report aims to establish a solid understanding between UN Women which offers the consultancy for technical support of the selected national consultant to provide guidance to UN Women, Ministry of Women Youth Children & Family Affairs (MWYCFA), Ministry of Justice & Legal Affairs (MJLA) and targeted Women's Organizations to develop and carry out awareness/trainings at community level, support national advocacy with key messages and conduct consultation to inform a policy brief for drafting instructions on the regulation for Authorized Justices (AJs) in relation to the Family Protection Act (FPA).

When unpacking the consultancy assignment, several separate but related Technical Assistance (TA) activities were identified and include:

1. Develop this Inception Report;
2. Pilot the resource kit with targeted women's organizations as a training of trainers (TOT) and Support monitoring and evaluation of community information sessions led by women's organizations. Prioritization will be made for sessions for displaced communities impacted by climate change;
3. Conduct consultation with relevant stakeholders to inform the design of the next phase of the Australian Solomon Islands Access to Justice Program (ASIJP);
4. Provide technical support to media company with key messages audio spot messages and audio podcasts on women's access to Justice on Family Protection Act, women's participation in decision making in relation to Traditional Governance and Climate Change and video training content on these thematic areas;
5. Conduct consultations with government, civil society, churches, provinces & Authorised Justices (AJs) to develop a policy brief to inform the drafting instructions for AJs in relation to the FPA.

Concept papers for a couple of these Activities (2) and (4) above. In discussing Activity (3) at one of the inception meetings, UN Women assured that it will provide a concept paper for this Activity given the lack of necessary background information on the Activity. A consultation Plan for this Activity 3 will then be developed upon completion of its concept note. For

Activity 5, a consultation plan has been developed. These and the said concept papers can be found at Annexes to this Inception Report.

The Inception report details the process that will be undertaken to prepare, conduct and report on the TA activities and are in order of their timeframes outlined in the Terms of Reference, which is also reflected in the Activity Plan in this report. The structure of the report is reflected in the table of contents.

The duration of the TA to be provided by the consultancy team is 100 days and runs from November 2022 to June 2023. However, a potential challenge is that delays may be experienced as to timelines set in the Activity Plan for each activity. In such instances, activity timelines may need to be revised provided they would still fall within the overall TA timeframe.

The consultant needs to keep a constant communication with the parties concerned (UN Women, MJLA, MWYCFA) and others involved in implementation process for the activities so that necessary adjustments can be made to the project methodology where needed.

## 1. Context

This Inception Report provides details of the methodology to be adopted during this assignment as well as a detailed Activity Plan for implementation. It also reflects progress on the assignment activities that have been made over the inception phase as well as captures the assignment context. It also annexes necessary concept and consultation plans that have been developed for some of this assignment activities and annexed to this report. These papers have been developed now than later in order that the national consultant and her team focuses more on the implementation of the activities during the TA timeframe.



## 1.1 Assignment Context

### *Women's Access to Justice*

Deeply entrenched discriminatory and gender-biased attitudes, norms and practices, including by justice practitioners and by community members, prevent women from accessing justice and in many cases, women have also internalized harmful gender norms, which limits their own justice-seeking behaviour. These limitations on women's access to justice must be addressed in order to advance SDG 5 and combat discrimination towards women. Ensuring strong legal frameworks and non-discriminatory practices in the judicial sphere is a first step towards eliminating the social and legal conditions that perpetuate gender inequality.<sup>1</sup>

### *Women's Participation in Traditional Governance*

Traditionally, women's decisions in relation to their surrounding environment were recognized and they have always been the guiding force of local communities in SI communities. Women were the managers of the natural resources in pre-colonial times. Women's traditional knowledge and interactions with nature meant that conservation through subsistence was a regular part of their daily lives. Men and women in traditional governance settings also work and support each other including decision making.<sup>2</sup>

The development of the cash economy through colonisation has brought with it lasting effects on Solomon Islands' local communities. Women, in particular, have been affected by the changes brought about by 'development'. The challenges and difficulties they face in trying to become equal participants in their community development and their lack of influence in the policies which affect their day to day lives has begun to take its toll on the women of Solomon Islands.<sup>3</sup>

The Traditional Governance and Customs Facilitation Bill (TGCFB) introduced and supported by previous Solomon Islands governments aims to restore authority of community leaders and chiefs to exercise traditional, informal laws and rights over customary land ownership and its further use.

However, a gender analysis made on the Bill found that it runs the risk of reinforcing existing gender imbalances already experienced in both the formal and traditional governance systems. Women's potential to contribute actively and meaningfully in decision making is overlooked and not given the necessary emphasis it deserves in the Bill. Deficiencies in drafting the first TGCFB were identified by the Bills and Legislative Parliamentary Committee and a list of recommendations was compiled to address these concerns. One of the main recommendations of the parliamentary committee on the TGCFB was to withdraw the Bill and allow for further and more meaningful consultations with marginalized groups, women, youth and churches.<sup>4</sup>

The consultations carried out with women resulted in submission of 50 plus gender sensitive recommendations to Government of Solomon Islands. If adopted, these recommendations will lead to systemic change through ensuring that government systems and structures for managing land and natural resources have a formal system for including gender issues and women's voices, such as equal representation for men and women on resource management committees.<sup>5</sup>

### *Women in climate change governance*

Climate change related migration has already been occurring in combination with other factors and taking the form of urban drift to Honiara and other urban centres. For low lying islands and atolls, the risk of sea level rise and diminishing liveable land is becoming a real threat. Rising sea level has affected many coastal communities in Solomon Islands such as Walande. Beyond the impact on physical environment and land and natural resources the impacts of climate change are impacting the social and economic aspects of people's day to day lives. Some groups are more vulnerable than others especially when it comes to access to already depleting resources. Women have been historically excluded from decision making regarding land and natural resources as well as access and opportunities in relation to education, employment, basic services and access to justice.<sup>6</sup>

1 TERMS OF REFERENCE - National Consultant – Enhancing Access to Justice for Women in Asia and the Pacific, August 2022

2 TGCF Bill Consultation with women Report, 2020

3 Ibid

4 Initial TGCFB Gender Analysis Report

5 Traditional Governance and Women's Participation TOT

6 TERMS OF REFERENCE - National Consultant – Enhancing Access to Justice for Women in Asia and the Pacific, August 2022

## UN Women Support programme

UN Women, grounded in the vision of equality enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, works for the elimination of discrimination against women and girls; the empowerment of women; and the achievement of equality between women and men as partners and beneficiaries of development, human rights, humanitarian action and peace and security. The UN Women Fiji Multi-Country Office has four main thematic areas:

- Ending Violence against Women and Girls (EVAWG);
- Women’s Economic Empowerment (WEE);
- Governance and Participation in Public Life; and
- Women’s Political Empowerment and Leadership (WPEL)

Under the WPEL program is the ‘Access to Justice (A2J) project that is aimed at supporting access to justice through legislation reform, empowerment, advocacy and capacity building of grassroots women, including leaders and human right defenders. In realizing this aim, UN Women will focus on achieving the following outputs and interventions (1) increase the awareness of women’s rights among women and communities through community outreach on Women’s Access to Justice in targeted provinces (2) conduct national advocacy campaign on FPA, Women’s Access to Justice and Women’s participation in decision making in relation to traditional governance and climate change to create awareness using different tools and (3) increase female participation and representation in advocating women’s access to justice before formal and informal justice system through legislative change and consultations.<sup>1</sup>

### The Technical Assistance

UN Women solicited technical assistance (TA) for this work assignment to provide guidance to UN Women, Ministry of Women Youth Children & Family Affairs (MWYCFA), Ministry of Justice & Legal Affairs (MJLA) and targeted Women’s Organizations to develop and carry out awareness/trainings at community level, support national advocacy with key messages and conduct consultation to inform a policy brief for drafting instructions on the regulation for Authorized

Justices (AJs) in relation to the Family Protection Act (FPA). Ethel Sigimanu has been engaged as the national consultant to undertake this TA with her team partner, Josephine Kama.

The TA assignment will be implemented for 100 days over a period seven months from November, 2022 to June 2023.

## 1.2 Organisation of Inception Report

The organisation and structure of this Inception report is as follows:

I	Introduction
II	Methodology
III	Activity Plan
IV	Concept Notes for Individual Activities and Programs
V	Issues/Challenges and recommendations
VI	Next Steps
VII	Annexes

## 1.3 Overview of Preparatory Technical Assistance

### Purpose and Objectives of the TA

The purpose of this TA “is to support UN Women, the MWYCFA, MJLA and relevant Women’s organizations with objectives to carry out the following activities:

1. Conduct consultations with government, civil society, churches, provinces & Authorised Justices (AJs) and develop a policy brief to inform the drafting instructions for AJs in relation to the FPA.
2. Preparation and submission of drafting instructions for AJs in relation to the FPA to the Attorney General’s Office for the actual drafting.
3. Pilot the resource kit with targeted women’s organizations as a training of trainers (TOT)
4. Support monitoring and evaluation of community information sessions led by women’s organizations. Prioritization will be made for sessions for displaced communities impacted by climate change.
5. Provide technical support to media company with key messages for 3 audio spot messages [in Pijin and English] and 3 audio podcasts [in Pijin and English] on women’s access to Justice (1) Family Protection Act (2) and women’s participation in decision making in relation to Traditional Governance and Climate Change (3).

<sup>1</sup> TERMS OF REFERENCE - National Consultant – Enhancing Access to Justice for Women in Asia and the Pacific, August 2022

6. Provide technical support to the media company with content to develop One Training Video on Family Protection Act Forms; One video on forms of Domestic Violence and; One video to highlight women's participation in decision making in relation to Traditional Governance and Climate Change. The video will be both in English and Pijin.
7. 3 short (30-45sec) video for social media platform on the above topics.
8. Conduct consultations with women led CSO's and umbrella CSO bodies.
9. Produce an overall final report.<sup>1</sup>

### *Scope of Work/Duties and Responsibilities*

The TA through the national consultant is anticipated to undertake the activities as outlined in the deliverables in Section below under the overall guidance of the under the overall guidance of the UN Women Programme Specialist Gender Equality, Women's Rights & Governance and the direct supervision of the National Programme Coordinator, PBF, and in close collaborations with representatives from line ministries.<sup>2</sup>

### *Expected Deliverables*

The following are the key deliverables of the assignment:

- Inception report;
- Training Pilot Tests Report and finalise Training of Trainers (TOT) Resource package on Family Protection Act, Women's access to justice and Women's participation in decision making in relation to TGB and climate change for community-based women's organizations;
- Consultation findings on women's access to justice from women led and other selected CSO bodies;
- Information awareness materials for Advocacy on FPA, Access to Justice, Women's participation in decision making in relation to traditional governance and climate change;
- Program Plan for consultation with Government, civil society, churches, provinces, and AJs and develop policy brief to inform Drafting Instructions for Regulations for Authorized Justices (AJ) (prescribed persons);
- Policy brief and drafting instructions for FPA

1 TERMS OF REFERENCE - National Consultant – Enhancing Access to Justice for Women in Asia and the Pacific, August 2022

2 ibid

Regulations and support specific amendment to the FPA regarding service of Interim Protection Orders (IPOs);

- Reports on further TOT sessions, if and where applicable, conducted by Community Based Women's Organisations in selected communities;
- Final TA Report.<sup>3</sup>

### 1.4 Overview of Activity Progress and Potential Risks

While this inception report is being developed, work has begun with a few of the activities as outlined below:

#### 1.4.1 Activity Progress

**Engagement of a national consultant:** This work assignment was awarded to Ms Ethel Sigimanu, a qualified consultant based in Honiara to implement the TA and assisted by Josephine Kama as a consultancy team member. The TA officially commenced on 9th November, 2022. The consultant had already commenced review of relevant project data and information to inform this inception report.

**Inception meeting and communication:** A preliminary meeting was held with the UN Women on Monday 14th November, 2022 and attended by Audrey Manu of UN Women and Ethel Sigimanu (National Consultant) and Josephine Kama (consultancy team member).

The purpose of the meeting was to establish a consolidated understanding of the TA in terms of objectives, the deliverables and their timelines for submissions, logistics for all work activities as well as for collection of relevant background information on the TA. Prior to the official start of the TA and the said meeting, electronic communication between the UN Women and the Consultancy team has been on-going in relation to consultancy work.

Further meetings will be held as and when necessary and e-communication will continue throughout the TA timeframe between the UN Women, consultancy team, women's organisation and all other relevant stakeholders.

**Training of Trainers (TOT) in Honiara:** Given time constraints for the work assignment, the TOT Resource package was first piloted and delivered at the Heritage Park Hotel in Honiara on 1st – 4th & 7th November, 2022.

3 ibid

The TOT was delivered by a team comprising representatives from MWYCFA and MJLA in collaboration with UN Women and the consultancy team, and targeted Prescribed Persons, under the FPA, and provincial and community based women representatives from Guadalcanal and Malaita provinces.

The TOT Resource package covers key information and messages on the FPA, Women's access to justice and Women's participation in decision making in relation to TGCFB and climate change for community-based women's organizations. A separate report on this TOT will be compiled by the Consultancy team to inform the development of the final TOT Resource package.

**TOT Pilot Test in West Guadalcanal:** The second pilot test of the TOT Resource package delivery was done in rural communities for women, men, youths and people with disabilities at West Guadalcanal on 15th – 16th November, 2022. The training that was also aimed at raising awareness was delivered by the Provincial based Guadalcanal women who attended the TOT in Honiara. A separate report on this will be compiled by the Consultancy team to also inform the development of the final TOT Resource package.

**TOT Pilot Test in Malaita:** Notification has gone out to concerned rural communities through the Malaita Provincial Government to hold the third pilot test of delivery of the TOT resource package on 28th November – 2nd December, 2022. The Provincial Government Women's Division and the Malaita Provincial Council of Women are coordinating this training and the report for which would also help to inform the final version of TOT resource package.

**Information awareness materials/Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Materials:** Two IEC local consultants have been engaged separately by UN Women to deliver this outputs for this activity while the national consultant is required to provide necessary technical support. A couple of inception meetings have been held between UN Women, IEC consultants and National Consultant to consolidate understanding of responsibility of each and to align work schedules. On-going meetings will be held during the assignment.

#### 1.4.2 Key Risks

**Securing adequate participants and stakeholder engagement:** the UN Women, the Solomon Islands Government (SIG) and consultancy team are all acutely aware of the potential for delays in accessing the people and information, both in Honiara and rural communities, that are needed for the conduct of this assignment. This is particularly concerning given the fact that the festival seasons of Christmas and New Year occasion are drawing nigh and a lot of people often take time to rest from work while at the same time the timeframe for this work is set and needs to be adhered to. To mitigate these risks, advance notification need to go out to stakeholders including participants in good time to secure their availability. For the rural communities in Malaita, the involvement of the Provincial Government Women's Development Division and the Provincial Council of Women is the right step taken to organise good attendance to the TOT. The timing already set for January 2023 onwards for consultation with women's organisation, government and non-government stakeholders is in order provided prior notifications are given to them with their endorsement. Confirmation of exact timelines can be set upon revision and updates of activity implementation in due course.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

This section outlines what the methods to be employed to carry out the activities under the technical assistance and support of the national consultant and her team. Although these activities are distinct, they serve the overall objective to increase access to justice for women, girls and other vulnerable groups. The matrix below outlining these various activities, methods and detailed descriptions of the activities to not only reflect this distinction but also their links to fostering access to justice.

Desk review of necessary and relevant literature documents have been started and will be on-going throughout the TA timeframe. Where applicable, a mixed qualitative and quantitative methodology will be employed to meet the activity objectives as well as to produce their expected outputs and deliverables.

## 2.1 TA Activities

**Table 1**

### Activities and Methodology

No	Activity	Methods	Description
1	Inception report for TA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Desk/literature review</li> <li>• Inception meeting</li> <li>• On-going e-communication</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collect relevant literature and other data</li> <li>• Outline schedule of activities including timeframes, concept notes and tentative programs.</li> </ul>
2	TOT Resource package: Pilot Test and finalize the Draft TOT Resource	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TOT Concept paper</li> <li>• TOT &amp; Pilot Tests Workshops programs for Honiara, West Guadalcanal and Central Malaita</li> <li>• Workshop Facilitation</li> <li>• Workshop outcomes evaluation</li> <li>• Review of TOT Resource package</li> <li>• Finalise TOT Resource package</li> <li>• Workshop report write ups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop concept paper on TOT resource package on Family Protection Act, Women's access to justice and Women's participation in decision making in relation to TGB and climate change for community-based women's organizations</li> <li>• Develop workshop programs for women led CSOs and targeted prescribed persons in Honiara for Guadalcanal and Malaita provincial and community based women's organisations</li> <li>• TA support for TOT Workshop Facilitation by a team comprising representatives from MWYCFA and MJLA in collaboration with UN Women, other women's CSOs and the consultancy team</li> </ul>
3	Phase 2 of Access to Justice Program in Solomon Islands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concept Note (to be provided by UN Women)</li> <li>• Inception meetings with relevant authorities to establish consultation plan and program</li> <li>• Relevant literature review</li> <li>• Conduct stakeholder consultations</li> <li>• Collect and analyse and submit findings and recommendations</li> <li>• Activity report write up</li> </ul>	Support consultations/workshop with umbrella CSOs and women led and other selected CSO bodies and submission of final findings:

No	Activity	Methods	Description
4	Information awareness materials for Advocacy on FPA, Access to Justice, Women's participation in decision making in relation to traditional governance and climate change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inception meeting with IEC consultant</li> <li>• Literature review on awareness and advocacy materials</li> <li>• Develop Concept Paper</li> <li>• On-going discussions, critique and assessment of draft and final versions.</li> <li>• Test and review of draft and final versions of IECs</li> <li>• Activity report write up</li> </ul>	<p>Provide technical support to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop key message for, 3 spot messages [in Pijin and English] and 3 audio podcasts [in Pijin] on women's access to Justice (1) Family Protection Act (2) and women's participation in decision making in relation to Traditional Governance and Climate Change (3).</li> <li>• Develop content for one Training video on Family Protection Act Forms, 1 video on forms of Domestic Violence and 1 video to highlight women's participation in decision making in relation to Traditional Governance and Climate Change. Content to be both in English and Pijin.</li> <li>• Develop key messages for 3 short (30-45sec) videos for social media platform on the above topics.</li> </ul>
5	Policy brief and drafting instructions for FPA Regulations and support specific amendment to the FPA regarding service of IPOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop consultation Plan and program</li> <li>• On-going meetings with UN Women on resources and logistics</li> <li>• Develop Questionnaires</li> <li>• Conduct consultation through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Electronic consultations</li> <li>- Individual Face to Face Interviews</li> <li>- Focus Group Discussion</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Feedback/data collection</li> <li>• Feedback/data analysis and recommendations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold consultations government, civil society organisations, private sector, churches, provinces and Authorised Justices (AJs).</li> <li>• Develop policy brief and prepare drafting instructions for FPA Regulations for Cabinet and Attorney General's Office.</li> </ul>

No	Activity	Methods	Description
6	Further TOT sessions (if applicable) and attend and evaluate selected community information sessions conducted by trainers from community based women's organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concept paper to guide activity implementation</li> <li>• Develop TOT &amp; Pilot TOT session Programs</li> <li>• Selection of communities and participants for TOT Pilot Tests</li> <li>• Secure TOT &amp; Pilot tests logistics and resources</li> <li>• Support conduct of TOT and</li> <li>• TOT session feedback and evaluation</li> </ul> <p>TOT &amp; Pilot Test sessions report write up</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organize TOT logistics &amp; conduct TOT with targeted women's organizations.</li> <li>• Produce field report on the community information awareness sessions conducted by women's organizations</li> </ul> <p>Prioritization will be made for sessions for displaced communities impacted by climate change.</p>
7	Draft and Final Report of the TA activities	Report Write ups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submission of first draft report comments by SIG (MWYCFA &amp; MJLA) and UN Women</li> <li>• Submission of Final draft incorporating feedback on first draft</li> </ul>

### 3. ACTIVITY PLAN

Table 2 below outlines the activities and their corresponding timelines. final timelines of the various phases and activities in the Activity Plan below will be very much determined by the implementation pace thus, possible revision is anticipated.

**Table 2**

#### Activities and Timeframe

Activity	Duration	Tasks	Timeframe
<b>Inception Phase</b>			
<b>Activity 1: Inception Report</b>			
Inception Report & Preparation work	Up to 5 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signing of contract by national consultant</li> <li>• Complete all preparatory work including:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Inception Meetings with relevant authorities</li> <li>b) Develop Methodology</li> <li>c) Develop Overall Activity Plan and timeframes</li> <li>d) Develop data collection tools for each activity</li> <li>e) Develop Guiding Questions for consultation activities</li> <li>f) Develop Consultation Plan</li> <li>g) Develop TOT workshops and advocacy concept notes and programs</li> <li>h) Develop &amp; submit Inception Report</li> </ol> </li> </ul>	November 2022
<b>Desk Review &amp; Field Work Phase</b>			
Desk/Literature review	On-going throughout the TA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect and document relevant information from various sources</li> <li>Access relevant information from any other sources</li> </ul>	November 2022 and onwards
<b>Implementation Phase</b>			
<b>Activity 2: TOT Resource Package</b>			
TOT Resource materials: Pilot Tests and finalize the Draft TOT Resource Package	Up to 10 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support delivery of pilot TOT in Honiara</li> <li>• Collect and document TOT workshop feedback</li> <li>• Support delivery of pilot TOT in West Guadalcanal</li> </ul>	November/December 2022  TOT in Honiara and West Guadalcanal done on 1-4 & 7



Activity	Duration	Tasks	Timeframe
<b>Implementation Phase</b>			
<b>Activity 2: TOT Resource Package</b>			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect and document TOT workshop feedback</li> <li>Support delivery of pilot TOT in Central Malaita</li> <li>Collect and document TOT workshop feedback</li> <li>Compile and consolidate all TOT workshop feedback</li> <li>Finalise TOT Resource Package</li> <li>Write up consolidated TOT Workshop report</li> <li>Compile and consolidate consultation feedback</li> </ul>	November, and 15 – 16 November respectively.
<b>Activity 3: Consultation/Workshops for Phase 2 of Access to Justice Program in SI</b>			
Phase 2 of Access to Justice Program in Solomon Islands	Up to 10 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support consultations/workshop with umbrella CSO's and women led CSO's and submission of final findings</li> <li>Consultancy team Consultation program</li> <li>Collect and document consultation feedback/findings</li> <li>Compile and submit findings and recommendations</li> </ul>	January 2023
<b>Activity 4: Information Awareness and Advocacy materials</b>			
Information awareness materials for Advocacy on FPA, Access to Justice, Women's participation in decision making in relation to traditional governance and climate change.	Up to 25 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop concept paper.</li> <li>Provide technical support on information awareness materials including key messages and contents</li> </ul>	February 2022
<b>Activity 5: Policy Brief and Drafting Instructions</b>			
Policy brief and drafting instructions for FPA Regulations and support specific amendment to the FPA regarding service of IPOs	Up to 30 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop Consultation Plan with list of participants</li> <li>Develop consultation questions</li> <li>Obtain letter of introduction of Consultation and Consultancy team from PS responsible</li> </ul>	March/April 2022

Activity	Duration	Tasks	Timeframe
<b>Implementation Phase</b>			
<b>Activity 5: Policy Brief and Drafting Instructions</b>			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct face to face/virtual consultation with government, civil society, churches, provinces, and AJs and develop policy brief to inform Drafting Instructions for Regulations for Authorized</li> <li>• Collect and analyse data</li> <li>• Develop policy brief</li> <li>• Develop drafting instructions</li> <li>• Submit to Cabinet and Attorney General's Office</li> </ul>	
<b>Activity 6</b>			
Further TOT (if applicable and where resources are available) targeting displaced communities impacted by climate change	Up to 15 days	Organize TOT logistics & conduct TOT with targeted women's organizations. Produce field report on the community information awareness sessions conducted by women's organizations Prioritization will be made for sessions for displaced communities impacted by climate change.	May 2022
<b>Reporting Phase</b>			
<b>Report Write-ups</b>			
First Draft of Report Write-up	Up to 5 days	Develop first draft of report	June 2022
		Submit first draft of report to UN Women and SIG (MTGPEA)	
Final report Write up		Develop final draft of report incorporating feedback from UN Women and MTGPEA	
		Submit final report to UN Women	
	<b>100 days</b>		

#### **4. CONCEPT NOTES, INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITY PLANS AND PROGRAMS**

Based on the above Activity Plan above, concept notes have been being developed for Activities 2 and 4 above and can be found at Annexes A and B, whilst Consultation Plan and programs has been developed for Activity 5 and can be found at Annex C. These will be submitted to UN Women, MWYCFA and MJLA and may be revised prior to implementation of each remaining activity

#### **5. ISSUES/CHALLENGES**

One of the potential issues is around the overall TA timeframe of three (3) months where possible delays in implementation of activities may take place due to unforeseen circumstances. Confirmation of exact timelines can be set upon revision and updates of activities as and when they are undertaken.

#### **6. NEXT STEPS**

The next steps will be the implementation phase for all the activities outlined in the overall Activity Plan for this TA. The national consultant and her team will conclude with a consolidated draft and final overall report of the overall TA report and submit to UN Women.

## Annex A

### Concept Note

**TA Activity 1:** Training of Trainers (TOT) For Women Led CSOs, Selected Prescribed Persons & Rural Communities

**Project Name:** Enhancing Access to Justice for Women in Asia and the Pacific: Bridging the gap between formal and informal systems through women's empowerment

#### 1. Introduction & Background

UN Women, grounded in the vision of equality enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, works for the elimination of discrimination against women and girls; the empowerment of women; and the achievement of equality between women and men as partners and beneficiaries of development, human rights, humanitarian action and peace and security.<sup>1</sup>

The UN Women Fiji Multi-Country Office has four main thematic areas:

- Ending Violence against Women and Girls (EVAWG);
- Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE);
- Governance and Participation in Public Life; and
- Women's Political Empowerment and Leadership (WPEL).<sup>2</sup>

Under the WPEL program is the 'Access to Justice (A2J) project that is aimed at supporting access to justice through legislation reform, empowerment, advocacy and capacity building of grassroots women, including leaders and human right defenders. In realizing this aim, UN Women will focus on achieving the following outputs and interventions (1) increase the awareness of women's rights among women and communities through community outreach on Women's Access to Justice in targeted provinces (2) conduct national advocacy campaign on FPA, Women's Access to Justice and Women's participation in decision making in relation to traditional governance and climate change to create awareness using different tools and (3) increase female participation and representation

in advocating women's access to justice before formal and informal justice system through legislative change and consultations.<sup>3</sup>

Deeply entrenched discriminatory and gender-biased attitudes, norms and practices, including by justice practitioners and by community members, prevent women from accessing justice and in many cases, women have also internalized harmful gender norms, which limits their own justice-seeking behaviour. These limitations on women's access to justice must be addressed in order to advance SDG 5 and combat discrimination towards women. Ensuring strong legal frameworks and non-discriminatory practices in the judicial sphere is a first step towards eliminating the social and legal conditions that perpetuate gender inequality.<sup>4</sup>

Climate change related migration has already been occurring in combination with other factors and taking the form of urban drift to Honiara and other urban centres. For low lying islands and atolls, the risk of sea level rise and diminishing liveable land is becoming a real threat. Rising sea level has affected many coastal communities in Solomon Islands such as Walande. Beyond the impact on physical environment and land and natural resources the impacts of climate change are impacting the social and economic aspects of people's day to day lives. Some groups are more vulnerable than others especially when it comes to access to already depleting resources. Women have been historically excluded from decision making regarding land and natural resources as well as access and opportunities in relation to education, employment, basic services and access to justice.<sup>5</sup>

#### 1.1 Rationale

In efforts to foster and progress the aim to achieve advocacy and capacity building of grassroots women, including leaders and human right defenders, the Training of Trainers (TOT) Resource package was developed to provide information on Gender, Family Protection Act, women's rights and access to justice, women's participation and decision-making in relation to traditional governance and climate change. It also addresses the issues and barriers rural Solomon Island women face in accessing justice.

1 TERMS OF REFERENCE - National Consultant – Enhancing Access to Justice for Women in Asia and the Pacific, August 2022

2 Ibid

3 ibid

4 ibid

5 ibid

The TOT will be delivered through workshops to provide guidance to women led organizations to include gender perspective when creating awareness in targeted communities and to empower women and girls to know, claim and exercise their rights in community power structures.

## 2. Objective(s) of the TOT

- To build the capacity and awareness of women led CSOs on human rights issues, women's rights and access to justice, and participation of women in decision making processes in relation to traditional governance and climate change;
- To prepare women led organizations to present information effectively, respond to questions and lead activities that reinforce learning in community awareness sessions;
- For participants to share the information and knowledge back to their respective communities;
- To become familiar with the Family Protection Act and the related services and referral pathways;
- To learn lessons and gaps to review and finalise the TOT Resource Package.

## 3. Expected Outcome(s)

- Guidance and technical knowledge provided during the TOT session enabled Women led CSOs to be better informed on human rights issues, women's rights and access to justice and participation of women in decision making, and are able to share information and knowledge back to their respective communities and/or targeted communities.
- Women led CSOs are able to recognize rules, practices and situations that directly or indirectly discriminate against women and girls.
- Final draft of the TOT Resource Package

## 4. TOT Delivery

The TOT will be delivered initially in Honiara by a team comprising representatives from MWYCFA and MJLA in collaboration with UN Women, other women's CSOs and the consultancy team. See Table 1 for the Honiara TOT workshop program. Thereafter, pilot tests of the TOT Resource package will be done in West Guadalcanal and Central Malaita rural communities and to be delivered by the respective participants from Guadalcanal and Malaita provinces at the Honiara

TOT workshop. Table 2 outlines the TOT pilots for Guadalcanal and Malaita provinces.

Dates of delivery of TOT were earmarked as follows: Honiara - 1st – 4th & 7th November; West Guadalcanal – 15th – 16th November; and Central Malaita – 6th -7th December, 2022.

## 5. TOT Participants

### 5.1 Honiara TOT

Women representatives from women led organizations including churches, CSOs, communities, provincial and national government will attend the TOT. Women leaders will come from mainly Honiara with representatives from Malaita and Guadalcanal provinces including FPA related Prescribed Persons. The MWYCFA, MJLA, UN Women and consultancy team will provide technical support during the workshop. A total of 30 participants including the resource team is anticipated to attend.

### 5.1 Guadalcanal and Malaita Pilot TOT

The workshops for Guadalcanal and Malaita provinces will target women, men, youths and people with disabilities in rural communities and anticipates around 30 participants to attend at each workshop.

## 6. Budget

About USD42,314 is allotted for the Honiara TOT. This covers:

- Consultant/Facilitator - For this training, a consultant is being contracted who will be contributing towards this training as well as other aspects of Access to Justice Work.
- Venue & Catering for 30 participants (including resource personnel). Quotations will be sourced using the LTA under UNDP's agreement with approved vendors. Under the current LTA, for workshop days for participants travelling in from provinces 32% DSA rate is applied and for non-workshop days 44% DSA rate.
- Accommodation costs will be for 6 provincial participants from Guadalcanal and Malaita Provinces.

Trainings will be held at a centralized venue in Honiara. Venue will be hired for 5 days as the Training is intended to run for 5 days.

Accommodation and meals will be provided for the 6 participants from Guadalcanal and Malaita as per the agreed UNDP LTA with the vendor for workshop and non-workshop days. For all participants (including resource personnel), lunch and tea breaks will be provided during workshop days. The training is planned for 1- 4 & 7th November, 2022.

Budget for Guadalcanal and Malaita TOT pilot workshops will be provided by UN Women as and when preparations are made.

### 6.1 Honiara TOT Transportation for Participants

For Guadalcanal participants travelling to Honiara by road, the estimated cost to and from their villages is SBD800 and is factored into the budget. For Malaita participants, airfares and terminals are calculated based on UN rates. For Honiara based participants, a

bus fare rate of SBD 100 per day will be paid each day of the workshop days.

### 7. Activity Output Contribution

This activity intends to contribute to output 1.2.1 and specifically to activity result 1.2.1.43 to increase awareness of women’s rights amongst community-based women’s organizations. He same applies for Guadalcanal and Malaita Provinces TOT workshops.

#### Means of verification

- Participants’ signed attendance sheets
- Consultant’s TOT Report

### 8. Tentative Schedule for TOT Workshops

At Tables 1 and 2 below are tentative TOT workshop programs for Honiara, Guadalcanal & Malaita respectively.

**Table 1**

### Honiara TOT Workshop

Time	Topic	Facilitator
<b>Objectives:</b>		
Training of Trainers Workshop:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Build the capacity and awareness of women led CSOs on women’s rights and access to justice, Family Protection Act, and participation of women in decision making processes in relation to traditional governance and climate change.</li> <li>▪ Prepare women led organizations to present information effectively, respond to questions and lead activities that reinforce learning in community awareness sessions.</li> <li>▪ Participants to share information and knowledge with their respective communities and/or organisations/institutions.</li> <li>▪ Become familiar with the Family Protection Act and the related services and referral pathways.</li> </ul>		
<b>Day 1</b>		
08:00 – 09:00	<b>Registration</b>	UN Women
09:00 – 09:30	<b>Welcome Note</b> Notes: Opening Prayer, welcome & introductions & housekeeping	<b>Audrey Manu &amp; A2J Consultant</b> NPC PBF, IC

Time	Topic	Facilitator
09:30 – 10:00	<b>Purpose of the TOT and learning outcomes</b> Notes: Outline of the program, Objective of the TOT session. Linking A2J Project to global and national access to justice frameworks, SDGs, GEWD, EVAW, WPS NAP policies with relevant outcomes. Background/Context	<b>Vaela Ngai/Audrey Manu</b> Director, MWYCFA, NPC PBF
10:00 – 10:30	<b>Morning tea Break</b>	
10:30 – 12:30	<b>Session 1: Gender Equality</b> Notes: Understanding differences between gender & sex, gender roles, gender inequality, women’s rights and access to justice.	<b>Vaela</b> MWYCFA
12.30 – 1.30pm	<b>Lunch Break</b>	
1.30pm	<b>Session 2: Domestic Violence:</b> Notes: Cycle of violence, Myths and Facts about DV, Why women don’t report domestic violence, Effects of DV, Vulnerable Groups and Perpetrators of violence.	<b>Kyla &amp; Vaela</b> MWYCFA & MJLA
	<b>Session 3: Domestic Violence and the SI Law (FPA)</b> Notes: What is DV under FPA, Examples	<b>Kyla &amp; Vaela</b> MWYCFA & MJLA
	<b>Session 4: Authorized Justices &amp; Prescribed Persons</b> Notes: Principles & role they play at community level	<b>Kyla &amp; Vaela</b> MWYCFA & MJLA
5:00pm	<b>Evaluation &amp; Closing</b> Notes: Evaluation, vote of thanks and prayer	
<b>Day 2</b>		
8.00 – 8.30am	<b>Arrival of Participants &amp; Registration</b>	PA UN Women
8.30 – 9.00am	<b>Welcome, Prayer &amp; Recap</b>	<b>Audrey Manu</b> NPC A2J
9.00 -10.00am	<b>Women’s Participation in Decision Making relating to Traditional Governance</b> Notes: What is traditional governance, Role of Women in Traditional Governance and why their participation is important, link in traditional governance to justice.	<b>IC</b> A2J
10.00-10.30am	<b>Morning tea break</b>	
10.30 -12.30	<b>Women’s Participation in Traditional Governance</b> Notes: SI Govt & the TGB process, Women’s recommendations, and next steps.	<b>IC</b>

Time	Topic	Facilitator
12.30 – 1.30pm	<b>Lunch Break</b>	
1.30pm	<b>Gender and Climate Change</b> Notes: International and national frameworks, What is climate change?	<b>IC &amp; Audrey Manu</b>
	<b>Gender and Climate Change</b> Notes: Why is gender and gender equality relevant to climate change, how do gender and gender roles affect exposure to climate change consequences.	<b>IC &amp; Audrey Manu</b>
	<b>Gender and Climate Change</b> Notes: Why a gender approach is needed? Gender issues and adaption to climate change effects	<b>IC &amp; Audrey Manu</b>
	<b>Gender and Climate Change (Cont.)</b>	<b>IC &amp; Audrey Manu</b>
5pm	<b>Evaluation &amp; Closing</b>	
<b>Day 3</b>		
8.30 -9.00	<b>Arrival of Participants &amp; Registration</b>	<b>Audrey</b>
9.00 – 9.30am	<b>Welcome, Prayer and recap</b>	<b>Vaela &amp; Kyla</b>
9.30 – 12.30pm	<b>Group Preparation for presentation of sessions</b>	
12.30 – 1.30pm	<b>Lunch</b>	
1.30pm -5.00pm	<b>Group Preparation for presentation of session continue</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>Day 4</b>		
8.30 – 9.00am	<b>Arrival of participants &amp; registration</b>	<b>Audrey Manu</b>
9.00 – 9.30am	<b>Welcome, Prayer and recap</b>	<b>IC</b>
9.30 – 12.30pm	<b>Malaita Group Presentations</b>	<b>Malaita Participants</b>
12.30 -1.30pm	<b>Lunch</b>	
1.30 – 4.00pm	<b>Malaita Group Presentation continue</b>	<b>Malaita Participants</b>
4.00 – 5.00pm	<b>Plenary and Feedback</b>	
5pm	<b>Closing</b>	



Time	Topic	Facilitator
<b>Day 5</b>		
8.30 – 9.00am	<b>Arrival of participants &amp; registration</b>	<b>Tristram</b>
9.00 – 9.30am	<b>Welcome, Prayer and recap</b>	<b>IC</b>
9.30 – 12.30pm	<b>Guadalcanal Group Presentations</b>	<b>Guadalcanal Participants</b>
12.30 -1.30pm	<b>Lunch</b>	
1.30 – 4.00pm	<b>Guadalcanal Group Presentation continue</b>	<b>Guadalcanal Participants</b>
4.00 – 5.00pm	<b>Plenary and Feedback</b>	
5pm	<b>Final Evaluation &amp; Closing</b>	<b>IC, MWYCFA &amp; MJLA</b>

**Table 2**

**Guadalcanal and Malaita TOT Pilot Workshops**

Time	Content
<b>Objectives:</b>	
Training of Trainers Pilot Workshop:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Build the capacity and awareness of community women, youths on women’s rights and access to justice, Family Protection Act, and participation of women in decision making processes in relation to traditional governance and climate change.</li> <li>▪ Prepare community women and youths to share information and knowledge with their respective communities and/or organisations/institutions.</li> <li>▪ Community women and youths become familiar with the Family Protection Act and the related services and referral pathways.</li> </ul>	
<b>Day 1</b>	
08.00 - 08.30 am	Arrival
08.30 - 09.00 am	Registration
09.00 - 09.30 am	Welcome Note & Opening prayer
09.30 - 09.45 am	Purpose of training and learning outcomes
09.45 - 1 0.00 am	Ground Rules & Housekeeping
10.00 - 0.30 am	Morning Tea Break
10.30 - 11.30 am	Gender, Sex, Gender Norms, Roles, Myths and Gender Equality
11.30 am - 12.30 pm	Group Activity and/or Plenary
12.30 - 1.30 pm	Lunch Break

Time	Content
1.30 - 2.30 pm	Human Rights, GBV definition, Cycle of Violence
2.30 - 3.30 pm	Domestic Violence, its impacts, myths and effects
3.30 – 4.00 pm	Afternoon Tea Break
4.00 – 5.00 pm	Domestic Violence & SI Law-FPA
5.00 – 5.15 pm	End of day assessment & closing prayer
<b>Day 2</b>	
08.00 - 08.30 am	Arrival
08.30 - 09.00 am	Registration
09.00 - 09.30 am	Welcome, Prayer & Recap of Day 1 Sessions
09.30 - 09.45 am	Purpose of training and learning outcomes
09.45 - 1 0.00 am	Introduction to Traditional Governance
10.00 - 0.30 am	Morning Tea Break
10.30 - 11.30 am	Role and Participation of women in traditional governance: pre and post colonisation
11.30 am - 12.30 pm	Solomon Islands Government & the Traditional Governance Bill
12.30 - 1.30 pm	Lunch Break
1.30 - 2.30 pm	Introduction to Climate Change & key gender aspects of climate change
2.30 - 3.30 pm	Gender issues & prevention of climate change
3.30 – 4.00 pm	Afternoon Tea Break
4.00 – 5.00 pm	Gender issues and adaptation to climate change effects & global climate change framework
5.00 – 5.15 pm	End of day assessment & closing prayer

## 10. Issues & Challenges

No key issues or challenges are anticipated in the implementation of this Activity 1 apart from participants' availability. Thus, notices about the timings for TOT for all three locations – Honiara, Guadalcanal and Malaita – ought to be served to target audience and participants in good time to secure their availability. For the rural communities in Guadalcanal and Malaita provinces, cultural protocols in relation to traditional governance need to be observed for better attendance by targeted participants.

## 11. Next steps

The key next steps for this Activity 1 includes:

- Organising and conducting the TOT in all three locations;
- Report write up for the overall Activity 1.

## Annex B

### Concept Note

**TA Activity 4:** TA support for Access to Justice Information Education and Communication (IEC) Materials

**Project Name:** Enhancing Access to Justice for Women in Asia and the Pacific: Bridging the gap between formal and informal systems through women's empowerment

#### 1. Introduction & Background

UN Women, grounded in the vision of equality enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, works for the elimination of discrimination against women and girls; the empowerment of women; and the achievement of equality between women and men as partners and beneficiaries of development, human rights, humanitarian action and peace and security.<sup>1</sup>

"The UN Women Fiji Multi-Country Office has four main thematic areas:

- Ending Violence against Women and Girls (EVAWG);
- Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE);
- Governance and Participation in Public Life; and
- Women's Political Empowerment and Leadership (WPEL).<sup>2</sup>

Under the WPEL program is the 'Access to Justice (A2J) project that is aimed at supporting access to justice through legislation reform, empowerment, advocacy and capacity building of grassroots women, including leaders and human right defenders.<sup>3</sup>

Deeply entrenched discriminatory and gender-biased attitudes, norms and practices, including by justice practitioners and by community members, prevent women from accessing justice and in many cases, women have also internalized harmful gender norms, which limits their own justice-seeking behaviour. These limitations on women's access to justice must be addressed in order to advance SDG 5 and combat discrimination towards women. Ensuring strong legal

frameworks and non-discriminatory practices in the judicial sphere is a first step towards eliminating the social and legal conditions that perpetuate gender inequality.<sup>4</sup>

Climate change related migration has already been occurring in combination with other factors and taking the form of urban drift to Honiara and other urban centres. For low lying islands and atolls, the risk of sea level rise and diminishing liveable land is becoming a real threat. Rising sea level has affected many coastal communities in Solomon Islands such as Walande. Beyond the impact on physical environment and land and natural resources the impacts of climate change are impacting the social and economic aspects of people's day to day lives. Some groups are more vulnerable than others especially when it comes to access to already depleting resources. Women have been historically excluded from decision making regarding land and natural resources as well as access and opportunities in relation to education, employment, basic services and access to justice.<sup>5</sup>

In realizing this aim, UN Women will focus on achieving the following outputs and interventions (i) increase the awareness of women's rights among women and communities through community outreach on Women's Access to Justice in targeted provinces; (ii) conduct national advocacy campaign on FPA, Women's Access to Justice and Women's participation in decision making in relation to traditional governance and climate change to create awareness using different tools; and (iii) increase female participation and representation in advocating women's access to justice before formal and informal justice system through legislative change and consultations.<sup>6</sup>

#### 1.1 Rationale and Technical Assistance

In efforts to foster and progress the aim to achieve advocacy and capacity building of community women, including leaders and human right defenders, information awareness or information, education and communication (IEC) materials will be developed with media companies, both for mainstream and social media, for purposes of advocacy on the FPA, Access to Justice, Women's participation in decision making

1 TERMS OF REFERENCE - National Consultant – Enhancing Access to Justice for Women in Asia and the Pacific, August 2022

2 Ibid

3 Ibid

4 Ibid

5 Ibid

6 Ibid

in relation to traditional governance and climate change resilience efforts. The national consultant and her team will provide technical support to media companies and platforms to develop key messages and contents of video awareness trainings on the above-said thematic areas.

A national IEC expert has been engaged separately by UN Women to develop the IEC materials for spot messages, audio podcasts and videos with the guidance and technical inputs from the national consultant to put together these materials with key messages that will form the content of Advocacy Resource Package to be delivered through the mainstream and social media platforms.

In this regard, it is vital that work/Activity plans of the IEC expert and the national consultant be aligned to develop IEC product with more cohesive and consistent key messages and messaging. On similar note, it is also equally important that the work of the other expert to develop IEC Pamphlets be aligned and consistent with key messages and messaging developed for audio and video expert.

## 2. Objectives of Activity

- Provide technical support to develop information awareness materials for advocacy on human rights issues, women's rights and access to justice, and participation of women in decision making processes in relation to traditional governance and climate change;
- Provide technical support to media companies and platforms to develop information awareness materials for advocacy on FPA, Access to Justice, Women's participation in decision making in relation to traditional governance and climate change;
- Provide technical support to media company with key messages in Pijin and English on women's access to Justice, Family Protection Act, and women's participation in decision making in relation to Traditional Governance and Climate Change;
- Provide technical support to the media company and social media platforms with content to develop Training video in both Pijin and English versions on Family Protection Act Forms, video on forms of Domestic Violence and 1 video to highlight women's participation in decision making in relation to Traditional Governance and Climate

Change. The video will be both in English and Pijin.

## 3. Expected Outcomes & Outputs

- Guidance and technical input on information awareness and advocacy provided to be better informed on human rights issues, women's rights and access to justice and participation of women in decision making, and are able to share information and knowledge back to their respective communities and/or targeted communities;
- Solomon Islands communities are able to recognize rules, practices and situations that directly or indirectly discriminate against women and girls;
- Key messages for, 3 spot messages [in Pijin and English] and 3 audio podcasts [in Pijin] on women's access to Justice (1) Family Protection Act (2) and women's participation in decision making in relation to Traditional Governance and Climate Change (3);
- Content for one Training video on Family Protection Act Forms, 1 video on forms of Domestic Violence and 1 video to highlight women's participation in decision making in relation to Traditional Governance and Climate Change. Content to be both in English and Pijin;
- Key messages for 3 short (30-45sec) videos for social media platform on the above topics.

## 4. Means of verification

- Records of meeting discussions
- Activity Outputs
- Consultant's Activity Report

## 5. Activity Plan

Below is the Table 1 outlining the activities and the methods to be employed for technical support as well as timeframes. Exact days are deliberately not reflected to accommodate any revision of timelines as the work progresses.

**Table 1****Activities, Methods & Timeframe**

Activity	Method of Technical Support	Timeframe
Technical Support to develop Key message for, 3 spot messages [in Pijin and English] and 3 audio podcasts [in Pijin] on women's access to Justice (1) Family Protection Act (2) and women's participation in decision making in relation to Traditional Governance and Climate Change (3);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inception meetings with IEC Consultant on spot messages, audio podcasts and video products to consolidate common understanding of activity objectives, expected outcomes and align timelines</li> <li>• Follow up and progress communications with IEC Expert on formats, graphics, key messages and video contents</li> <li>• Assess and critique to give feedbacks on first and subsequent drafts of IEC materials</li> <li>• On-going communication through face-to-face meetings and e-communication to revise and finalise IEC materials</li> <li>• Activity Report Write Up</li> </ul>	25 days in February 2023
Technical support to develop content for one Training video on Family Protection Act Forms, 1 video on forms of Domestic Violence and 1 video to highlight women's participation in decision making in relation to Traditional Governance and Climate Change. Content to be both in English and Pijin;		
Technical support to develop key messages for 3 short (30-45sec) videos for social media platform on the above topics		

**6. Budget**

Budget for the activity will be finally determined and provided by UN Women. The cost estimates in the Table 2 below provide indications of some likely costs to be incurred to undertake this Activity.

**Table 2****Cost Estimates**

Activity	Methods	Cost Estimate
Technical support to development of Information awareness materials for Advocacy on FPA, Access to Justice, Women's participation in decision making in relation to traditional governance and climate change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inception meetings with media company, podcast expert and video choreographer to consolidate common understanding of activity objectives and expected outcomes</li> <li>• Follow up and progress meetings to discuss formats, graphics, key messages and video content</li> <li>• Assess and critique first and subsequent drafts of information awareness materials format, graphics, key messages, etc</li> <li>• On-going communication through face to face meetings and e-communication</li> <li>• Meetings on final outputs and their endorsement</li> <li>• Activity report write up</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transport (taxi fare) to and from meeting @ \$100 each trip for 10 meetings = \$1,000</li> <li>• Telephone data @ \$20 daily x 1522 days = \$ 300</li> <li>Internet data @ \$30 x 4 weeks = \$120</li> </ul>

## 7. Issues and Challenges

The main issues anticipated would involve time delay in carrying out activities due to unforeseen circumstances. To mitigate such potential issue, early start on the work is advisable and responsible implementers need consolidate appropriate timeframe for the activity.

## 8. Next steps

The following activities stipulated for the TA will follow:

- Complete Information Awareness Resource package
- Decide on where and how to distribute the information awareness for appropriate advocacy program and delivery to be determined;
- Report write up on the activity implementation and results.

## Annex C

### Consultation Plan

**TA Activity 5:** Policy Brief and Regulations for Authorized Justices (AJ) and Prescribed Persons (PP) in the Family Protection Act

#### 1. Introduction/Background

The UN Women, grounded in the vision of equality enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, works for the elimination of discrimination against women and girls; the empowerment of women; and the achievement of equality between women and men as partners and beneficiaries of development, human rights, humanitarian action and peace and security.<sup>1</sup>

Under the Women's Political Empowerment and Leadership (WPEL) program is the UN Women 'Access to Justice (A2J)' "project that is aimed at supporting access to justice including environmental justice through legislation reform, empowerment, advocacy and capacity building of grassroots women, including leaders and human right defenders. In realizing this aim, UN Women focuses on achieving the following outputs and interventions (1) increase the awareness of women's rights among women and communities through community outreach on Women's Access to Justice in targeted provinces (2) conduct national advocacy campaign on Family Protection Act (FPA), Women's Access to Justice and Women's participation in decision making in relation to traditional governance and climate change to create awareness using different tools and (3) increase female participation and representation in advocating women's access to justice before formal and informal justice system through legislative change and consultations.<sup>2</sup>

Deeply entrenched discriminatory and gender-biased attitudes, norms and practices, including by justice practitioners and community members, prevent women from accessing justice. In many cases, women have also internalized harmful gender norms, which limits their own justice-seeking behaviour. These limitations on women's access to justice needs addressing in order to advance the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5

and combat discrimination towards women. Ensuring strong legal frameworks and non-discriminatory practices in the judicial sphere is a first step towards eliminating the social and legal conditions that perpetuate gender inequality.<sup>3</sup>

#### 2. Technical Assistance

Given the above background, the UN Women called for technical assistance (TA) of a qualified Consultant to provide guidance to UN Women, Ministry of Women Youth Children & Family Affairs (MWYCFA), Ministry of Justice & Legal Affairs (MJLA) and targeted Women's Organizations to develop and carry out awareness/trainings at community level, support national advocacy with key messages and conduct consultation to inform a policy brief for drafting instructions on the regulation for Authorized Justices (AJs) in relation to the FPA.

This consultation plan is specifically for the TA activity that requires to conduct a consultation to inform a policy brief for drafting instructions on the regulations for Authorized Justices (AJs) in relation to the Family Protection Act (FPA). The activity will be carried out under the overall guidance of the UN Women Program Specialist Gender Equality, Women's Rights & Governance MCO and the direct supervision of the National Program Coordinator, PBF, and in close collaborations with representatives from Solomon Islands Government (SIG) line ministries.

#### 3. Objective of Consultation

The objective of the consultations is to collect views of stakeholders including the Solomon Islands government, civil society, churches, provinces & Authorised Justices (AJs) to develop a policy brief that will inform the drafting instructions with the aim of developing regulations for AJs in relation to the FPA.

#### 4. Expected Outcomes

The main expected outcome of this Activity is a set of regulations for AJs in relation to the FPA that are accepted by the SIG Cabinet and the Ministers responsible sanction their gazetting and enforcement.

<sup>3</sup> *ibid*

<sup>1</sup> TERMS OF REFERENCE - National Consultant – Enhancing Access to Justice for Women in Asia and the Pacific: Bridging the gap between formal and informal systems through women's empowerment (Solomon Islands)

<sup>2</sup> *ibid*

## 5. Partner/Stakeholders to consult

This will be a targeted consultation with selected stakeholders in the Solomon Islands Government, both national and provincial, CSOs including churches and private sector as well as the AJs appointed in relation to the FPA as well as provincial and community based women's organisations and some communities in and around the country. Stakeholders to consult within the Solomon Islands national government will include RSIPF, Ministry of Police, National Security and Correctional Services (MPNSNS), MWYCFA, MJLA, SAFENET members, High Court and Magistrate courts, local courts, On-going collaboration with MWYCFA, MJLA and UN Women, the final list of stakeholders to consult will be established.

## 6. Form of Consultation

Relevant literature review will take place of secondary data on the FPA and any latest review of duties and performances of AJs. Guiding questions will be developed for electronic and field consultations. Field consultations will mostly involve the following methods; Face to Face/Key Informant Interviews (KII); Focused Group Discussion (FGD); and where appropriate and necessary telephonic and electronic consultation will be used especially for follow-ups on KII and FGD.

## 7. Time of Consultation

Time slots for KII and FGD are often the most challenging and depend very much on convenience and availability of individual stakeholders to consult. The consultancy team will set up the KII and FGD and it is hoped that this goes smoothly to not delay the consultation process. Interviews will start proper in March 2023.

Where possible KIIs will be grouped based on organisations/agencies, for example, the Permanent and Deputy Secretaries for Ministries can be combined/ grouped together for one consultation session; and one session for Director, Women's Development Division, MWYCFA, Ending Violence Against Women Policy Coordinator, MWYCFA and SAFENET Coordinator, MWYCFA. Such groupings are suggested as outlined in the Consultation List below but which may be subject to changes arising from unforeseen circumstances especially around availability of partners/stakeholders. Any change will be accommodated and shared accordingly among all concerned.

## 8 Consultation Participating Stakeholders List and Timeframe

Stakeholder	Timeframe	Interview Form
<b>Solomon Islands Government</b>		
Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs with <b>Magistrate Courts &amp; Public Solicitors Office</b>	March 2023	KII/FGD
Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs with <b>SAFENET CARECOM</b>	March 2023	KII/FGD
Ministry of Police, National Security and Correctional Services with <b>Seif Ples</b>	March 2023	KII/FGD
Ministry of Health and Medical Services with <b>Social Welfare</b>	March 2023	KII/FGD
Honiara City Council (HCC) with <b>HCC Police, Nursing and Women's Development Divisions</b>	March 2023	KII/FGD
<b>Provincial Governments</b>		
Guadalcanal Provincial Government – <b>Women's Development Division, Health and Police</b>	March 2023	KII/FGD
Malaita Provincial Government - <b>Women's Development Division, Health and Police</b>	March 2023	KII/FGD
Honiara City Council	March 2023	KII/FGD
Any other selected provinces	March 2023	KII/FGD



Stakeholder	Timeframe	Interview Form
<b>Civil Society Organisations/Non-Government Organisations</b>		
SAFENET Members – Family Support Centre and Christian Care Centre	March 2023	KII/FGD
Selected SICA and SIFGA churches	March 2023	KII/FGD
SINCW, WRAM, VBM, YWCA	March 2023	KII/FGD
<b>FPA Authorised Justices (AJ)</b>		
Guadalcanal AJs	March 2023	FGD
Malaita AJs	March 2023	FGD
Honiara AJs	March 2023	FGD
<b>UN Women</b>		
Country Program Coordinator, UN Women & Coordinator for Ending Violence Against Women	March 2023	FGD
<b>Australian High Commission Gender and Justice Programs</b>		
Selected Staff	March 2023	KII/FGD
<b>Private Sector</b>		
To be selected	March 2023	KII/FGD
<b>Community Based Women's Organisations</b>		
Guadalcanal Provincial and Ward Councils of Women	March 2023	FGD
Malaita Provincial and Ward Councils of Women	March 2023	FGD
Honiara Provincial and Ward Councils of Women	March 2023	FGD
<b>Urban and Rural Communities Gatekeepers</b>		
Selected communities to be selected for Guadalcanal province	March 2023	FGD
Selected communities in Malaita Province	March 2023	FGD
Selected communities in Honiara	March 2023	FGD

## 9. Budget

The budget resource for this Activity will be determined by UN Women. However, some cost estimates are outlined in the Table below and which are subject to review and finalization in due course.

Consultation Location	Cost Description	Item Cost	Total Cost
Honiara	Transport (taxi fares) to consult stakeholder	@ \$100 x 20 stakeholders consultation	\$2,000
Guadalcanal	Transport (Taxi fares ) for Honiara based stakeholders	@ \$100 x 5 stakeholders consultation	\$500
	Transport (hired vehicle) for Guadalcanal based stakeholders	@ \$300 per trip x 5	\$1,500

# Annex XII

## Terms of Reference

The evaluation Terms of Reference can be found here

<https://gate.unwomen.org/Evaluation/Details?evaluationId=11655>



**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 ensure that the standards are effectively implemented and truly benefit women and girls worldwide. It works globally to make the vision of the Sustainable Development Goals a reality for women and girls and stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on four strategic priorities: Women lead, participate in and benefit equally from governance systems; Women have income security, decent work and economic autonomy; All women and girls live a life free from all forms of violence; Women and girls contribute to and have greater influence in building sustainable peace and resilience, and benefit equally from the prevention of natural disasters and conflicts and humanitarian action. UN Women also coordinates and promotes the UN system's work in advancing gender equality.



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**In 2000, 189 Member States adopted the Millennium Declaration, outlining a global vision for eradicating poverty eradication, fostering peace and security, protecting the environment, and achieving human rights and democracy**

Women's rights are recognized as a foundation for progress in all spheres. The Declaration pledges explicitly 'to combat all forms of violence against women and to implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)'. And it further recognizes the importance of promoting gender equality and women's empowerment as an effective pathway for combating poverty, hunger and disease and for stimulating sustainable development.

The Millennium Declaration also reconfirms the commitments made at the UN Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing (1995) and other major world conferences such as the Rio Conference on Environment and Development (1992), the Vienna Conference on Human Rights (1993), the Cairo Conference on Population and Development (1994), the Copenhagen World Summit for Social Development (1995) and the Istanbul Conference on Human Settlements (1996).



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