



IN BRIEF

PREVENTING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS AND DELIVERING ESSENTIAL SERVICES TO SURVIVORS IN ETHIOPIA FINAL EVALUATION

(Photo: UN Women/Tensae Yemane)
Survivors of GBV during Art therapy at an Association of Women's Sanctuary and Development

Programme Description

The programme was aimed at [preventing Violence Against Women and Girls \(VAWG\) and supporting women and girls' survivors of violence to access justice, protection and quality essential services](#). The programme was implemented in partnership with various government stakeholders including the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs (MoWSA), regional Bureaus of Women, Children and Social Affairs, Ministry of Justice, regional Bureaus of Justices, Ethiopian Police University, Ministry of Education, Amhara and Oromia Bureaus of Education and Central Statistics Agency, and Civil Society and Faith Based Organizations.

Programme interventions were implemented at Federal level and selected six regions of Ethiopia: Afar, Amhara, Oromia, Gambella, Sidama, and Somali. Six of the 13 regional and city administrations were engaged in the project.

With a budget of USD 5.7 million, the programme was supposed to be run from 1st January 2019 to 31st December 2021 but was granted a no-cost extension to 31st December 2022 due to the COVID-19 disruptions.

Evaluation overview

The evaluation aimed to [assess the contributions made by the Programme towards ending violence against women and girls](#) in the selected six regions of Ethiopia.

Key achievements

- Women groups and parliamentarians were capacitated to maximize the ongoing advocacy efforts to adopt family law in the Somali and Afar regions.
- Review of criminal procedure and evidence codes; the development of the Gender Based Violence (GBV) Prevention and Response Policy to cover existing gaps in the legal framework on VAWG; strengthening the criminal procedure Information Management System (IMS) and improving the standards and accessibility of women-friendly justice services.
- Gender mainstreaming training provided to journalists and technical support provided to the National Media Authority to mainstream gender equitable and sensitive portrayals in the media guidelines.
- Development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) to standardize shelter services for survivors in line with global standards on essential services.

Conclusions

RELEVANCE

- The Programme was relevant as it responded to the needs of VAWG survivors in communities. The lack of specialized services for VAWG survivors in the programme's target areas was a serious concern for women and girls who experienced violence as it discouraged them from reporting cases.

COHERANCE

- The programme aligned to global and continental conventions and normative frameworks that the government of Ethiopia has ratified, which protect and promote the rights of women such as Ethiopia's 10-year development plan, pillar 8 on Gender and Social Inclusion, Convention on the Political Rights of Women (CPRW) in 1953 and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1981.

EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY

- The Programme was successful in enlisting the support of significant norm setters from various religious denominations.
- The Programme delivered high-quality outputs although there were delays due to the COVID 19 lockdowns. To reduce the impact of COVID 19, Faith structures established virtual platforms that addressed the needs of vulnerable groups during lockdown.

SUSTAINABILITY

- The Programme was aligned with government priorities, policies and systems. It also contributed to the adoption of family law; built institutional and human capacities to respond to VAWG; put in place evidence-based data on VAWG; enabled community mobilization and sensitization on ending VAWG and supported the institutionalization of a model of comprehensive survivor-focused, high-quality services that are in line with international standards.

Lessons learned

The evaluation identified the following lessons with significance beyond the program:

1 Working on prevention and response to VAWG are sensitive areas that potentially expose staff and survivors to violence by the perpetrators and/or their families. There is need to incorporate measures to **protect staff and survivors**.

2 VAWG survivors face unique challenges due to the intersectionality of their situations and with other social factors. The Programme should **develop strategies that provide tailored services to women who face multiple forms of discrimination** due to intersectionality of gender and social status, including disability.

3 The Programme brought together 18 disparate actors into the fight against VAWG, showing that with the right approach, it is possible to **bring together actors from different sectors to fight against violence**.

4 Partnerships and collaboration are critical and can result in the **pooling of resources or joint planning**, which reduces duplication.

5 It is crucial to be **flexible and adaptive** in Ethiopia's continuously changing environment.

6 The dynamics of VAWG show that its form and types are changing rapidly, which makes it imperative to **revisit current prevention strategies** to consider new developments.

7 There is need to transform knowledge on VAWG in communities into **changes in attitudes and real-life practices** on gender equality by implementing gender transformative approaches to change attitudes and behaviour.

8 Interventions in EVAWG are effective if **women and girls are at the center** to claim and defend their rights.

9 Designing of a similar programme should integrate more comprehensive **livelihoods support** that empower women economically and reduce their vulnerability to violence.

Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION 1:

There is need for UN Women to **allocate more resources** to prevention to ensure long-term sustainability and impact.

RECOMMENDATION 2:

UN Women should **concentrate interventions in one or two regions** and implement pilots whose results and impact will be more visible.

RECOMMENDATION 3:

There will be need for broader consultations with all relevant stakeholders in the **development of the Theory of Change** to ensure that it captures the appropriate interventions.

RECOMMENDATION 4:

There is need for a more systematic approach to **identifying gaps** in UN Women Monitoring and Evaluation systems and that of its Civil Society Organizations and ensuring that they are covered through more focused capacity building interventions.

RECOMMENDATION 5:

UN Women should come up with strategies to **strengthen women's agency** to enable women to play a more active and meaningful role in advocating for their rights. as rights holders.

RECOMMENDATION 6:

After its success with mainstreaming gender in the mainstream media, UN Women should focus on **engendering social media**, which is the fastest growing media form.

RECOMMENDATION 7:

There is need to **update prevention strategies** to take into account new types and forms of violence such as online sexual exploitation.

RECOMMENDATION 8:

Given that one of the root causes of GBV is poverty, which increases women's vulnerability through their dependence on men, it is crucial to **tackle poverty to reduce violence**.

RECOMMENDATION 9:

There is need to address **gaps in gender budgeting** that are mainly the result of lack of prioritization and low institutional capacity.

RECOMMENDATION 10:

UN Women should **support the government** to come up with strategies to strengthen the country's administrative data base Ethiopia for legal, health and social services to enable decisions and programmes to be run from an informed and evidence-based perspective.

RECOMMENDATION 11:

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