

EVALUATION REPORT

FINAL EVALUATION REPORT

LET IT NOT HAPPEN AGAIN PROJECT

The Final Evaluation was conducted between 2nd June – 30th November 2023



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ACRONYMS

CSOs	Civil Society Organization
CuCs	Court Users Committees
CJM	Criminal Justice Manual
EMG	Evaluation Management Group
ERG	Evaluation Reference Group
EGBV	Elections Sexual Gender Based Violence
FGDs	Focus group discussions.
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GEF	Generation Equality Forum
GTWG	Gender Technical Working Groups
GERAAS	Global Evaluation Reports Assessment and Analysis System
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women Empowerment
GoK	Government of Kenya
HRDs	Human Rights Defenders
IP	Implementing Partners
IG	Inspector General
KCO	Kenya Country Office
KI	Key Informant
KNAP	Kenya National Action Plan
KNCHR	Kenya National Commission on Human Rights
NGEC	National Gender and Equality Commission
NPS	National Police Service
ODPP	Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
GBV	Sexual Gender Based Violence
SDfG	State Department for Gender (SDfG), under the Ministry of Public Service, Gender, Senior Citizens Affairs and Special Programs
SGDs	Sustainable Development Goals
SOJAR	State of the Judiciary and Administration of Justice Report
ToR	Terms of Reference
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNEG	UN Evaluation Group
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
VAW	Violence Against Women
VAWE	Violence Against Women in Elections
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
WHRDs	Women Human Rights Defenders
WPS	Women Peace and Security

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) Kenya Country Office and Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) engaged an evaluation consultant to conduct a Final Evaluation of the *Let It Not Happen Again* project, hereinafter referred to as the “project”. The project was implemented by UN Women and OHCHR and from 2019 to 2023 in three phases¹ with funding support from the Government of Italy through the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation². The evaluation was conducted between July and November 2023. This report presents the key findings of the evaluation, key conclusions, and recommendations on the way forward.

The project was based on a gap analysis³ of institutional weaknesses undermining effective prevention of and response to violence against women in elections conducted by UN Women, OHCHR and Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) in 2019. Some of the key findings of the gap analysis included weak capacity, preparedness, and response of duty-bearers; weak cross-sectional coordination; and lack of comprehensive Gender Based Violence (GBV) data. Instructively, the project sought to address these gaps and implement various recommendations to strengthen the effective prevention of and response to violence against women both in elections and non-election settings.⁴

During the three phases of implementation, UN Women, OHCHR and their various Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) partners were able to strengthen justice sector institutions by building the capacity of duty bearers such as prosecutors, police officers, judicial officers and medical practitioners and enhance the capacity of survivors of GBV, human rights defenders and civil CSOs to access justice and protection services. However, persistent challenges remain in comprehensively addressing VAWE, these include data management on GBV, inadequate resourcing for GBV, poor access to services such as adequate psychosocial support, rescue and safe shelters, comprehensive health care and justice - including survivors being charged for post-rape care forms, yet this should be free; and inconsistent capacities of duty-bearers and weak response mechanisms at county levels. In addition, there are challenges in the chain of custody for evidence (collection, preservation, analysis, presentation, and use of forensic evidence in adjudication) by actors, especially during emergencies and for sexual violence cases.⁵

The overall objective of the final evaluation was to assess the extent to which the *Let it Not Happen Again* project has achieved the intended and/or unintended outcomes, provide in-depth analysis and understanding of why certain intended or unintended outcomes have or have not occurred, analyze the challenges encountered, and document lessons for improving future projects in the area⁶.

¹ Phase One: The overall goal was to enhance the accountability for VAWE survivors of the 2017 general elections and to strengthen response and accountability mechanisms towards prior, during and future elections (June 2019 – Dec 2020). Phase Two: Sought to address challenges in preventing and responding to violence against women and girls during the elections period in Kenya, which is considered an entry point toward tackling broader structural and institutional gaps in access to justice for GBV survivors (Jan - Dec 2021). Phase Three: Building on lessons learnt from phases I and II, sought to develop and enrich early warning and contingency planning to prevent electoral-related sexual violence; and to strengthen the quality and delivery of justice services to enhance access to justice for GBV survivors (April 2022 – April 2023).

² Terms of Reference for the Final Evaluation for the “Let it Not Happen Again” project

³ <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/KE/OHCHRPHRUNWOMENKenyaGapAnalysisDec20191.pdf>

⁴ Terms of reference for the Final Evaluation for the “Let it Not Happen Again” project p.1

⁵ Ibid p.2

⁶ Ibid p.4

The evaluation methodology, guided by the project's objectives and outlined in the Terms of Reference and inception report, employed a participatory, inclusive, and mixed methods approach. A sampling frame was developed in consultation with UN Women, encompassing project counties and stakeholder groups. Combining purposive and snowball sampling, 177 key stakeholders were surveyed through 21 interviews, 6 focus groups, and a survey. Both primary and secondary data sources were used, including a desk review of project reports. Thematic analysis and Microsoft Excel were employed for qualitative and quantitative data analysis. The evaluation aimed to deepen the understanding of the project's theory of change, quantifying induced changes and capturing outcomes. Factors contributing to success and failure were explored, leading to recommendations for sustainability and future programming. The comprehensive approach ensured rigor by capturing various dimensions of project interventions.

The intended use of the evaluation is to demonstrate results and accountability of the project as well as support all key stakeholders to enhance their EVAWG programming based on the lessons learned and recommendations. The intended users of this evaluation are staff in target ministries, local government and targeted government institutions, participating CSO's, target beneficiary communities, members of community leadership structures, staff in participating UN agencies, staff of implementing partners, sector leads in the participating UN agencies technical working groups and development partners.⁷

KEY FINDINGS

RELEVANCE AND RESPONSIVENESS

Finding 1: The evaluation revealed that the project was aligned with both the national priorities outlined in the Gap Analysis and the legal and regulatory frameworks aimed at promoting prevention and response of GBV. The project drew upon an extensive Gap Analysis titled "*Breaking the Cycles of Violence: Gaps in Prevention of and Response to Electoral Related Sexual Violence*"⁸ conducted at the project's outset. The project was designed to respond to the findings, and this was the basis of identifying the "hot spot" counties. As such the project was implemented in 4 target counties (Bungoma, Kisumu, Nairobi and Vihiga) which recorded the highest rates of VAWE during the 2017 general elections.

The project was also found to be aligned to existing national legal and regulatory frameworks⁹ that seek to eradicate gender-based violence including the Constitution of Kenya, which creates a platform for gender equality and non-discrimination embodying national values and governance principles including equality, equity, inclusiveness, and non-discrimination.

Finding 2: The project contributed towards advancing normative and legal frameworks promoting gender equality and human rights. The larger component of the capacity enhancement for duty bearers and rights holders was anchored on the human rights standard setting and compliance, monitoring and deepening understanding of gender concepts, GBV because of power imbalance and gender inequality. These are both regional and international human rights conventions that provide for respect of human rights and gender equality.

⁷ Page 4 Term of Reference in Annex 1

⁸ 2019

⁹ Others regulatory frameworks include Sexual Offences Act, Protection Against Domestic Violence Act, Victim Protection Act, National Gender and Equality Commission Act and the Kenyan National Commission on Human Rights National Action Plan on Peace and Security 2016, National Policy for Prevention and Response to Gender Based Violence (2014)⁹, the National Guidelines on the Management of Sexual Violence (2014)⁹, the National Monitoring and Evaluation Framework towards the Prevention of and Response to Sexual and Gender Based Violence in Kenya (2016).

Finding 3: The project contributed towards implementation of the UN programming in the country. The project is aligned two (2) of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2018 – 2022, Expected Results Outcomes.¹⁰ The project is in line with the UN Women Global Strategic Plan¹¹. The project is also aligned with the mandate of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) whose mission is around safeguarding all human rights for everyone, empowering individuals to actualize their rights and supporting duty bearers responsible for upholding these rights in ensuring their implementation. This synergy signifies the inbuilt framework for the promotion and protection of human rights within the project scope.

EFFECTIVENESS

Finding 4: This evaluation found that the project interventions were strategically designed to deliver the intended results. The project surpassed most of the targets set in each of the three phases 2 targets were partially met and 2 were not met as illustrated in the Performance table. This project contributed to enhanced capacity support to duty bearers, national and county mechanisms, survivors' networks, civil society organizations (CSO's) and human rights defenders.

Finding 5: The project contributed to the positive transformation at the national terrain in terms of policy, engagement and management of GBV. This has been through interventions with key stakeholders for instance, with the National Police Service supporting the reforms, collaboratively developing the Criminal Justice Manual (CJM); Judiciary Court Users Committee strengthening resulting to establishment of a national GBV court users committee. The project, has also witnessed an elevation of the policy and budget discourse for shelter and safe spaces, resulting to survivors' networks participation in the development of the national Options for Safe spaces; and in Kisumu County having budgetary allocation of USD 42,765 to set up shelter for both women and men.

Finding 6: The project strengthened and enhanced multisectoral collaboration and coordination towards securing effective GBV prevention and responses. The national and county Gender Technical Working Groups (GTW), Court Users Committees (CuCs) and Peace committees have been supported through this project to convene and deliberate on key issues. This has enabled their engagement in the design of the Electoral Security Arrangement Plan (ESAP) 2022. For the first time in Kenya's electoral history, the review and localization of the Electoral Security Arrangement Plan (ESAP) into county electoral contingency plans resulted to the prevention and response of VAW being prioritized in ESAP 2022.¹² The CuCs have reported improved linkages amongst the different sectors that has improved the management of the referral pathways for survivors. Through the coordination efforts of this project, strong rapport between state and non-state actors has been reported across all partners.

Finding 7: Key stakeholders have adopted survivor-centered approaches in addressing GBV through the project interventions. Duty bearers have improved knowledge on addressing GBV cases, which has contributed to shift in their attitudes, and them adopting survivor centered approaches in their work. The technical skills imparted on investing and prosecuting GBV cases, for the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA) and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) respectively have contributed to the potentially judicial precedent case on accountability for crimes

¹⁰ The Two Outcomes are By 2022 marginalized and vulnerable people have increased access to utilize social protection and services for prevention and response to gender-based violence and violence against children; and by 2022, people in Kenya enjoy improved governance, access to justice, respect for the rule of law, human rights and gender equality

¹¹ These are Outcome 4 on violence against women and girls and Outcome 5 on promoting women and girl's involvement in peacebuilding and resilience

¹² UN Women Annual Report

against humanity. The training undertaken within the project has also contributed to demystifying gender and human rights concepts so that they are not viewed as abstract concepts.

Finding 8: Through the project interventions, there has been a solidified and strong collective voice of survivors shaping interventions to respond to their needs. The project approach of placing the survivor of violence at the center through diverse interventions including: skills building for advocacy to frame and articulate their priorities for policy and budgeting purposes; strengthening the survivors' networks to convene and build solidarity; legal literacy awareness and empowerment programmes to support their resilience. Through these processes, survivors reported that they had regained confidence and the healing processes were ongoing.

Finding 9: The project enhanced support to GBV survivors in accessing quality justice and other essential services. Through capacity strengthening to survivors' networks and human right defenders (HRDs) they support survivors by creating awareness on the need to assure respect for human rights and everyone's right to protection from violence. The embedding of referral pathways (health centers, psychosocial support, to police for proper investigations, to courts to watch brief) for survivors' journey has promoted confidence in justice seeking.

Finding 10: Women's capacities to influence and participate in VAWE early warning and preparedness platforms have been enhanced resulting to some reduction of electoral related violence. During the preparations of the 2022 elections and informed by lessons of past elections, this project supported women's participation in the coordination mechanisms at county and national levels. There was an increase in women's participation from 29% in 2019 to 44% in 2022. There was also a 93% decrease in human rights violations and reported sexual violence cases reduced from 201 in 2017 to 7 in 2022.

Finding 11: This project contributed towards strengthening the capacity of the justice system towards effective reporting, monitoring and response. The projects interventions in offering technical assistance in assessing the structure and systems of the ODPP contributed to the establishment of GBV units in focus Counties. The support to the International Women Judges Association has enabled it to support the courts to promote survivor-centered approaches as well strengthening judicial officers' skills in applying human rights standards in adjudication of cases.

Finding 12: There has been increased access to justice and essential services to survivors of GBV. The training of judiciary, police and ODPP on survivor centered justice was animated through open days or service weeks of the judiciary, strengthened referral pathways across the investigations, prosecutions and adjudication processes. A total of 314 justice actors were trained under this project. Whilst a total of 2689 survivors accessed essential services surpassing the 1200 target set for the project. Following the advocacy initiatives, the Kisumu County allocated USD 42,765 for establishing shelter for the 2023/24 year.

EFFICIENCY

Finding 13: The partner selection enhanced their comparative advantage, and the programmes potential for success. The three-fold approach adopted in selecting partners assures a well-rounded and specialized pool of experts to delivery of the project results.

Finding 14: The project management and coordination has enabled efficient delivery of results. The project management systems were efficient as evidenced by interviews, observations, questionnaire and document reviews. The frequent interactions cultivated close ties with implementing partners and

facilitated swift resolutions and guidance on project related matters, ensuring efficient progress and support.

Finding 15: The project design was in harmony with global and national priorities aimed at ending Gender Based Violence (GBV) Although faced with the challenge of managing 3 distinct results frameworks for each phase of the project and two differing theories of change, the programmatic design was found to have clearly articulated outcomes and outputs. The projects coherence and alignment with planned interventions were further emphasized by its alignment to other UN Joint strategies and programmes addressing VAWE and GBV.

EARLY IMPACT

Finding 16: The incorporation of new knowledge, skills and practices amongst duty bearers to assist survivors of GBV has resulted in lasting and meaningful impact. This project's impact in setting judicial precedent that establishes accountability standards for police practices, specifically in elections marks a ground-breaking achievement. This has far-reaching scope and has significant implications for shaping future practice. Another early impact of the project is evident in the establishment of institutionalized and specialized justice mechanisms for survivors of violence. The project played a crucial role in the establishment of the inaugural Elections Security Management arrangements incorporating strategies to address sexual and gender-based violence. The model of elections management integrating strategies to prevent and respond to risks of violence particularly amongst women and girls has been replicated within the continent.

INTERCONNECTEDNESS AND SUSTAINABILITY

Finding 17: The promising results of this project if strategically and collaboratively supported, have the potential to generate positive, enduring effects and foster long term sustainability. The achieved results are poised for sustainability due to the ownership established. This can be demonstrated by the justice system, the court user's committee's establishment of survivor centered practices such as designating specific days to handle children's matters; the commitment to fast track; and expedite cases of GBV, establishment of 12 specialized GBV courts and the First convicted sexual offender's registry to provide accurate data and monitor offenders.

LESSONS LEARNT

Lesson 1: Prominence of Survivor's voice in guiding interventions and informing policy makers is fundamental for creating responsive and relevant in designing effective strategies for programmes to address GBV.

Lesson 2: Accurate and relevant data has immense credibility and serves as a catalyst for collective action.

Lesson 3: Interventions designed within an enabling environment contributes to legislative and policy improvement and strengthening gender-responsive of institutions.

Lesson 4: Reinforcing existing structures provides momentum for project delivery. It also fosters deeper engagement in specific programmatic interventions, whilst reducing duplication

Lesson 5: Building synergy plays a key role in value addition for UN Women and OHCHR's implementation approach. The project approach provided a strong framework for collaboration and networks.

Lesson 6: Disability Inclusion was a core aspect of the project design aligning with the principle of leaving no one behind, however more deliberate action and resources is required at implementation stage.

CONCLUSIONS

Conclusion 1: The Project was appropriate and relevant to the context, needs and priorities of prevention of VAWE and responding to GBV. It was aligned with and contributed to the relevant national, regional, and international normative frameworks on gender equality and human rights.

Conclusion 2: The projects intervention logic and strategy were well suited to Kenya's context as informed by the Gap Analysis.

Conclusion 3: Each of the project phases demonstrated great levels of progress in achieving results as outlined in the Performance Achievements table.

Conclusion 4: At this stage, the full sustainability of the Projects initiative and results is not certain. However, the promising results could potentially lead to positive long-term effects and sustainability if strategically and collaboratively supported.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1: There is a need to increase investment in prevention interventions. Since GBV is driven by negative social norms and behaviors that will require norm and attitude change, this is an incremental process requiring time. The interventions should aim to challenge entrenched norms, gradually shift attitudes, and create an environment that rejects GBV. **Based on Finding 5, 7**

Recommendation 2: There is need to create interventions that stimulate demand for GBV services as this holds the potential to show case successful high-quality service delivery. These are interventions that aim to address barriers, reduce stigma, and increase awareness and ensuring that survivors have access to the support they need. **Based on Finding 6, 8, 9, 11**

Recommendation 3: Addressing the absence of harmonized GBV data across different levels is crucial, as it has been identified as a significant gap. There is need to address the lack of GBV data harmonization at various levels which was recognized as a gap. Holistically covering GBV research is crucial to capture its complete profile. **Based on Finding 10 and challenge**

Recommendation 4: There is need to incorporate economic empowerment elements within GBV programming. The link between poverty and vulnerability to GBV was found to be close. As such to successfully implement a GBV project the component of economic empowerment will help close the loop. **Based on the challenges and lessons learnt**

Recommendation 5: It is essential to integrate robust psychosocial support element in all interventions addressing GBV. Survivors of violence become broken and the trauma they experience has lifelong consequences affecting their wellness and mental wellbeing. **Based on Finding 8, 9, 12 and challenges**

Recommendation 6: It is crucial to sustain and expand investments in supporting duty bearers, particularly justice actors When there is consistent support and resources allocated, it allows for scaling up of their efforts and deepening their impact. **Based on Finding 11, 12**

Recommendation 7: The significance of the project in reshaping the national prevention and management of SGBV in Kenya cannot be overstated. Scaling up for comprehensive transformation and increased impact is imperative based on findings, lessons learnt and conclusions.

1. Introduction

1.1 Overview of the Evaluation Subject

Through a partnership of UN Women and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the “*Let It Not Happen Again*” Project was implemented between 2019 and 2022, with support from the Government of Italy. The total budget of the project was EUR 900,000¹³. The project focused on prevention and response challenges to election related violence on multiple levels. The project was developed as a response to previous experiences of election violence against women and girls – especially with the significant increase in Sexual and Gender Based Violence (GBV) cases.¹⁴ The targeted beneficiaries of the project were stakeholders and women in county GBV coordination and early warning structures, duty bearers including police in county gender units, staff in the Kenya election structures¹⁵ CSO staff and GBV survivors¹⁶. The only change made in the project timeframe and implementation plan 2019-2022 was the extended implementation period for project activities in Phase I from one year to 1,5 years (June 2019 to December 2020) due to delays caused by Covid-19 pandemic. The change in the timeframe was taken into consideration in the evaluation.

The project was organized and implemented in three phases from 2019 to 2022¹⁷ as follows:

- Phase One: enhancing accountability for VAWE survivors of the elections in 2017 and strengthen (emergency) response and accountability mechanisms towards, prior, during and after future elections; (June 2019 – December 2020)
- Phase Two: addressing the challenges in preventing and responding to violence against women and girls during elections period in Kenya, as an entry point toward tackling broader structural and institutional gaps in access to justice for GBV survivors (January – December 2021)
- Phase Three: Building on lessons learnt from phases I and II developing and enriching early warning and contingency planning to prevent electoral related sexual violence and to strengthen the quality and delivery of justice services to enhance access to justice for GBV survivors (April 2022 – April 2023)

The project was articulated in three distinct results frameworks (annexed to this report **Annex 1**) and the following expected outcomes were identified to contribute towards the achievement of the stated objectives:

- a) Improved legislative and policy environment in line with international, regional, and national standards on violence against women in elections.
- b) Enhanced advocacy for accountability by rights holders.
- c) Women and Girls influence and benefit from prevention of VAWE and access to justice.
- d) Access to justice and essential services by survivors of GBV increased.

¹³ Phase I: 300,000; Phase II:300,000 Phase III:300,000

¹⁴ Annual Report Phase I Let it Not Happen Again pg. 10.

¹⁵ IEBC, IPOA, Office of Registrar of Political Parties

¹⁶ **Phase I:** Stakeholders in county GBV coordination structures and early warning structures, duty bearers 180; police in county gender units; staff in election structures 100 (IEBC, IPOA, Office of Registrar of Political Parties) CSO staff 10; GBV survivors 95. **Phase II:** GBV survivors 454, duty bearers 364, stakeholders in county GBV coordination structures 4. **Phase III:** women participating in early warning and coordination at county level, GBV survivors, duty bearers (judiciary, health workers, prosecutions, police, local county administrators).

¹⁷ Page 1, Terms of Reference for Evaluation

The project was based on a Gap analysis¹⁸ of institutional weaknesses undermining effective preventions of, and response to violence against women in elections that was conducted by UN Women, OHCHR and Physicians for Human Rights in 2019. The gap analysis revealed key findings including weak capacity, preparedness and response of duty bearers; weak cross-sectional coordination; and lack of comprehensive Gender Based Violence (GBV) data.¹⁹ Consequently the “*Let it Not Happen Again*” project identified recommendations that would be implemented in four counties of Nairobi, Kisumu, Bungoma and Vihiga.

The project tackled the prevention and response challenges to election-related violence on multiple levels through mapping of GBV hotspots; contingency planning and coordination mechanisms. It has worked to strengthening grassroots organizations, such as human rights defenders, to support survivors access to GBV services while strengthening state mechanisms, such as law enforcement and the legal system.

During the implementation of the three phases, project partnerships were harnessed at various stages, to take on various roles to address: Prevention and Accountability on Violence against Women in Elections (October 2019-December 2020)²⁰, Strengthen Access to Justice (February 2021 March 2022)²¹ and Enhancing Prevention and Response to Violence Against Women in Elections (April 2022 – April 2023)²². These partners²³ included justice system actors, duty bearers, security sector, civil society organizations, human right defenders, and survivors’ networks²⁴. The role and main activities by each of the partners included:

Partner	Role	Activities
State Department for Gender, (SDfG) under the Ministry of Public Service, Gender, Senior Citizens and Special Programmes	The SDfG played a key gender-coordination role which informed the success of the project, ensuring that it was aligned with government priorities.	Convening national Gender Technical Working Group and cascading to the County levels GBV service directory
National Police Service Internal Affairs Unit	Office of the directorate of Police Reforms with mandate for national transformation within the police, policy advisory, county and community policing, implementing human rights programme and international corporation	Participated in various GBV coordination mechanisms at national and county levels training and mentorship using the Criminal Justice manual In partnership developed SOPs on Crimes Perpetrated by Police Officers

¹⁸ <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/KE/OHCHRPHRUNWOMENKenyaGapAnalysisDec2019.pdf>.

¹⁹ TORs for Final Evaluation for the “Let it Not Happen Again” project

²⁰ Annual Report Phase I

²¹ Annual Report Phase II

²² Annual Report Phase III

²³ The partners included Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), National Police. Service, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Independent Policing Oversight Authority, The International. Association of Women Judges (IAWJ)- Kenya Chapter, Physicians for Human Rights (PHR), CSO Network, Feminists for Peace Rights and Justice Centre, Grace Agenda Foundation, HAKI Africa, Wangu Kanja Foundation/Survivors of Sexual Violence in Kenya (SSV) Network, Coalition for Grassroots Human Rights Defenders.

²⁴ TORs for Final Evaluation for the “Let it Not Happen Again” project

		Also, in partnership with ODPP, IPOA investigations and prosecution of crimes and human rights violations perpetrated by police officers, and coordination between disciplinary action to be undertaken against police officers for misconduct.
Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions	Enhance capacity of specific prosecutors enhanced through and an assessment of the n committed by Police officers was undertaken.	training and mentorship to prosecute serious human rights violations, Needs assessment to prosecute GBV cases Cross sectoral coordination and participation in Court Users committees
Independent Policing Oversight Authority	Partnership for joint development of SOPs on Crimes Perpetrated by Police Officers, and fostered robust coordination between ODPP and IPOA for investigations and prosecution of crimes and human rights violations perpetrated by police officers	Training of senior investigators on the investigation of serious human rights violations
The International. Association of Women Judges (IAWJ)- Kenya Chapter	Partnership to enhance capacities of duty bearers on gender-responsive access to justice, participation in key county coordination structures towards enhancing cross-sectoral coordination for access to justice.	Training of trainers on gender responsive access to justice Participation in county coordination structures (court users committees)
Physicians for Human Rights (PHR)	The partnership was critical trained duty bearers in the counties on VAWE prevention and response for enhanced cross-sectoral coordination	Training on management of forensic medical evidence, supporting survivors to access essential services and justice, participate in policy discussions, advocacy initiatives and in court users' committees and convening county GTW groups
CSO Network	Working to support and coordinate CSO's in Western Kenya with programmes on Rule of law, economic empowerment	Has mobilized partner engagements in the counties of Bungoma, Kisumu and Vihiga (duty bearers, CSO's and HRDs)
Feminists for Peace Rights and Justice Centre	Support for SGBV survivors living urban slums throughout the referral pathway	Skills and economic empowerment, convening feminists dialogue, community and school outreaches and awareness creation,
Grace Agenda Foundation	Grace Agenda is a community-based organization that was registered by Ms. Jaqueline Muteere as a response to her personal experience of rape during PEV 2007/8. A child was born from that human rights violation and inspired her walk towards justice, reparation and healing	Supported other survivors to access essential services, convened survivors to participate in key policy discussions and advocacy platforms, and demanded accountability from the State for violations
Healthcare Assistance HAK Africa	Healthcare Assistance Kenya (HAK) is a humanitarian Non-Governmental Organization that operates the only and the first ever Sexual and Gender Based Violence Rapid Response System and	Provided psychosocial counselling to survivors and referred survivors to other service providers through its GBV Rapid Response System (1195 helpline).

	Helpline 1195 that supports survivors Gender Based Violence (GBV) from grassroots to break the silence and quickly access Gender Based Violence (GBV) services through helpline	HAK also collected and shared GBV data with government and CSOs, that informed relevant policies and programming on GBV prevention and response.
Wangu Kanja Foundation/Survivors of Sexual Violence in Kenya (SSV) Network	As a convenor of the coalition of sexual violence survivors, defenders, individual and champions	<p>Convened survivors to participate in key policy discussions and advocacy platforms, and demand accountability from the State for violations.</p> <p>Participated in various coordination mechanisms both at the county and national levels, ensuring that issues relevant to survivors were addressed.</p> <p>Trained members of the Survivors of Sexual Violence network on peer support and survivor centered approaches, to support other survivors in the communities to access various essential services.</p>
Coalition for Grassroots Human Rights Defenders – Social Justice Centre’s	Partnership to support grassroots organizations participation in county budgeting processes as they prepared action plans on how to participate in county budgeting processes following training workshops conducted for them; they conducted successful online advocacy for reparations.	support communities to conduct advocacy on human rights protection and assist victims of human rights and GBV survivors to report violations and access essential services.

While implemented in four counties of Nairobi, Kisumu, Bungoma and Vihiga, the lessons learned from each phase were consolidated in seeking to address election violence at national and county level. However, persistent challenges remain in addressing VAWE ranging from: data management, inadequate resourcing for GBV, inadequate access to services, and weak response mechanism at county level. Others include collection, preservation, analysis, presentation and use of forensic evidence in adjudication²⁵.

1.2 Country Context

The project was designed and implemented during a period when Kenya was making significant gains towards Gender Equality and Women Empowerment (GEWE). The country improved its Global Gender Gap Index (GGGI) ranking at the World Economic Forum from 76 out of 149 countries in 2018 to 57 out of 146 countries in 2022 with a GGGI of 0.729. With support from UN Women, the country has at normative level, continued to support the national gender machinery to enable it to effectively monitor and report on progress towards implementation of the normative frameworks, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and Beijing Platform for Action (PfA) among others. A progressive gender-responsive legal and policy framework has also been developed in Kenya with the support of UN Women. The framework comprises the National Gender Based Violence Policy; National Policy on Gender and Development; Kenya National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325;

²⁵ ibid

Constitutional provisions on the two-thirds gender rule and Article 100 of the Constitution promoting representation of marginalized groups including women; and the Big 4 Agenda, among others. Further, Kenya witnessed significant progress within the justice system as 11 Sexual and Gender Based Violence Courts were launched in 2022-2023 and sexual offender's database was created in 2023. It is expected that as a result an increasing number of survivors will access justice and there will be progress in ending impunity of the perpetrators in Kenya. Despite the existence of this progressive legal and policy framework, implementation has however continued to be a challenge owing to a lack of political will and commitment, driven by negative attitudes towards gender equality among duty bearers; lack of an accountability system for Government's own commitments to gender equality; and low levels of government funding, among other factors. Further, poverty in Kenya is feminized, with 30% of female-headed households being poor compared to 26% of male-headed households. Women are more likely to be unemployed (10.6%) compared to men (5.6%).

Kenya remains a largely patriarchal society. Violence against women (VAW) is widespread and largely tolerated, cutting across borders, class, race, ethnicity and religion, and exacerbating female poverty. Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV) includes sexual violence, rape, physical violence and sexual harassment, and evidence suggests that it is increasing.²⁶ It is estimated that VAWG is causing a productivity loss of 46 billion Kenya shillings annually, which is equivalent to about 1.1% of GDP. Women's empowerment is hindered by polygamy, early marriage and harmful cultural and traditional practices such as female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C)²⁷ Traditional practices governing inheritance, acquisition of land and benefits accruing to agricultural produce continue to favor men. Women's ability to access the justice system is limited by legal costs, traditional justice systems, illiteracy and ignorance of their rights.²⁸

There are predominant social cultural practices that continue to violate women's and girls' rights despite a new progressive constitutional order. For instance, the valuing of the boy child as opposed to the girl child has had detrimental effects on girl's pursuit and access to education, nutrition, security and inheritance. Socio-cultural practices such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), defilement; early pregnancies/ unwanted pregnancies and child marriages hamper girls' education.

The prevalence of violence experienced by women remains one of the most extensive violations their human rights. In so far as gender-based violence is concerned, the percentage of women who experienced physical violence in the 12 months before the survey declined from 20% in 2014 to 16% in 2022. Over the same period, the percentage among men declined slightly from 12% to 10%.²⁹ Thirteen percent of women reported that they had experienced sexual violence at some point in their lives, and 7% reported that they had experienced sexual violence in the last 12 months. A slightly lower proportion of men reported experiencing sexual violence; 7% have ever experienced sexual violence, and 4% experienced sexual violence in the 12 months preceding the survey.³⁰ The most commonly reported perpetrators of sexual violence among women who have ever been married or ever had an intimate partner were current husbands or intimate partners (71%) and former husbands or intimate partners (19%).³¹ The prevalence of FGM declined from 38% in 1998 to 15% in 2022.³² This could be

²⁶ KDHS 2014

²⁷ Status of Women in Kenya Report, October 2015, Ministry of Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs

²⁸ Ibid

²⁹ Page 83, Kenya Demographic Health Survey, Key Indicator Report 2022

³⁰ Ibid

³¹ Ibid

³² Ibid

attributed to diverse advocacy efforts such as alternative rites of passage, cultural leaders declarations on ending FGM, awareness and sensitization on the harms and rights violation of the practice, including a legal framework prohibiting the practices.

The prevalence of gender-based violence varies across the four project counties, with Bungoma County having the highest rates (Table 1).

Table 1: Prevalence of gender-based violence across the project counties

Type of Violence	Bungoma	Kisumu	Nairobi	Vihiga
Physical Violence				
% Experiencing physical violence since age 15	62.20%	36.00%	29.70%	33.80%
% Experiencing physical violence often/sometimes in the last 12 months	29.40%	26.00%	13.50%	17.10%
Sexual Violence				
ever experienced sexual violence	30.30%	10.80%	12.20%	11.90%
experienced sexual violence in the last 12 months	16.60%	6.60%	5.80%	5.60%
KDHS 2022				

2. Evaluation Purpose, Objectives and Scope

2.1 Evaluation Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of the evaluation is for accountability and learning and therefore has provided an assessment of the project results against its intended and/or unintended outcomes and the project performance in terms of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, early impact, inclusiveness, participation, equality, and non-discrimination.

The Overall Objective of the final evaluation is to provide in-depth analysis and understanding of why certain intended or unintended outcomes have or have not occurred, analyze the challenges encountered, and document lessons for improving future projects, and inform decision-making for the scale-up.

The specific objectives of the evaluation are to:

- i. Analyze the relevance, effectiveness, and efficiency of the project in the delivery of the planned and unintended results including the Program Theory of Change in addressing prevention, response, and accountability on violence against women through access to justice.
- ii. Assess the coherence of the interventions undertaken vis-à-vis the other interventions carried out by UN Women and OHCHR towards Ending Violence Against Women and Girls and the achievement of gender equality and women's empowerment.
- iii. Assess early impact results and sustainability of the project in addressing violence against women through response, and access to justice.
- iv. Determine the extent to which the human rights-based approach and gender equality principles are integrated into the design and implementation of the project.
- v. Provide baseline information, lessons learnt, good practices and actionable recommendations for the upcoming project.

- vi. Provide actionable recommendations with respect to the strategy, and overall approach to UN Women’s programming in Ending Violence Against Women and Girls and Gender Equality and Women Empowerment (GEWE).

The intended use of the evaluation is to demonstrate results and accountability by providing information to stakeholders, participants and donors on project performance and the intended and unintended effects of the intervention on EVAWG. Findings on effectiveness and key lessons learned will assist UN Women, the Embassy of Italy, government stakeholders, and implementing partners to make decisions on interventions that need scale-up and gaps that need to be addressed in the new project to enhance the effectiveness and impact of the project.

The intended users of this evaluation are: staff in target ministries, local government and targeted government institutions, participating CSO’s, target beneficiary communities, members of community leadership structures, staff in participating UN agencies, staff of implementing partners, sector leads in the participating UN agencies technical working groups and development partners.³³

2.2 Scope of the Evaluation

The evaluation covers the project implementation period from July 2019 to April 2023 in line with the three project results frameworks, theory of change and against the standard evaluation criteria (relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, sustainability and gender equality and human rights). The project was implemented in three separate annual phases, and three separate result frameworks were finalized for each of the phases to adjust to the changes in the context. The main differences between the three result frameworks were that the first focused on strengthening response and accountability for VAWE survivors’ of 2017 elections, the second phase tackled structural and institutional gaps in accessing justice for GBV survivors, whilst the third was around early warning and contingency planning to electoral related sexual violence and strengthen the quality and delivery of justice to enhance access to GBV survivors. Any other changes to planned project timeframes and implementation plans were not made. The intended project beneficiaries were duty bearers (police, justice), survivors of sexual violence and human right defenders in the four project counties³⁴. The total project budget for three years was USD 984,141.00 – Phase USD 328,047.00, Phase II USD 328,047.00, and Phase III USD 328,047.00. This is an end term evaluation and focuses on achievements as well as recommendations for sustainability, learning and improvement for future programming. Geographically it covered Nairobi, Bungoma, Kisumu and Vihiga and engaged with 177 key stakeholders and representatives in the project counties. This evaluation was guided by the Evaluation Terms of Reference (ToR),³⁵ UN Women Evaluation Policy 2020³⁶ and UN Women Evaluation Handbook 2022³⁷ identified as the main guiding document that sets forth the principles and operational framework for evaluation planning.

2.3 Evaluation Methodology

The evaluation methodology was guided by the objective, scope, and purpose of the evaluation as outlined in the Terms of Reference (ToR) and the inception report. The evaluation used a participatory, inclusive and mixed methods approach to answer the key questions, and applied principles of

³³ Page 4 Term of Reference in Annex 1

³⁴ Bungoma, Vihiga, Nairobi, Kisumu

³⁵ The Terms of Reference are attached to this report as Annex 2

³⁶ Evaluation policy of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

³⁷ UN Women Evaluation Handbook 2022

transparency, participation and confidentiality.³⁸ In consultation with the UN Women country office, the evaluator developed a sampling frame that included the four project counties, as well as the stakeholder groups involved in the execution of the project. Purposive and snowball sampling were used to identify respondents from each county and the various stakeholder groups.

Both primary and secondary data sources were used, whereby a desk review of project reports, a survey, focus groups and key informant interviews were used to collect quantitative and qualitative data. To collect secondary data, the team conducted a thorough review of relevant literature and documents including the project document, theory of change, progress reports, results framework, monitoring data and other literature as captured in the Bibliography (**Annex 3**). Primary data was collected from a total of 177 key stakeholders through 29 face-to-face key informant interviews, 6 focus groups with 148 respondents and a survey administered among 88 respondents involved or impacted by the project (directly or indirectly). The sample for the evaluation was 155³⁹ respondents, while 177 stakeholders were reached, as outlined in Annex 7. Respondents comprised all categories identified by the project, ranging from SGBV survivors to duty bearers and civil society members. Each group was well-balanced ensuring inclusivity across demographics.

The KII, focus group discussion guides and surveys guided primary data collection (**See Annex 4**)⁴⁰. The key evaluation questions developed by the Evaluation Management and Reference Groups (EMG and ERG) fleshed out indicators for each theme. The questions related to each project component area and the organization's strategic positioning, management, and structure. Each was explored in relation to a set of hypotheses as highlighted in the Evaluation Matrix (**See Annex 5**).⁴¹ Quantitative data were analyzed descriptively using Microsoft Excel, while qualitative thematic analysis was used for the analysis of textual data from the key informant interviews.

The use of multiple data sources and mixed methods ensured rigor in the evaluation, as data on the various dimensions of the project interventions, outputs, and outcomes were captured. The evaluation focused on deepening the understanding of the project's theory of change, through an explanation of how the planned results were achieved. Changes induced by the project interventions were quantified from project reports, and the outcomes were captured from the surveys, interviews and discussions with project beneficiaries. The evaluation also sought to explore factors associated with failure and success and their respective contributions to the expected and unexpected results, lessons learned, and recommendations for sustainability and future programming.

Data collection

³⁸ The evaluator adopted a facilitator role during the focus group discussions emphasizing that the conversations space was a safe space and information shared will not be directly attributed to any individual rather informing the project lessons. There was flexibility to co-create the evaluation guiding questions to align with the respondents needs and actively sought to foster an interactive and lively engagement. The space also provided an opportunity to offer clarifications on access to justice and gender equality themes of concern.

³⁹ The initial plan as per the Inception report was to reach 155 respondents comprised of 140 FGD respondents and fifteen key informant interviews

⁴⁰ The key informant interview guide, the focus group discussion guide and the survey

⁴¹ Early impact and efficiency were initially excluded in the first draft of the Matrix because they required more critical consideration and discussion with the UN Women team. Specifically, the methodology required to attribute project impact (quasi-experimental study design) may require input from a statistician. Furthermore, availability of costing data to inform cost analyses for the efficiency assessment remains unclear. It has been agreed that for purposes of this evaluation early impact is defined as outcome results.

Data was collected in the 4 focus counties (Kisumu, Nairobi, Vihiga and Bungoma) through focus group discussions, key informant interviews and a survey between August and November 2023. The evaluator was accompanied by an assistant who took notes during the process. Prior to interactions, the respondent's consent was obtained following evaluators assurance that the information provided was for evaluation purposes and responses would not be attributed to any specific individual. To facilitate meaningful participation during the FGD sessions, the evaluation implemented a participatory workshop model. This approach enabled each respondent to share their individual experiences and interactions with the project, fostering effective communication and engagement.

Data sources

The types of data sources and the processes or steps undertaken to gather data from each source is summarized in the Table 2 below.

Table 2: Data Sources

DATA SOURCE	PROCESS
Desk review	This involved review of relevant literature, project documents, monitoring reports, annual progress reports, project budget and financial statements, UN Women's Global Strategic Plan (2018-2021), UN Women country strategic note, UNDAF (2016-2020), national and international gender equality instruments. The detailed Bibliography elaborates the further literature.
Survey	Survey questions were structured to determine awareness of the project among beneficiaries' and measure their perceptions of each of the project objectives using the scale of gender negative, gender neutral, gender responsive and gender transformative. ⁴²
Key Informant Interviews & Focus Group Discussions.	Key informant interviews and focus group discussions were guided by open-ended questions that sought to assess beneficiary perceptions on each of the key themes of interest in this evaluation: relevance, responsiveness and coherence, effectiveness, efficacy, interconnectedness and sustainability, gender equality and human rights.

Phases of the Evaluation

The evaluation was undertaken in three phases.

i) Phase One: Evaluation Planning/Inception Phase

This phase included the following tasks: a preliminary review of the project documents and a kickoff consultative meeting with the UN Women team, conceptualize the evaluation approach and develop and evaluation matrix, consultation internally on the approach, develop data collection tools, stakeholder mapping, sampling strategy and engage the reference group. It entailed conducting inception interviews with key stakeholders to refine the evaluation scope and methodology. The evaluator then developed an Inception report that was shared and reviewed by the Evaluation Reference

⁴² The survey addressed the ToR questions on relevance of the project, its effectiveness and early impact as well as gender equality and human rights

Group (ERG) forming the basis to commence field work. It also entailed refining the evaluation methodology/question matrix based on the Evaluation Reference Group's feedback and integrate proposed changes (as appropriate) into the final evaluation report.

ii) Phase Two: Data Collection/Validation Phase

Primary and secondary data collection methods were applied during the data collection phase. At this phase collection of survey data from beneficiaries and key stakeholders as informed by the stakeholder analysis was undertaken. Primary data was collected through face-to face and remote key informant interviews with key stakeholders who were involved or impacted by the project (directly or indirectly). In depth interviews with national UN Women staff, partner organizations, donor representatives were undertaken. A Power Point presentation of preliminary field key findings was developed and shared.

iii) Phase 3: Analysis, Debriefing, and Report Writing

Data analysis involved triangulation and content analysis, ensuring interpretation of results/findings remains objective and is not influenced by the evaluators' judgement and perspectives. During consultations with key stakeholders, the evaluation team accurately took notes of feedback from the respondents and thereafter keenly read through and summarized the data to identify key findings that directly answer the evaluation questions. The data was reviewed and analyzed resulting to the first draft of the evaluation report. A revised report was drafted based on the feedback received from the Evaluation Management and Reference Groups.

Sampling and Sample Size Determination

In consultation with Evaluation Reference Group (ERG) UN Women country office, the evaluator developed a sampling frame that included the four project counties namely Nairobi, Kisumu, Bungoma and Vihiga, as well as the stakeholder groups involved in the execution of the project as laid out in Table 4. UN Women and OHCHR staff provided a list and contacts of all stakeholders/focal points who were directly involved in the project and purposive and snowball sampling were used to identify respondents from each county and the various stakeholder groups. Specifically, individuals identified from by UN Women and OHCHR staff were selected and engaged, as informed by the role they played in the intervention. As detailed in Annex 7, this translated to a sampling frame of 155 respondents, 140 for FGDs and 15 for in-depth interviews. Once engaged, these individuals referred the evaluation team to additional respondents of interest, leading to a final sample size of 177 respondents. The sampling frame was inclusive of all groups in terms of diverse blend of CSO's, survivors of SGBV as well as duty bearers. The inclusion of additional informants identified through snowball sampling facilitated collection of richer information and code saturation. Therefore, the sampling process ensured data collected was adequate, reliable, and representative.

Survey administration –The survey was administered in person through distribution of printed questionnaires. They were administered amongst human rights defenders and survivors of violence. The respondents were allocated 20- 25 minutes to complete the survey which they handed over the evaluation team. The tool was anonymous and did not capture names or sex of the respondents.

The Inception Report outlined a sample size of 163 for this evaluation, but the actual evaluation respondents were 177. The discrepancy is illustrated in the 7 Appendix part (i) and part (ii) showcasing variances attributed to a shift in the mobilization of focus group respondents.⁴³ The initial

⁴³ The originally plan involved conducting distinct sessions with the county government, duty bearers, civil society organizations and community. However, based on the guidance from the county administration through the mobilization team

plan was to have 78 respondents for the focus group discussions, the evaluation reached 135 while the targeted key informants targeted were 15 and the evaluation reached 21.

Table 3: Summary of Respondents

COUNTY/ PARTNERS	KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW	Focus Group Discussion	Total No
Partners	UN Women, Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, OHCHR	-	8
Nairobi	Wangu Kanja Foundation, PHR, IAWJ, GBV Technical Working Group, FIDA, NPS, IPOA, Ministry of Gender (Total 12)	Survivors Wangu Kanja Foundation (1 male, 10 Female. Total 11) WHRDs Feminists for Peace Rights and Justice (8 Female Total)	31
Kisumu	Gender Ministry, Kisumu Referral Hospital, Court Administrator Winam Court in Kisumu, Mobilization coordinator (Total 5)	Women Survivors, HRD's Women's Network (Total 33) SHOFCO, FIDA, Gender Sector Working Group MOH, NGEC, CSO (Total 11)	49
Bungoma	Gender Focus Group, Gender Directorate (Total 2)	HRD's Survivor Networks, Community Social Justice, Women's Rights Defenders, Peace Women Actors, Clinical Officers (12 Male, 30 Female Total 42)	44
Vihiga	Winam Court in Kisumu, Directorate Gender (Total 2)	Clinical Officers, CUCs, Survivors, Education Officers, SHOFCO, Social Justice Centre (30 Female, 13 Male Total 43)	45
			177

NB. The 88 survey respondents comprised survivors of SGBV and Human Rights drawn from participants at the focus group discussions.

it was proposed that a collective convening would be more suitable for respondents who had participated multiple consultations on the programme monitoring processes

Performance Indicators

The indicators that were used for measuring performance results at the outcome levels are indicated in Table 4.

Table 4: Performance Indicators

OUTCOMES	INDICATORS
<p>Phase 1:</p> <p>Outcome 1: An improved legislative and policy environment in line with international, regional and national standards on VAWiE.</p> <p>Outcome 2: Enhanced advocacy for accountability by the right-holders</p>	<p>“Gap Analysis on prevention and response to sexual violence in elections in Kenya” conducted and disseminated.</p> <p>Number of CSO actors supported to demand accountability from duty bearers.</p> <p>One public interest litigation case on VAWiE 2017 supported.</p> <p>Number of survivors supported that report VAWiE and access essential services.</p>
<p>Phase 2: Access to justice and essential services by survivors of GBV increased.</p>	<p>Average time taken to complete police investigation in reported cases of GBV.</p> <p>Number of GBV survivors who uptake essential justice services.</p>
<p>Phase 3: Women and Girls influence and benefit from the prevention of violence against women in elections and access to justice and essential services.</p>	<p>Proportion of women participating in and influencing electoral early warning and coordination mechanisms; and engaging with justice actors’ multi-sectoral platforms.</p> <p>Number of VAWE cases reported in 2022 electoral period.</p> <p>Number of VAWE survivors accessing justice and essential services under the project.</p>

Ensuring quality

The evaluator adhered to the UN Evaluation Group (UNEG) norms, GERAAS Evaluation methodology and had regular consultations with the evaluation focal persons from UN Women and OHCHR. The list of evaluation questions drawn from the Terms of reference was used as the foundation to elaborate and inform the evaluation matrix. The key evaluation questions were further refined and organized into an evaluation matrix.⁴⁴ These informed the development of the KII and FGD questions. To ensure quality, an Inception Report was presented to the ERG. Following feedback from the ERG a Final Inception Report was submitted for approval with the data collection, interview guides and stakeholder analysis guide. The evaluator remained independent from the UN Women and OHCHR and the evaluation reference group.

⁴⁴ The evaluation matrix is attached to this report Annex 5.

Ethical issues

The evaluation adhered to the United Nations Ethical Guiding (UNEG) Principles and Code of Conduct which comprise *Respect for dignity and diversity; Right to Self Determination; Fair Representation; Ethical Protocols for Vulnerable Groups; Redress, Confidentiality and Avoidance of Harm*⁴⁵. The evaluation consultant designed data collection tools and interview questionnaire incorporating sensitivity, culturally sensitive and confidentiality. At the start of each session of the focus group discussion and key informant interviews, the evaluator sought consent to undertake the interview and assured respondents that their responses were to be utilized for the evaluation without any direct attribution to individual respondents. In addition, the evaluator sought to ensure minimum risk and victimization of sensitive respondent groups including GBV survivors. The evaluator did not disclose personal details during and after interviews and was sensitive to identify any potential ethical issues that might compromise the evaluation process. Before the interviews, respondents were explained the purpose and objective of the evaluation and their consent to document their contributions was sought. To bolster confidentiality, the evaluation assistant meticulously recorded notes during the sessions. These notes were exclusively shared with the evaluation consultant and subsequently shredded after the compilation of the report. Additionally, UN Women collected the list of participants for each FGD to facilitate the procurement of refreshments and reimbursement of transportation costs.

Gender and Human rights

The methodology used was gender-sensitive, conflict-sensitive, and respected the principles of Do No Harm. The data collection process deliberately embraced a format and language emphasizing gender sensitivity, respectfulness and adult learner participatory model. This intentional approach created a conducive environment for respondents to engage with the evaluation team, encouraging interactions that extended to other realms of gender and human rights contexts. The selected data collection tools were crafted with sensitivity, purposefully avoiding any reinforcement of gender stereotyped nuances this principle extended to analysis of the evaluation findings. The evaluation team's significant experience collecting data has been consistently guided by international humanitarian standards and the implementation of the 'Do No Harm' during data collection. During KIIs, the evaluators did not experience any vulnerabilities but still applied the necessary skills to obtain fully informed consent and conducted interviews with the required sensitivity before and during data collection.

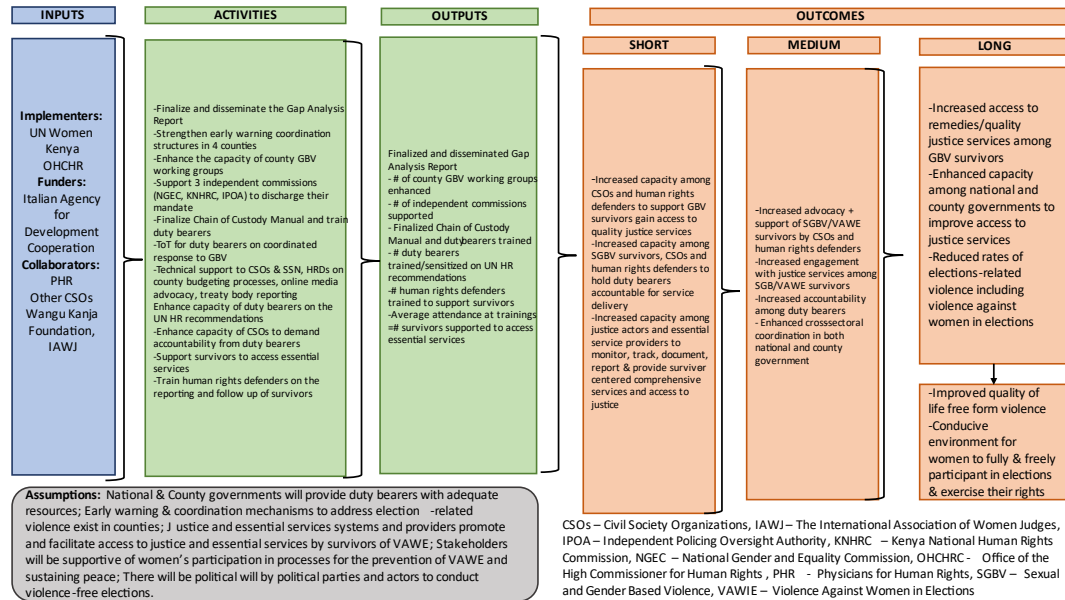
Evaluation Limitations and Mitigation

1. The projects theory of change/logic framework included 3 distinct results frameworks for each of the three phases. While phases 2 and 3 had individual theories of change phase 1 lacked one. This posed a challenge in directly attributing results to any specific phase. Without a dedicated theory of change for phase 1, there is a risk of overlooking the nuanced contributions and unique impact of its interventions. As such the causal relationship between phase 1 activities and subsequent outcomes slightly undermined and effectiveness may not have been so accurate. The evaluator developed a summary logic model based on a comprehensive analysis that integrated all phases to aid in clarifying the cumulative impact and informing future planning and implementation strategies. **The evaluator applied multiple data sources and mixed methods and focused on deepening the understanding of the project's theory**

⁴⁵ UNEG and TORS Let it not Happen Again pg. 13

of change to ensure rigor in the evaluation and developed a logic model to guide the analysis.

Summary Logic model



2. GBV resourcing or underbudgeting was a common barrier experienced and voiced in the 4 counties. This was found to be due to competing priorities as well as underreporting of GBV incidents leading to a paucity of accurate data that would have informed the evaluation of this project. **The evaluation mitigated this by validating a sample of reported achievements during key informant interviews and seeking out alternative data sources including the demographic health survey.** Furthermore, the evaluation team gathered additional qualitative evidence through interviews and focus group discussions that have informed recommendations in this report.
3. The absence of data on disability inclusion posed a challenge in conducting a comprehensive assessment of the programme's integration of this aspect as a cross cutting issue. While some respondents recognized the importance of incorporating disability considerations, and there were mobilization efforts to include persons with disability particularly during the training sessions, the evaluation did not find disability responsive measures. Notably there was lack of provisions such as sign language interpretation or braille materials.
4. This evaluation therefore was not able to highlight how disability inclusion was captured in the project. **To mitigate this, the Evaluator integrated specific questions on disability in the FDG's and KII. Country Office will need to explore ways of enhancing this component.**
5. The survey administered to the human rights defenders and survivors of sexual violence did not include data on the gender of respondents. Consequently, the evaluation faced limitations in disaggregating the data and conducting analysis to identify potential variations in perceptions based on gender. was not able to disaggregate the data and analyze potential variations in perceptions based on gender.

3. Key Evaluation Findings

3.1 Relevance and Responsiveness

To what extent are the objectives of the project consistent with evolving needs and priorities of the beneficiaries, partners and stakeholders? To what extent do other interventions support or undermine the intervention and vice-versa, including aspects of complementarity, harmonization and coordination? To what extent has project been able to respond to changes in national needs and priorities or to shifts caused by major political change? What was the quality of that response?

- To what extent was the project aligned with UN Women’s Global Strategic Plan and KCO’s Strategic Note 2019-2022?
- To what extent was the project aligned with Kenya’s national priorities and strategies including Kenya’s 12 commitments to Generation Equality Forum (GEF)?
- To what extent were the project’s priorities still valid in the context of the targeted counties?
- To what extent was the design of the intervention relevant to the needs and priorities of the beneficiaries?
- Was the Project design articulated in a coherent structure? Is the definition of goal, outcomes and outputs clearly articulated? Is the theory of change still valid?
- To what extent did the project’s design and implementation process include a collaborative process, shared vision for delivering results, strategies for joint delivery and sharing of risks among implementing organization?

FINDING 1: The project is closely aligned to national priorities and interests as well as contributed to existing programmes and structures to address the challenges in prevention and response to violence against women and girls during the election periods.

The conceptual design of the “Let It Not Happen Again” **project was informed by research**. The Gap analysis⁴⁶ conducted by UN Women, OHCHR and Physicians for Human Rights in 2019 identified the institutional weaknesses undermining effective preventions of, and response to violence against women in elections. The gap analysis revealed key findings including weak capacity, preparedness and response of duty bearers; weak cross-sectional coordination; and lack of comprehensive Gender Based Violence (GBV) data.⁴⁷

The project contributed towards tackling the prevention and response challenges to election-related violence on multiple levels: through mapping of GBV hotspots, contingency planning, and coordination mechanisms. This is evidenced by its (programme) support towards strengthening grassroots organizations, such as human rights defenders, supporting survivors access to GBV services while strengthening state mechanisms, such as law enforcement and the legal system.

The **programmatic responses are also in line with national efforts to eradicate gender-based violence and improve utilization of essential GBV services**. These are outlined in the various legislative and policy frameworks, including the Constitution, Sexual Offences Act, Legal Aid Act⁴⁸;

⁴⁶ <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/KE/OHCHRPHRUNWOMENKenyaGapAnalysisDec2019.pdf>.

⁴⁷ TORs for Final Evaluation for the “Let it Not Happen Again” project

⁴⁸ It seeks to enhance access to justice for women with limited resources by establishing a legal aid scheme

Protection against Domestic Violence Act; Victim Protection Act⁴⁹ Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation, Vision 2030, National Gender and Equality Commission Act and the Kenyan National Commission on Human Rights National Action Plan on Peace and Security 2016, National Policy for Prevention and Response to Gender Based Violence (2014)⁵⁰, the National Guidelines on the Management of Sexual Violence (2014)⁵¹, the National Monitoring and Evaluation Framework towards the Prevention of and Response to Sexual and Gender Based Violence in Kenya (2016). The project serves as a complementary addition to the existing programmatic infrastructure addressing GBV. This includes support systems like Gender Based Violence Recovery Centers in health facilities under the MTPIII, Police Gender Desks, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecution Sexual Violence units, the Judiciary Social Transformation through Access to Justice (STAJ) initiative and research insights from the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) on the economic and social ramifications of GBV. The project is also aligned to sector specific standards such as the National Health Sector Standard Operating Procedures on the Management of Sexual Violence 2014.⁵²

The project complements the national ongoing interventions on prevention of and response to Gender Based Violence (GBV) and improve utilization of essential GBV services. For instance, the Kenya Vision 2030, Medium-Term Plan III proposed One-Stop Gender Based Violence Recovery Centers (GBVRCs) be established in counties in collaboration with health institutions.⁵³This is in line with the projects desire to assures GBV survivors access essential services.

FINDING 2: The project contributed towards advancing normative and legal frameworks promoting gender equality and human rights at the regional and international levels. Through enhanced awareness amongst duty bearers and rights holders of the human rights and gender equality standards as elaborated in Finding 8 that also captures this project contribution to judicial advocacy public interest case.

At the regional level the project is aligned to the normative framework provide for human rights and protection against all forms of violence including: a) the Protocol to the Africa Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol, 2003), b) the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (2004), c) the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region Protocol; and d) The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.

At the international level the project is aligned to several international human rights standards on gender equality and rights of women and girls that it has ratified including: a) the Universal declaration of Human Rights (UDHR, 1948), b) the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR, 1976), c) the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW, 1979), d) the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (1984), e) the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Child (CRC, 1989), f) the

⁴⁹ It provides for comprehensive support for women who are victims of trafficking

⁵⁰ This sets out indicators for monitoring and evaluation of the different sectors supposed to prevent and respond to sexual violence

⁵¹ This details the management of sexual violence and outlines the steps for the treatment of sexual violence survivors, including the preservation of evidence and issues of psycho-social support

⁵² It outlines the minimum procedures for the management of GBV (SEA/SH) in the health sector and related referral mechanisms for psychosocial, legal, and other social support services

⁵³ The MTP III planned to make investments to enhance research on GBV and strengthen the capacity of GBV actors to fully operationalize the Gender Based Violence Management Information System. The Plan also proposed interventions to implement the National Policy on Eradication of FGM, which would include protecting women and girls from the malpractice, ensuring that perpetrators are prosecuted and provide support services to victims

Beijing Platform for Action (1995), g) UN Resolution 1325 (2000), the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children (2000), h) The ILO Convention 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour; and i) The Optional Protocol on the Convention of the Rights of the Child on Child Trafficking, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography.

FINDING 3: The project contributed towards implementation of the UN programming in the country coherently. The “*Let It Not Happen Again*” project is aligned to the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2018 – 2022, in particular two of the UNDAF Expected Results Outcomes namely: By 2022 marginalized and vulnerable people have increased access to utilize social protection and services for prevention and response to gender based violence and violence against children, and by 2022, people in Kenya enjoy improved governance, access to justice, respect for the rule of law, human rights and gender equality.

The project is in line with the UN Women Global Strategic Plan, particularly Outcome 4 on violence against women and girls and Outcome 5 on promoting women and girl’s involvement in peacebuilding and resilience. The project is also aligned with the mandate of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) whose mission is around safeguarding all human rights for everyone, empowering individuals to actualize their rights and supporting duty bearers responsible for upholding these rights in ensuring their implementation. This synergy signifies the inbuilt framework for the promotion and protection of human rights within the project scope.

FINDING 4: The project design was in harmony with global and national priorities aimed at ending Gender Based Violence

Although faced with the challenge of managing 3 distinct results frameworks for each phase of the project and two differing theories of change, the programmatic design was found to have clearly articulated outcomes and outputs. For instance, a noteworthy observation is the progression from one phase to the next, where each subsequent phase consistently built upon the focus of the coordination mechanism established in phase one as follows:

Table 5: Progression of outputs in the Three Phases of the project (1)

Phase One	Output 1.2 Enhanced cross sectoral coordination at both national and county levels of government
Phase Two	Output 1.3: National and county government has enhanced capacity for cross sectoral coordination to improve prevention of VAWE access to justice services for GBV survivors
Phase Three	Output 1.1 Early Warning and coordination mechanism strengthened to effectively prevent and respond to VAWE

This incremental progression is also witnessed in relation to the Outputs

Table 6: Progression of Outputs in the Three Phases of the project (2)

Phase One	Output 2.1 Increased capacity for GBV survivors’ networks, CSO’s and rights holders to demand accountability from duty bearers
Phase Two	Output 1.2 CSO’s and human rights defenders have enhanced capacity to support GBV survivors to access justice
Phase Three	Output 1.2 Strengthened capacity of justice system and essential services providers to effectively report, monitor and respond to VAWE

The project's coherence and alignment with planned interventions were further emphasized by its alignment to other UN Joint strategies and programmes addressing VAW and GBV. Some of these include the Joint Programme, Prevention and Response to Gender Based Violence in Kenya 2017-2020 around enhancing prevention of GBV, strengthening protection of GBV survivors, ensuring expeditious prosecution of GBV cases; establishing and implementing strong sustainable programs that are well resourced as well as the Joint Program on Gender Based Violence (GOK-UN JP on GBV) and Strengthening Electoral Process of Kenya (SEPK) and Successor Joint Program Deepening Democracy'.⁵⁴

The project is in alignment with the Generation Equality Forum (GEF) an international platform dedicated to expediting the fulfillment of gender commitments outlined in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action 1995 to achieve transformative change. As a co-lead of the Gender Based Violence Action Coalition,⁵⁵ the Kenya government took a significant step in 2021 by committing to ending GBV including sexual violence by 2026. This commitment involves intensifying efforts through 12 bold commitments aimed at eliminating systemic barriers that perpetuate GBV.

The evaluation also established that the project is aligned with the UN Women Strategic Note 2019-2022 which has articulated six (6) priority areas and two relevant to the project namely - ensuring women and girls are free from all forms of violence and ensuring women participate in aspects of peace, security and humanitarian actions. At the global level the UN Women Global Strategic Plan prioritized five outcomes and a set of thematic outputs,⁵⁶ as elaborated in Finding 3.

3.2 Effectiveness

EFFECTIVENESS To what extent did the interventions supported by UN Women contribute to the achievement of planned results (outputs and outcomes)? What is the progress made towards the achievements of expected results, outputs and outcomes? Were the geographical areas and target groups successfully reached? How did UN Women contribute to these achievements?

- How successful was the project in terms of the progress made towards the achievement of the expected as well as unplanned results, outputs, and outcomes? What are the results achieved? How did UN Women contribute towards these?
- What are the reasons for the achievement or non-achievement?
- To what extent have beneficiaries been satisfied with the results? To what extent have the capacities of relevant duty-bearers and rights-holders been strengthened?
- To what extent were the project's approaches effective and how innovative were the strategies for achieving the planned results? What -if any- types of innovative good practices have been introduced in the project for the achievement of results?
- To what extent can the changes that have occurred because of the project be identified and measured?
- What were the unintended effects, if any, of the intervention?
- To what extent can the changes (outcomes) that have occurred because of the project be identified and measured?
- Has the project affected/influenced behaviors, relationships, activities, actions, practice, or policies related to GBV and VAW?
- To what extent were gender equality and women's empowerment advanced as a result of this project interventions.

⁵⁴ 'Let it Not Happen Again' Program Document March 2019

⁵⁵ The other Actions Coalitions include economic justice and rights, bodily autonomy and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), feminist action for climate justice, technology and innovation for gender equality, and feminist movements and leadership.

⁵⁶ Page 12, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) Strategic Plan 2018-2021 30th August 2017

FINDING 5: The strategically designed project interventions have proven highly effective, successfully achieving both intended and unintended results ⁵⁷This highlights the project’s adaptability and resilience, surpassing most of its predefined targets. The “Let It Not Happen” project results frameworks were three for each phase of the project. As illustrated in the Table below, the project achieved and surpassed most of the targets 2 were partially met and 2 were not met. This table analysis is drawn from the UN Women project reports. It demonstrates how the project tackled the prevention and response challenges to election-related violence on multiple levels as well as how it has worked to strengthening grassroots organizations, such as human rights defenders, to support survivors access to GBV services while strengthening state mechanisms, such as law enforcement and the legal system.

Table 7: Project Performance achievements⁵⁸

PHASE ONE:

ADDRESSING PREVENTION AND ACCOUNTABILITY ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN ELECTIONS

Overall Objective: Enhance accountability for Violence Against Women in Elections survivors of the elections in 2017 and strengthen (emergency) response and accountability mechanisms towards, prior, during and after future elections.

Outcome 1: Improved legislative and policy environment in line with international, regional and national standards on violence against women in elections.

Target met -improved data availability and strengthened evidenced and knowledge generation on VAWE (Gap analysis). Secured buy in by relevant state actors to implement report.

Outcome 2. Enhanced advocacy for accountability by rights holders

Target met – establishment of support mechanisms for HRDs.
Training for SGBV survivors’ networks, CSO and rights holders

Output 1.1 Improved availability of data to inform GBV and VAWE interventions

Output Indicators, Baseline and Targets	Key interventions and activities	Achievements against Output Indicator: Targets by 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gap Analysis Report • Chain of custody manual • One report on ODPP capacity to prosecute SGBV cases in line with Human rights standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalized and disseminated Gap Analysis Report • Finalized chain of custody manual • Needs assessment on the GBV units in ODPP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breaking Cycles of Violence: Gaps in Prevention of and Response to Electoral-Related Sexual Violence finalized and disseminated.⁵⁹ • 175 copies of the Breaking the Cycles report disseminated in 4 focus counties

⁵⁷ Some of the early impact results were unintended as shown in Finding such as regional offices demand for technical expertise on elections preparedness and manual production speak

⁵⁸ This table is derived from the UN Women Progress reports for each phase

⁵⁹ It provides an analysis on institutional weaknesses undermining effective prevention of and response to violence against women in elections

- Rich and in-depth research which has credibly been informing phases of subsequent programmes
- Knowledge product for justice actors and those providing other essential services to survivors of violence.
- GBV needs assessment report
- Prosecutors training manual responding to gaps and skills to prosecute GBV cases.
- The National Police Directorate of reforms nominated UN Women and OHCHR to the Police Reforms Working groups
- Development of the NPS National Action plan integrating prevention and response to GBV

Target met

Output 1.2 Enhanced cross sectoral coordination at both national and county levels of government.

- 4 Counties with strengthened coordination structure for early warning
- 3 independent commission supported to discharge their mandate in ensuring prevention, mitigation and response to VAWE.

- 4 capacity enhancement sessions in 4 counties for 67 HRDs undertaken.

Training of Trainers for duty bearers on coordinated response to GBV and VAWE

IPOA supported to incorporate a provision on accountability measures for electoral related sexual violence perpetrated by the police officers into the Standard Operating Procedures

Training of HRDs in County budgeting processes

- Partnerships with survivor of sexual violence networks formed.
- Establishment of community-based mechanisms for support to survivors in 4 Counties

- 40 duty bearers (29 women and 11 men) trained including piloting the Criminal Justice Manual
- 28 of 40 expressed interest in being trainers for the four counties,
- Standard Operating Procedures incorporate accountability measure for electoral related sexual violence perpetrated by the police officer.

Target met

Output 1.3 Enhanced capacity of key VAWE stakeholders

- Enhanced capacity of 50 county duty bearers from 4 counties on the chain of evidence custody
- Improved understanding and capacity by the duty bearers to implement the UN HR recommendations.

Training of trainers and pilot testing of Criminal Justice Manual 40 duty bearers

Development of NPS Action plan

Technical support and sharing GBV trends in 4 Counties with IPOA,

ODPP capacity to prosecute electoral cases enhanced

Criteria for case mentoring on prosecution of electoral related cases

Strengthened NPS' mandate on GBV prevention and response

KNCHR and

Joint UNCT

State Department of Gender

Report on GBV trends

Facilitate briefings and monitoring normative framework in context of COVID -19

Target met

Output 2.1 Increased capacity by the GBV survivors' network, CSO's and right holders to demand accountability from duty bearers

- Enhanced capacity of 5 CSO's to demand accountability from duty bearers for survivors
- Preparation to file one public interest litigation case on VAWE
- 340 survivors supported to access essential services by CSOs and human rights defenders in 4 counties
- 40 human rights defenders in 4 Counties trained by County on reporting and following of survivors.
- Technical support to women's rights organizations in drafting shadow reports to treaty bodies
- Technical support and training on county budgeting processes for GBV network and CSO's
- Training/induction of Human rights defenders
- Enhanced capacity to prepare shadow report amongst women's rights organization (11)
- Shadow report to *Convention against Torture*, (CAT⁶⁰)
- Kenya government presentation at the 71st Ordinary session acknowledge OHCHR technical capacity for duty bearers such as ODPP and IPOA
- Participation in County budgeting process by GBV Networks and CSO's following training of 42 HRD's conducted by OCHCR
- Enhanced Human rights defenders' capacity to offer physical support to survivors during Covid 19 through 308 masks
- 304 masks and sanitizers distributed amongst HRDS

Target met

Output 2.2 Enhanced capacity of CSOs and human right defenders to support survivors to report and access quality services at the county level

Provide support to CSOs to support survivors to access essential services at the county level, including the roll out of the mobile app for SV management, and referral pathway information, disseminate service providers handbook and the safe and protective spaces guidelines

- Technical support for survivors' networks and social justice for online media advocacy for survivors
- 234 survivors of GBV were supported to access essential services including health, psychosocial and referral to legal services including reporting to police
- the SSVN through the SV mobile Application that was rolled out to report and document GBV cases to track and assess the quality of the referral pathway in the counties
- 555 GBV survivors (477 females and 78 males) assisted with referrals to access essential services and justice

⁶⁰ <https://media.un.org/en/asset/k11/k11v9biep5>

<p>Train human rights defenders to report and follow survivors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • training of 69 human rights defenders/members of the SSVN and roll out of the use of SV mobile App in the 4 counties, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of support mechanisms for 38 (26 female and 13 male) human rights defenders • High Online visibility on the International Day for the Right Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of victims – Hash tags <i>#TruthBeTold</i> and <i>#UkweliUsemwe</i> hashtags trended at number 1 and 4 respectively the whole day with had 100 mentions, reaching more than 23,000 online users <p>Target met</p>
<p>Provide financial support to Survivors Network to facilitate human rights defenders transport and cost to support survivors access essential services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 HRDs supported with communication support to enable them link survivors to service delivery points • 280 dignity kits and distributed 70 in Nairobi and 70 in Kisumu to women and girls’ survivors during COVID 19 pandemic. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased involvement of men as survivors of GBV who members of the SSV network in Nairobi (from 0 to 4) • HRDs led in mapping of GBV services <p>Target met</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HRDs follow up and support for survivors to document cases under the SV Mobile app <p>Target met</p>

PHASE TWO

ADDRESSING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN BY STRENGTHENING ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Overall Objective: To strengthen the quality and delivery of justice services by justice institutions and to enhance access to justice for GBV survivors

Outcome 1: Access to justice and essential services by survivors of GBV increased

Outcome indicators

- a) Average time taken to complete police investigation in reported cases of GBV
Baseline to be confirmed after baseline is undertaken in 2020⁶¹ Target; 2 months.
Target not met.⁶²
- b) Number of GBV survivors who uptake essential justice services
Baseline to be confirmed from Survivors Network and Grace Agenda Target 375
Target surpassed 454 attributed to Improved referral pathway
Reduced stigma amongst survivors.⁶³

Output 1.1: Justice institutions have enhanced capacity to deliver justice services to GBV survivors

Output Indicators, Baseline and Targets	Key interventions and activities	Achievements against Output Indicator: Targets by 2023
<p>Number of GBV knowledge products developed supporting the implementation of relevant GBV laws and policies in Kenya.</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: 4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical Support in the assessment of the structure, systems and capacity building of the ODDP GBV Division and specialized GBV units/capacity at the county levels. • Lobby for integration of criminal justice manual within Judiciary Academy, National Police Leadership Academy, Prosecution Training Institute • Document lessons learnt on gender police desks, bail and bond policy, standards and protocol for police and ODPP gender units, digital case tracking on Sexual Offences Act 	<p>3 knowledge products were produced and reviewed to support institutions to be gender-responsive and employ survivor-centered approaches and human rights standards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ODPPs Assessment report • Criminal Justice manual • Elections Security Arrangement Plan <p>This was below target of 4 knowledge products</p> <p>In 2021 out of the 10,388 cases filed 58.2% were sexual offences</p> <p>Electronic data base on sexual offenders set up</p>

⁶¹ UN Women Annual Report observed that “Due to the unavailability of data on the time taken to complete police investigations, a proxy indicator on the time taken to resolve GBV cases was used instead.”

⁶² UN Women Report indicated that “the target set was ambitious, and more time investment in enhancing the capacity of justice actors is needed to reduce the amount of time taken to complete police investigations and resolve GBV cases.

⁶³ UN Women Report on Phase II indicates these achievements were as a result of the various strategic initiatives undertaken by the judiciary and other justice actors. UN Women and OHCHR, working together with their partners supported initiatives ranging from: strengthening the capacity and changing attitudes of justice institutions actors (the police, judiciary, and prosecutors) to delivering gender-responsive and survivor-centred services to GBV survivors; strengthening of coordination mechanisms of justice actors, CSO, and Survivors’ Networks at national and county levels; and enhancing the capacity of CSOs and human rights defenders to support GBV survivors to access quality justice services.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support IAWJ- Kenya to scale human rights standard setting and adopt survivor centered approaches 	Establishment of a national GBV Court Users committee
Number of duty bearers trained who indicate increased knowledge on criminal justice manual (ToT approach applied).	Training of trainers for duty bearers	49 (22 female, 12 male, 1 PWD) prosecutors and senior investigators trained on best practices using Criminal Justice and SOP manuals
Baseline:60 (2019)		364 (156 females, 208 males: including 80 TOTs) duty bearers from the justice, security, and medical-legal sectors, increased their knowledge and understanding of the Criminal Justice Manual
Target: 90		This surpassed target indicator target of 90 duty bearers⁶⁴
Number of gender units at the National Police and ODPP established	Sustained advocacy towards establishment of gender Units.	The NPS through its Gender Directorate is also in the process of transforming gender desks into Gender Units in the target counties.
Baseline: 1		Target not realized ⁶⁵
Target: 4		

Output 1.2. CSO’s and human rights defenders have enhanced capacity to support GBV survivors to access quality justice.

Number of survivors supported that report GBV and access essential services (medical, legal, including psychosocial support, social services and security) for GBV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical support and training for GBV survivors’ network, CSOs and right holders to engage with duty-bearers in key process including resourcing, law and policy shaping, shadow reporting, filing demands for judicial inquiry and reparations, improved service delivery, provision of quality medical-legal assistance, Generate baseline data on prosecution and conviction rates for GBV cases Strengthening of Human rights defender mechanism 	454 survivors of GBV (365 Females, 89 Males) accessed justice and essential services through peer support and referral by 15 HRDs and 25 survivors.
Baseline: No data available		The survivors and were equipped with knowledge and skills to assist other survivors (the 454 survivors) in reporting GBV and accessing medical and legal service
Target: 375		Target surpassed

⁶⁴ The UN Women Report of Phase II indicate that the high number was achieved due to the ToT multiplier effect as well as the mainstreaming of training into the standard NPS training programmes at various levels

⁶⁵ The UN Women report of the second phase indicated that the “establishment of the Gender Units was put on hold following the request by NPS to prioritise support towards elections preparedness work through the review of the ESAP 2022 and subsequent training of county commanders.”

Number of advocacy initiatives by gender equality advocates demanding accountability for quality services for GBV survivors

Baseline: 8 (2019)

Target: 11

- Advocacy through documentation of human-interest stories to enhance GBV prevention and improve access to justice services
- Support preparation to file one public interest litigation case on 2017 VAWE
- Technical support to Social Justice Centers and Human Rights Defenders networks to access to justice for survivors
- Support roll out of mobile app for SV management and referral pathway information and dissemination of service providers handbook

11 advocacy initiatives by UN Women, OHCHR and partners demanding accountability and access to quality services for GBV survivors were held, meeting the set target for the year.

POLICARE policy and platform, operationalization of the Sexual Offenders Registry, and the design and development of elections' early warning interventions and contingency plans for GBV prevention and response were shaped by the demands and information provided by CSOs and Survivors

Networks through advocacy initiatives that were supported by the project.

Grace Agenda memorandum to BBI on reparations

Contributions to UPR

Shadow reports to the UN Committee on Torture and cruel treatment

Memorandum to the Nairobi County on budget for safe spaces

Target met

Output 1.3: National and county government has enhanced capacity for cross sectoral coordination to improve prevention of VAWE access to justice services for GBV survivors

Number of counties with functional GBV technical working groups, CUCs ⁶⁶ that meet regularly on GBV as a.

Baseline: 0

Target: 4

Support to strengthen the coordination mechanisms.

Pilot a referral pathway for survivors, including the dissemination of the Guidelines for Safe and Protective Spaces for women and children

Train the county GBV working groups.

Mapping and documentation of GBV services and policies, and early warning system and contingency planning in the counties

Support NCAJ for advocacy on implementation of GBV policies and laws

Convening of coordination meetings (quarterly) and training of members in 4 counties

The 2 county-level GBV and access to justice coordination platforms (GTWGs and CUCs) had GBV prevention and response as their standing agenda in all meetings, provided referrals and monitored GBV cases reported and developed contingency plans for GBV prevention and response at the county level.

Target met

⁶⁶ Functional in this case refers to regular meetings with an agenda and have contingency planning mechanisms

Number of VAWE preventive initiatives undertaken at national and county levels.

Baseline: 2

Target: 4

Strengthening the coordination mechanism including and pilot referral pathway for survivors,

Dissemination of the Guidelines for Safe and Protective Spaces for women and children

Technical support to strengthen cross-sectoral coordination of justice system actors at both national and county levels for the development of contingency and response plans for elections and emergencies that include the heightened risk of GBV

6 VAWE prevention initiatives focusing on stakeholders' consultation and contingency and operational planning undertaken at the national and county level by the state and non-state actors in the 4 counties

UN Women and OHCHR provided technical and financial support to convene key state and non-state actors, facilitate discussions, and review the ESAP 2022

NPS integrated and prioritized VAWE prevention and response in Operations Plans at all levels

141 (42 Female, 99 Male) county commanders equipped with skills and knowledge on Elections Security Management and contingency planning using the ESAP 2022.

Target met

PHASE THREE

Enhancing Prevention and Response to Violence Against Women in Elections s: Let It Not Happen Again

Overall Objective: To develop and enrich early warning and contingency planning to prevent electoral related violence and to strengthen the quality and delivery of justice services to enhance access to justice for GBV survivors

Outcome: Women and Girls influence and benefit from prevention of VAWE and access to justice and essential services

Outcome indicators

- (a) Proportion of women participating in and influencing electoral early warning and coordinating mechanisms and engaging with justice actors' multisectoral platforms

Baseline – to be confirmed from UN Women and OHCHR partners. Target 35%

Target surpassed as women's participation increased from 29% in 2019 to 44% in 2022⁶⁷

- (b) Number of VAWE cases reported in 2002 electoral period

Baseline: 128⁶⁸ Target 40

Target realized as number of reported VAWE cases decreased significantly, from 201 cases of sexual violence reported in 2017 to 3 cases of sexual violence reported during the 2022⁶⁹

- (c) Number of VAWE survivors accessing justice and essential services under the project

Baseline Target 1000⁷⁰

Target surpassed by 569% as more GBV survivors were willing to take up justice and other essential services following activities to reduce stigma, sensitization of stakeholders and improved referral pathways⁷¹

⁶⁷ UN Women Annual Report, this target was surpassed and “attributed to the additional advocacy and sensitization interventions from the Ireland-funded VAWE project in Bungoma and Vihiga Counties”

⁶⁸ Nairobi -50, Kisumu-38, Bungoma - 20, Vihiga - 20 as documented in the Silhouettes of Brutality: An account of Sexual Violence During and After 2017 General Elections by the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights.

⁶⁹ Key factors that contributed to this success was the increased stakeholder participation including that of women in the prevention and response according to the UN Women Phase III report. More specifically: enhanced police preparedness; enhanced partnerships and cooperation with state and non-state actors around policing of elections (elections security management, VAWE prevention and response, contingency planning, early warning and early response mechanisms and the measures put in place to ensure trust in the police by communities such as no transfer of police officers just before the 2022 elections, as such communities were confident in dealing with familiar officers and this resulted to improved information sharing for hotspot mapping. UN Women, OHCHR and implementing partners contributed to the realisation of this target by increasing the capacity of duty bearers in the prevention of and response to VAWE and essential service provision to GBV survivors through training on elections security preparedness, review of contingency plans and strengthening coordination structures at the county and community levels.

⁷⁰ These are derived from the GBV hotline number coordinated by HAK 1195 2021 reports

⁷¹ According to the UN Women report Phase III, the success can be attributed to the working arrangements that UN Women and OHCHR, adopted with their partners IAWJ, the ODPP, NPS and PHR. They engaged this was through, various initiatives ranging from: strengthening the capacity and changing attitudes of justice institutions actors, through training, sensitization and coaching so that they are able to deliver gender-responsive and survivor-centred services to GBV survivors; strengthening of coordination mechanisms of justice actors, CSO, and Survivors' Networks at national and county levels; and enhancing the capacity of CSOs, Survivors Networks and Women human rights defenders to support GBV survivors to access quality justice services.

Output 1.1 Early Warning and coordination mechanism strengthened to effectively prevent and respond to VAWE

Output Indicators, Baseline and Targets	Key interventions and activities	Achievements against Output Indicator: Targets by 2023
<p>Number of functional County early warning and coordination mechanism integrating VAWE⁷²</p> <p>Baseline 4 (1 in each County)</p> <p>Target 8 (2 in each County)</p>	<p>Technical and financial support of duty bearers at national and county level to strengthen their capacity and coordination of the early warning systems; development and implementation of contingency plans to prevent and mitigate VAWE (Joint Intervention)</p>	<p>12 functional mechanisms drawn from GBV/Gender Technical working group, Court Users Committees and County Peace committees</p> <p>Vihiga CUC was recognized as one of the best CUCs nationally during the launch Administration of Justice in Kenya Report</p> <p>Target was surpassed (8 to 12 mechanisms)</p>
<p>Number of early warning and justice sectors equipped to prevent, mitigate, monitor and report VAWE</p> <p>Baseline 80 (ToTs)</p> <p>Target 400⁷³</p>	<p>Provide technical and financial support to independent commissions (NGEC, KNCHR), National Police Service gender directorate, ODDP GBV Division in conjunction with the Tripartite Taskforce, GBV Working Groups, Court Users Committees and NCAJ to discharge their mandates in a coordinated manner for the prevention and mitigation of VAWE. (Joint Intervention)</p>	<p>460 election early warning and justice actors (291 police officers and 169 GBV multisectoral professionals and stakeholders (state and non-state) were equipped with relevant skills in prevention, mitigation, and response to VAWE</p> <p>Target met and slightly surpassed</p>
	<p>Mobilize, train and equip the members of peace committees to ensure that women including WHRDs play a leading role in peacebuilding efforts and contribute to effective early warning structures and the WPS agenda. (Joint intervention)</p>	<p>314 justice actors provide survivor centered comprehensive justice services.</p> <p>Target not fully met⁷⁴</p>
	<p>Technical support by UN Women and OHCHR towards quality assurance and alignment of standards and policy frameworks</p>	

⁷² Functional in this context is defined to at least one meeting per quarter with required quorum as dictated by the guidelines of the mechanism

⁷³ Additional multi sectoral actors trained in 2022 – 100 per county, 100 security, 100 justice sectors, 100 county-based government officers – administrators, gender others and 100 peace committee members

⁷⁴ According to the UN Women report, this was below the set indicator target of 400 justice actors, due to a request from justice institutions to prioritize the training of senior officers to cascade the knowledge gained to their junior colleagues

Output 1.2 Strengthened capacity of justice system and essential services providers and actors to effectively report, monitor, and respond to VAWE

Output Indicators, Baseline and Targets	Key interventions and activities	Achievements against Output Indicator: Targets by 2023
<p>Number of GBV survivors accessing timely essential commodities and services</p> <p>Baseline: 789⁷⁵</p> <p>Target: 1200⁷⁶</p>	<p>Procurement of essential commodities (post rape care and dignity kits) for GBV survivors.</p>	<p>2,689 GBV survivors assessed essential services and commodities.</p> <p>Target realized and surpassed by 115%</p> <p>5 advocacy initiatives at the national level and 4 at the counties were conducted by UN Women, OHCHR and partners (PHR, GSWG and Survivors Networks) to demand accountability from the government.</p> <p><i>(Kisumu County government allocated KES 6 million (USD 42,765) in the 2023-2024 financial year towards the renovation of the county GBV shelter)</i></p>
<p>Number of justice actors equipped with skills to provide survivor centered comprehensive justice services</p> <p>Baseline: 80⁷⁷</p> <p>Target: 400⁷⁸</p>	<p>Training of justice actors in the four counties, Police, ODPP and judiciary on delivery of survivor centered comprehensive justice services (including a referral pathway and service weeks) and on the effective investigations and prosecutions of electoral related sexual violence cases.</p>	<p>314 justice actors from judiciary, police, probation officers, lawyers and medical officers provided survivor centered comprehensive justice services to GBV and VAWE survivors</p> <p>Target not realized⁷⁹</p>
	<p>Monitor, track and document turnaround time for prosecutions by the ODPP in the 4 counties on quarterly basis. This will build upon the baseline conducted in Phase II by OHCHR.⁸⁰. Continue technical and financial support to CSOs, Human Rights Defenders, survivors’ networks and IAWJ towards prevention and survivors centered response (Joint intervention</p>	<p>8 coordinating structures (2 per county) to strengthen integrated VAWE prevention and response between duty bearers and rights holders.</p> <p>Target realized and surpassed</p>

⁷⁵ Wangu Kanja Foundation Report 2020 (Covid -19)

⁷⁶ 1000 women and girls, 100 men and 100 boys and 100 PwDs 50;50 male/female

⁷⁷ 80 multisectoral ToTs trained in 2021 (police, prosecutors and judicial officers)

⁷⁸ Additional justice actors and diverse groups of stakeholders trained – 100 per county.

⁷⁹ UN Women Report attributes this to request from justice institutions to prioritize the training of senior officers who can then cascade the knowledge gained to their junior colleagues.

⁸⁰ This information will be used to advocate for enhanced capacity in prosecution of VAWE and strengthened linkages and referral mechanisms with survivors in subsequent years.

Dissemination of the updated GBV Service Provider databank (2021) through HRDs, Survivors Networks, CSOs. To raise awareness of GBV service providers in the target counties, information will be shared across multiple platforms³⁹ to reach the public. In consultation with key stakeholders, optimal communications products and channels will be identified and shared prior, during and post elections

Target met

FINDING 6: The project has significantly contributed to the positive transformation at the national terrain in terms of policy, engagement and management of GBV agenda due to the projects’ twin approach of intervening at policy institutional level and community level as well as generating informative data.

The Programmes effectiveness is presented alongside the key outcomes here below.

A. Improved legislative and policy environment in line with international, regional and national standards on violence against women in elections

As a result of this project there has been increased government support, commitment to creating a sustainable gender sensitive responsive ecosystem in terms of resourcing services that are survivor centered. At the policy level the need for credible data to inform GBV and VAWE was responded to through this project’s much-acclaimed UN Women, OHCHR and PHR Gap Analysis report titled “*Breaking Cycles of Violence: Gaps in Prevention of and Response to Electoral-Related Sexual Violence*” which has informed different reforms and changes to advance the prevention and response of GBV.⁸¹ This Gap analysis was instrumental in design and identification of strategic interventions for the project under evaluation. These interventions have had a “multiplier effect” and often with potential for sustainability as demonstrated in Finding 16. Through advocacy for its buy-in by state actors, the project also sought to have commitments for the implementation of the recommendations in the Gap Analysis report. This has yielded results as witnessed by the Inspector General (IG) of Police, National Police Service (NPS) two-fold commitment to ensure the finalization of the Criminal Justice Manual and establishing a directorate to oversee its completion residing within NPS. This accomplishment represents a noteworthy milestone that aligns perfectly with the project strategy of ensuring long-term sustainability. It does so by securing government backing and integrating interventions seamlessly within established government frameworks.

Utilizing the data collected, the project effectively garnered support from key state actors who have remained consistently engaged and actively involved throughout its duration. Some of the state actors

⁸¹ The Gap Analysis documents the institutional weaknesses that undermine effective prevention of response to violence against women and children and was conducted by OHCHR, UN Women and Physicians for Human Rights.

included: the National Police Service (NPS) which initiated reforms in designing the Criminal Justice Manual (CJM) and setting up a Directorate to spearhead its institutionalization and commenced the creation of gender units to sustain the project’s activities. The Gap analysis was instrumental in identifying strategic interventions with a multiplier effect and with some potential for sustainability. For instance, the Criminal Justice Manual formed the basis for the capacity building of relevant duty bearers, whilst ODPP embarked on the process of setting up GBV Units by appointing 4 GBV focal points/prosecutors in the 4 project counties.

The Petition to the Office of the Chief Justice with 7 Priority Actions by women’s rights organizations and survivors of violence along with the advocacy efforts with the Chief Justice has led to scaled interventions aimed at improving access to justice. UN Women supported key Women Rights Organizations including the project partners to draft and present a brief, that lobbied for the establishment of specialized courts for GBV survivors.

Figure 1: Petition to the Chief Justice by Survivors of Sexual Violence and Women’s Rights Organizations



The project strategically aligned with the key priorities outlined in the Chief Justice’s STAJ to frame its advocacy fostering convergence and the successful results. Several critical components resulting from the Petition have materialized including an electronic register for GBV offenders: establishment of 12 SGBV courts in Shanzu, Kibera, Makadara, Meru, Nakuru, Kiambu, Machakos Kisii, Kitale, Kakamega, Kisumu and Siaya law courts and the development of Court Practice Directions to expedite GBV cases, aiming for conclusion within a 6-month period. These measures are game changers and have surpassed the projects targets particularly in addressing the average time taken to conclude a GBV cases. The baseline survey of 2020/2021⁸² revealed that it reported GBV cases took between one to two years The Gap Analysis has been commended by justice actors as a rich and in-depth research of the separate phases of subsequent programmes as well as providing useful data and information to provide essential services to survivors of violence.

⁸² UN Women Report Phase II – referring to the baseline conducted in four sample counties of Kitui, Turkana, Marsabit and Kwale

The GBV needs assessment tool is also shaping the practices and regulations within the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. This tool was developed in consultation with the ODPP who provided inputs and validated the tool. The tool was also administered as key informant interviews conducted with all the ODPP’s nine regional office heads to provide information on the existing policy gaps, challenges and recommendations in prosecuting cases of sexual violence involving police officers. It will serve as a key knowledge product for the Prosecution Training institute.

The project has played a substantial role in elevating discussions about shelter and rescue centers to a policy level. Engagements with Survivors Networks, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Human Rights Defenders have led to the identification of critical gaps in providing rescue and safe spaces for survivors. Through focus group discussions and interviews, by human rights defenders aiding survivors confirmed a notable gap in the referral pathway, namely the absence of shelters or dedicated rescue spaces. One of the identified snowball effects of the project is the collaborative engagement of this projects partner, the Wangu Kanja Foundation and other survivor networks with the Ministry of Gender to generate the **Options Paper** informing policy and providing guidance on the establishment, strengthening of different models of safe and protective spaces that meet diverse needs of women, girls and children to enhance their protection.⁸³The advocacy efforts of this project has also contributed to witnessing Kisumu country make a budgetary allocation of US\$42,765 to set up a shelter for women and men.

The project support to the Court Users Committees, the Gender Technical Working groups, human rights defenders and survivors of sexual violence networks has contributed to propelling Counties to adopt county specific legislation and policy. The project advocacy work was aligned to operationalizing the 2017 County Government Policy on Sexual and Gender Based Violence and model legislative framework for GBV. This evaluation reviewed the status in each of the four counties specified in the Table 8 below.

Table 8: Counties status in developing GBV policies and laws.

COUNTY	STATUS
NAIROBI	Sexual Gender Based Violence Management and Control Act 2022
KISUMU	Sexual Gender Based Violence Management Policy Draft Women Economic Empowerment Policy
BUNGOMA	Draft Bills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sex and Gender Based Violence Bill ● Workplace and Harassment Policy ● Gender mainstreaming
VIHIGA	None

One of the mandates of the county governments is to establish facilities and infrastructure necessary for GBV responses and through the coordination mechanisms (supported by this project), there have been

⁸³ Ministry of Public Service, Youth and Gender 2022 Strengthening Safe and Protective Spaces for Women, Girls and Children in Kenya: Safe Spaces Models and Applicability Manual. The purpose of this guidance manual is to inform policy and provide guidance on the establishment, strengthening of different models of safe and protective spaces that meet diverse needs of women, girls and children to enhance their protection.

varying levels of progress. In Kisumu County interviews confirmed its work towards building a Safe House that will cater for 20 women and 20 men whose launch shall be alongside the commemoration of the 16 Days of Activism Against GBV. In Vihiga and Bungoma, there are rescue centers which have been constructed through the National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF) support to the County Women Representatives. However, at the time of the evaluation, they were still not operational due to “blurred lines with respect to ownership, resourcing and responsibility.”

FINDING 7: The project has strengthened and enhanced multisectoral collaboration and coordination towards securing effective GBV prevention and responses.

The project has enhanced cross sectoral coordination both nationally and within counties as demonstrated by the GBV/Gender Technical Working Groups which are cascaded from national level to the counties as well as the Court User committees which further cascade to the subcounty levels. For instance, the Electoral Security Arrangement Plan (ESAP) was reviewed within these platforms integrating VAWE prevention and response as a key area of priority and ultimately resulted in the development of electoral contingency plans factoring in VAWE risks. Through support to their convenings and with the project partners providing quarterly updates at these platforms, there has been an increase in shared information, development of common understanding of key prevention and response challenges as well as identification of ways to strengthen the referral pathways for survivors. The project contributed to the inaugural Elections Security Arrangement Plan integrating VAWE.

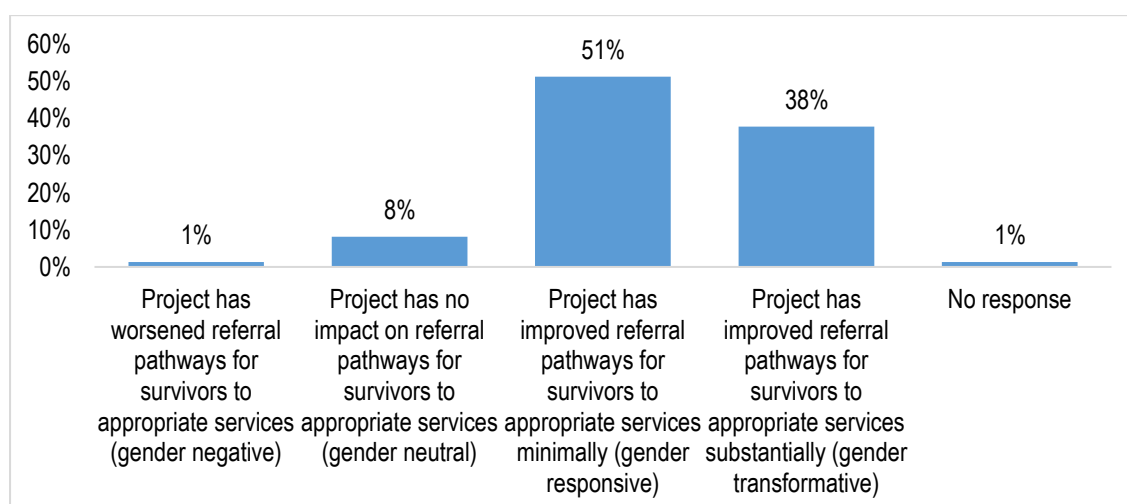
The projects’ continuous engagement of County Gender Sector Working Groups along with the Sub County counterparts involving stakeholders across thematic areas has enabled ease in terms of design and implementation of the referral systems. This approach according to respondents in the focus group discussions and key informant interviews has fostered good linkages amongst sectors addressing GBV and has established a swift- response mechanism. The Court Users Committees for instance expressed how they have cultivated interactive relationships along the referral pathway that has improved both quality and timely survivor centered interventions.

Most respondents confirmed that through this project, bureaucratic barriers have been dismantled and stronger rapport witnessed between state and non-state actors. This improvement has facilitated rapid response mechanisms through platforms such as “WhatsApp” and enabled the tracking of service quality for survivors. A duty bearer observed that through the project a notable success was the *“strengthening of relationship with key stakeholders and reducing perceived tensions between the police and human rights defenders. Open dialogue with survivors’ networks such as Wangu Kanja also contributed to enhanced “trust building” and better coordination.”*

Good practices emerging through the referral pathways contributing to better understanding of roles, responsibility for accountability. E.g. Bungoma CUC noted, *“The establishment of the SGBV Sub Committees comprising multisectoral agencies specifically prioritize matters SGBV including addressing GBV cases, influencing the fast-tracking court process, influencing the elimination of barriers causing delay to justice and strengthening the referral pathway system.”*

Towards demonstrating how the project coordination for survivors, one of the components assessed in the survey was how the project affected referral pathways for survivors. Out of the 84 percent who are aware of the project, 38 percent indicated improved referral, over half (51 percent) indicated minimal referral, while eight and one percent indicated no impact and worsened protection respectively.

Figure 2: Improvements of referral pathways



FINDING 8: The capacities of key stakeholders involved in addressing GBV have been enhanced through the project interventions.

Through the project interventions key stakeholders have acquired new knowledge and there has been a shift in attitudes particularly in survivor centered approach to preventing and responding to GBV and VAWE. The technical assistance provided by the OHCHR to the NPS and the ODPP regarding investigation and prosecutions has led to a groundbreaking moment in Kenya’s history. It marks the emergence of a landmark legal case where senior police officers are facing charges of rape, torture and murder as crimes against humanity case for serious violations during the 2017 post-elections violence using command or superior responsibility. Among the victims in the case is baby Samatha Pendo a six-month-old baby who was killed during the violence. Whilst there has not been sufficient accountability for electoral related GBV, this project has made pioneering inroads by setting judicial precedent on prosecutions of police following elections. The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, a partner of the project, filed the first crimes against humanity case in Kenya⁸⁴ This case is also the first case alleging post-election violence under a theory of command responsibility⁸⁵

The evaluation also revealed that there are changes in patterns of prosecution as well as prioritizing of complainants’ testimony. Similarly, support to file a public interest litigation case (Constitutional Petition 122 of 2013⁸⁶) through capacity enhancement on implementation of UN Human rights recommendations with Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) and HRDs⁸⁷. This public interest case sought to ensure accountability for electoral related GBV cases as way of facilitating access justice for 33 survivors (26 female and 7male). This project has supported the partial appeal as

⁸⁴ 28th October 2022

⁸⁵ Legal responsibility International Crimes Act whereby superior officers can be held accountable for the atrocity crimes committed by those who serve under them

⁸⁶ Four non-governmental organizations – the Coalition on Violence against Women, Physicians for Human Rights, the International Commission of Jurists-Kenya (ICJ-K), and the Independent Medico-Legal Unit – joined the suit as co-petitioners in the interest of the general public and many other survivors of election-related sexual violence who are not represented in the case. As the first of its kind after the 2007-08 election violence in Kenya, this closely watched case has the potential to spur policy reforms that would improve the prevention of and medical-legal response to sexual violence, including better care for survivors and forensic documentation to support justice and reparations

⁸⁷ Ibid

the High court decision failed to recognize the government responsibility to prevent and respond to post election sexual violence and to recognize the trauma experienced by four of the eight survivors.

The evaluation revealed that the capacity interventions of the project had resulted to a deepening of technical knowledge, skills and **competencies on conceptual frameworks for gender and human rights** for GBV protection. The training undertaken within the project has also contributed to demystifying gender and human rights concepts so that they are not viewed as abstract concepts. For instance, in Phase 1 of the Project, it was reported that 89% of participants demonstrated understanding of GBV laws and concepts, reporting mechanisms, evidence management and access to justice compared to 36% of participants at the beginning of the training.⁸⁸ Through this project, practical skills on safe storage of forensic evidence have been imparted contributing to increase confidence to report, investigate and prosecute sexual violence cases. The training offered by Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) was commended for its detailed elaboration of management and safe storage of evidence that forms one of the critical components for successful prosecution⁸⁹(MediCapt mobile app, which enables doctors, clinical officers, and nurses to collect, store, and securely share forensic medical evidence in cases of sexual violence.)⁹⁰ The knowledge transfer component is supported by research, case study, documentation and curriculum development. The training tool developed for project was unique of its kind and was extensively used to support the training of health workers and duty bearers.

One respondent observed, *“it is not that we don’t know our role, but it is connecting the dots. The training was an eye opener, enabling me to see how my work contributes to the overall government commitments to victims of violence and how the different legal and human rights obligations are operationalized within the government operations of work.”*

Whilst another noted that *“The introduction of Role Play as a methodology in demystifying the relationship between police and community has enhanced community buy in and enhanced accountability of police officers.”*

The technical expertise for stakeholder’s support has resulted in generation of knowledge products, changing patterns and practices of GBV prosecutions. Through the production of SGBV needs assessment tool for the ODPP capturing policy gaps and recommendations in prosecuting cases of sexual violence involving police officers and advocacy for its integration in the Prosecutors Training Manual. Through capacity building on prosecuting sexual violence cases a respondent experience confirming that *“significant changes in mindset and prosecution attitudes have emerged.”*

“The training on GBV contributed to enhancing their skills in handling domestic cases specifically around investigating, and handling forensic cases, dealing with intimidation, handling evidence collection within the shortest time, storage of evidence and applying different methodology. It was recommended that the Chain of Evidence Manual be integrated into the NPS Training academies so that GBV is institutionalized with protocol and practice and the complexity of these cases are better understood.”

There are emerging changing patterns of sexual and gender-based prosecutions. The project has actively impacted the approach of prosecuting cases of GBV. It has advocated for prioritizing complainant testimony as a measure to ensure fair and unbiased proceedings. Moreover, the project has

⁸⁸ UN Women Annual Report Phase One report – this was established through the pre, and post training tools administered in the training.

⁸⁹ Most respondents confirmed that capacity enhancement amongst stakeholders was beneficial as it provided technical knowledge on gender concepts, human rights and practical relevant tools to guide GBV protection interventions

⁹⁰ PHR’s work is anchored on forensic investigations and evidence collection, building local capacity and institutional strengthening, access to justice and advocacy on behalf of sexual violence survivors.

brought attention to and highlighted the concerning trend of secretive negotiations intended to settle cases of violations. A respondent from the ODPP stated, “*Where at times the prosecution felt they were alone in a case, the change in mind set enabled us to appreciate the other actors in the chain of custody to rely upon – the clinical officers and other court user committee members. This confidence has enabled us to strengthen our resolve in pursuit of justice for survivors and overcome the cloud of “kangaroo courts”.*” These changes in the prosecution’s process are reinforced by national prioritization of GBV prosecutions at the top levels of government. For instance, the issuance of Practice Directions to Courts to ensure SGBV cases are concluded within a period of 6 months, the development of Child justice and SGBV strategies as well as establishment of specialized SGBV courts. In future, there is anticipation that the efforts made in creating demand for swift and accessible justice will be secured within the emerging ecosystem that the project has created.

B. Enhanced advocacy for accountability by rights holders

FINDING 9: Through the project interventions, there has been a solidified and strong collective voice of survivors shaping interventions to respond to their needs.

The centrality of survivor’s voice, perspective and agency have been elaborated in this project to an extent that duty bearers handling GBV recognized the significance of inclusion at legal and policy levels as well as design and budgeting of programmes at national and county levels. Leveraging on the technical capacities of the UN to embolden survivors’ networks and human rights defenders has been instrumental. The survivors and their networks have emerged as key integral players for future planning in GBV prevention and response. **The projects design offering technical assistance to its implementing partners has resulted in propelling key actors to engage in varied and high-level spaces which in turn has enhanced their profile and stature.** Some of these included: Grace Agenda’s memorandum submission to the Building Bridges Initiative on reparations for survivors of electoral related sexual violence⁹¹, as well as to the Human Rights Council 35th Session of the Universal Periodic Review; the Survivors networks Memoranda submission to the Nairobi Metropolitan Services Annual Development Plan 2021-2022 with budgetary request for safe shelter and provision of comprehensive health care and psychosocial support for survivors; the CSO and Survivors network shadow report submitted to the United Nations Committee Against Torture (shadow report for 71st Session.

Through this project, survivors’ platforms and engagement enhanced their confidence and were able to overcome fear, shame and stigma. The sensitization of survivors on laws that provide protection against violence, that gender violence is a human rights violation and ways to link to psychosocial support systems has strengthened them. In all focus group discussions, the message of how the project has empowered survivors resonated across the four counties. As one respondent stated, “*Today, I cannot believe that I am standing here, tall and talking confidently. I was so broken, with no confidence, my family was distraught. I felt shunned, ashamed and got into depression. After the training, I realized I had agency and power to change the environment and spaces that breed violence. I became empowered and currently supporting programmes to end violence.*”

⁹¹ Memorandum by Survivors of Electoral Related Sexual Violence in Kenya as represented by the Grace Agenda; Justice, Accountability and Reparation for Victims of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in Kenya. Grace Agenda and other CSO’s under Kenya Transitional Justice Network (KTJN) have tirelessly been pursuing reparations for 2007/08 PEV victims of sexual violence; including for children born of rape.

Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) played a key role in the capacity strengthening for CSO's and HRDs. The enhancement of legal literacy related to GBV through unpacking the Sexual Offences Act 2006 was highly commended. Most notable was the **PHR Curriculum designed as a card holder** that can be easily transported and a practical training guide. The simple **storage of forensic evidence** was also greatly appreciated as most survivors and their families refrain from acting when there is no evidence. The use of available materials such as the "*khaki* envelope" that is easily accessible and less costly.

FINDING 10: The project has enhanced support to GBV survivors in accessing quality justice services.

The project interventions have **enhanced capacity to support GBV survivors to access quality justice services**. The projects support to survivors' networks and human rights defenders have resulted to increased support for survivors who are escorted to police stations, health centers as well as to court. For instance, Nyando Social Justice Centre has offered support to survivors in seeking psychosocial support as well as reporting to the police. Human rights defenders also attend courts to watch brief on GBV cases as witnessed in Kibera Feminists for Peace Rights and Justice whilst most Social Justice Centers confirmed they offer support and referrals for specialized psychosocial support therapy. Human rights defenders and survivors' networks have actively contributed to raising awareness at the community level. They have also undertaken the task of monitoring reported violations, especially concerning children, through spot networks. This approach aids in swiftly addressing and responding to instances of reported violations within the communities. Whilst other similar projects are being implemented, the capacity investment has contributed to strengthening their watchdog role at the community levels.

C. Women and Girls influence and benefit from prevention of VAWE and access to justice and essential services.

FINDING 11: Women's capacities to influence and participate in VAWE early warning and preparedness platforms have been enhanced resulting to some reduction of electoral related violence.

The project has **contributed to women and girls' capacities to influence and benefit from prevention of VAWE and access to justice**. Women took a central role in the preparedness and response for the 2022 general election, significantly impacting the prevention of violence against women in elections (VAWE) and improving access to justice before, during and after the elections.⁹² Their (women's) ⁹³participation and influence in VAWE early warning planning and coordination mechanisms, and engagement with justice actors' multisectoral platforms⁹⁴ increased from 29% in 2019 to 44%⁹⁵ in 2022. This indicates a notable rise in women's involvement and influence in shaping these

⁹² UN Women report phase 3

⁹³ Women peace actors, Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) and Survivors' Network supported and engaging in this project

⁹⁴ 5 County Peace committees, GBV/Gender Sector Working groups and County Court User Committees - CUCs have no permanent membership which varies depending on the agenda/subject of discussion. It was therefore difficult to track the actual women's representation.

⁹⁵ Nairobi – 71%, Kisumu – 43%, Bungoma – 21%, Vihiga – 39%

critical processes. This was against the set indicator target of a 35% average representation of women in all the county VAWE coordination and multi-sectoral platforms.

Women were active participants and influencers in these coordination mechanisms and platforms by engaging in intelligence and information gathering. They played a crucial role in disseminating early warning information to relevant authorities, actively participating in mapping hotspots, engaging in scenario building/simulation exercises, documenting crucial data and effectively engaging with duty bearers to advocate for the implementation of the national policy on the prevention and response to GBV and the review and localization of Electoral Security Arrangement Plan (ESAP) into county electoral contingency plans. This multifaceted involvement allowed them to contribute significantly to the process and outcome. This was the first time in Kenya's electoral history that the prevention and response of VAWE was prioritized in ESAP.⁹⁶

UN Women and OHCHR supported the NPS to convene state and non-state actors (43 participants: 23 female and 20 male) at the national stakeholders' retreat on elections preparedness and county meetings of GTWG and CUCs, focusing on prevention and response to VAWE and Human Rights Violations. This culminated in the review of the ESAP 2022 to include VAWE and other human rights violations as priority areas⁹⁷

In so far as the projects intention of securing a safe election free from sexual violence, the increased engagement of stakeholders, particularly women, has been emphasized as a crucial element in the successful prevention and response to VAWE, evident in the notably peaceful 2022 general elections. This success has been observed and confirmed through electoral monitoring, notably KNCHR which noted a substantial decrease in human rights violations including instances of sexual and gender-based violence as compared to the previous elections⁹⁸. The number of reported VAWE cases decreased significantly, from 201 cases of sexual violence reported in 2017⁹⁹ to 3 cases of sexual violence reported during the 2022 General Elections. HAK through the 1195 helpline further received a total of 34 cases of electoral related violence, 19 of them being VAWE¹⁰⁰. However, the Helpline did not record any cases of sexual violence related to the elections. It is crucial to note that FIDA EGBV report for the 2022 general elections paints a different picture with a higher number of cases reported across the 47 counties. According to the report, Nairobi recorded a total of 92 cases, Kisumu – 75, while Bungoma and Vihiga had 29 and 60 EGBV cases.

Whilst some explain that the discrepancy in data collected by FIDA was because it was outside the officially recognized election period, it is also because other forms of violence were also included such as verbal abuse, hate speech and cyberbullying which was not monitored by other institutions. Other respondents spoke to the need of assuring all forms of violence are captured for comprehensive data that informs the prevention and response. They emphasized the importance of capturing the involvement of both men and women in aiding and abetting election violence, particularly during the pre- and post-election period. This includes documenting their roles in recruiting young girls for political caravans and engaging young men in the intimidating aspirants especially targeting women aspirants

⁹⁶ UN Women report Phase 3

⁹⁷ Page 18, UN Women Report Phase 2

⁹⁸ 7 cases of loss of life in 2022, a 93% decrease as compared to the 99 cases of death recorded during the 2017 election.

⁹⁹ https://www.knchr.org/Portals/0/KNCHR_Silhouettes_of_Brutality.pdf at page 31

¹⁰⁰ Out of the 19 cases- 9 were physical harm, 10 were threats to physical harm/violence.

The integration of sexual and gender-based violence prevention in security sector preparedness was key for the 2022 election. The work of the project supported HRDs who linked up Peace committees at the “*Nyumba kumi*” level was powerful in generating “real time” information on risks and potential hotspots. Their close collaboration with the County Commissioners for these Counties powerfully averted potential violence at each County. Rural Women Peace link training was extremely powerful according to respondents. The training targeting rural women incorporated peace, security and development alongside promoting gender equality.

In Bungoma, the HRDs were able to advocate in the public participation forum to have peace and security integrated in the CIDP as well as developing the Bungoma Action Plan and Peace and Security Plan (part of the localizing Resolution 1325 National Action Plan).

Radio program promoting peace “*Amani/ Milele/Milele/ Amani*” contributed to increased awareness and sensitization of communities to understand the importance of peace as well as how to identify different types of violence – hate speech, intimidation via social media, hire of youth gangs to terrorize women vying for leadership positions. These programs also targeted the youth who are often used to spur violence. The project innovatively engaged with *boda boda* riders to combat violence against women in elections, they were empowered as champions, equipped with effective communication strategies to counter “political incitement”. They conveyed a powerful message, reminding people that regardless of election outcomes, they would continue to co-exist as neighbors and community members. In Bungoma a survivor set up training platforms with key messages and posters for peace and restraint.

The project activities played a significant role in improving police conduct, evident through several key initiatives. These included comprehensive training programmes geared towards enhancing police preparedness, specifically targeting commanders and other senior officers. Additionally, stakeholder engagements involving state and non-state actors were instrumental in fostering improved relationships and measures that aimed to build trust between the communities and the police force.¹⁰¹

In each of the 4 Counties, three structures or mechanisms¹⁰² (totaling to 12 structures) dedicated to early warning systems for elections and gender-based violence were strengthened. These enhancements involved integrating prevention and response measures for VAWE within their agendas and day to day operations. This is above the set target of 8 coordination structures (2 per county). The coordination structures remain functional with quarterly meetings post-election. The Vihiga CUC received national recognition as one of the top performing CUCs in Kenya during the launch of the Administration of Justice in Kenya Report. Simultaneously, at the national level, the police reforms working group was strengthened to hold regular convenings and improved sharing of information with pertinent stakeholders.

This Evaluation confirmed the Counties recognition and appreciation of the project’s assistance to the current coordination structures in scaling their interventions. They (Counties) emphasized the importance of sustaining their momentum by fostering ongoing engagement. Particularly support on developing contingency plans, information sharing platforms on hotspots, community dialogues which eased barriers and built trust across actors.

The creation of pertinent information, educational resources and communication materials played a vital role in establishing recognized and secure pathways for reporting risks. This tool was particularly impactful as it provided comprehensive details about relevant actors, their contacts and operational

¹⁰¹ <https://africa.unwomen.org/en/stories/news/2022/01/un-and-kenya-police-host-forum-towards-peaceful-2022-elections>

¹⁰² GBV/Gender Technical working group, Court Users Committees and County Peace committees

hours. During election periods, uncertainty about where to ask for help or report incidents can heighten anxiety and discomfort according to the respondents, particularly the police. Having clear and accessible information alleviated these concerns by offering reliable pathways for assistance as illustrated in the table below.

Table 9: Pathways for reporting risks

<h2 style="text-align: center;">CONTACTS OF KEY SERVICE PROVIDERS</h2> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Everyone's human rights ought to be protected and respected during the 2022 electoral period.</i></p>	
<p>To Seek Assistance Where In Need, Report Crime Or Complaint Of Crime, Contact:</p> <p>National Crime Service</p> <p>Police Helpline: 999 112/ 911 To report crimes, threat of violence or any form of violence, call Toll Free Line: 0800 720 959</p> <p>IPOA Department of Public Order and Safety</p> <p>Police Helpline: 999 112/ 911 To report crimes, threat of violence or any form of violence, call Toll Free Line: 0800 720 959</p> <p>To Report Police Misconduct, Serious Injuries And Death Caused By Police Officers For Investigations, Contact:</p> <p>Telephone: 020 490 6000 / 0743 242 729 / 0115 284 407/0115251 4761515 296 436 Toll Free Line: 1599 Nairobi: 0799 933 991 / nombasa@ipoa.go.ke Kisumu: 0799 842 244 / ksumu@ipoa.go.ke Nyeri: 020 206 6664 / nyeri@ipoa.go.ke Lushoto: 020 440 3348 / lusho@ipoa.go.ke Nakuru: 020 440 33 49 / nakuru@ipoa.go.ke</p> <p>To Report Police Inaction On Criminal Acts, Unlawful Police Confinement And Human Rights Violations, Contact:</p> <p>Office Helpline: 0199 712 220 Toll Free Line: 0800 721 230 SMS: 48838 USSD Code: *838*</p> <p>To Report Or Complaint Of Human Rights Abuses Committed By Anyone, Contact:</p> <p>Toll Free Line: 0800 720 627 WhatsApp Number: 0799 849 971 SMS: 23339 Email: info@haki.or.ke</p> <p>To Complaint Of Gender Inequality And Acts Of Violence Against Women And Persons With Disabilities That Are Not Covered For Investigation, Contact:</p> <p>Telephone: 070 713 100 Toll Free Line: 0800 721 937 Twitter: @NGECKenya www.ngec.or.ke (Operational Times: 8.00am - 5.00pm)</p> <p>For Response To Gender-based Violence, Inevitable 24-hour Confidential Helpline Covering All and Gender Inequality, Contact:</p> <p>Telephone: 070 713 100 NKK Helpline Toll Free: 1198 Kenya Helpline: 0700 713 100</p> <p>GVRC GENITAL VIOLENCE RECOVERY CENTRE Nairobi Women's Hospital</p> <p>Provision of free medical treatment and psychosocial support to survivors of GBV and police stations NKK Helpline Toll Free: 1198 Kenya Helpline: 0700 713 100</p> <p>Satellite offices in Kilengiti, Ongata Rongai, Nairobi, Nyari, Nakuru, Eldoret, Nakivubo and Mombasa. Calls directed to officers in satellite offices through 0709 667 000</p> <p>Location: Old Kenyatta National Hospital between Orthopaedic and Dental Clinics Tel: 020-2728300 Ext. 43136, 44103 Cell: 0712 829580 / 011, 0713 430490</p> <p>Kenya Red Cross</p> <p>Coordination to access health services, counselling and legal aid with respect to sexual violence Telephone: 072 790 880 / 0774 786 659 Nairobi: 070 7670761 Lushoto: 071 8670962 Nairobi: 07 2694980</p> <p>Barings: 0725904274 Egropo Roadhouse: 0726211115 Samburu: 0727496153 Mau Mau: 072620862 Mombasa: 072620862</p> <p>Free counselling and legal aid service Toll Free Line: 0800 720 853 (Operational Times: 8.00am - 5.00pm)</p>	<p>Nakuru: 0704 784 374 Email: info@haki.or.ke (Operational Times: 8.00am - 5.00pm)</p> <p>Toll Free Line: 0800 720 186 Telephone number for legal services: 0719 437 286 Telephone number for free counselling and psychosocial support: 0768 487 772 (Operational Times: 8.00am - 5.00pm)</p> <p>Helpline 116 (24 hours) WhatsApp: 0945 072 126 116 (Operational time: 7.00am-6.00pm) http://www.haki.or.ke</p> <p>Toll Free Line: 0800 221 100 RD</p> <p>To Receive Legal Aid For Human Rights Violations And Abuses, Contact:</p> <p>To report cases and receive legal assistance and psychosocial support arising from human rights violations Email: info@haki.or.ke Toll Free Number: 0800 721 401 Twitter: @HAKI_KE (Contacts are 24 hour and for countrywide response)</p> <p>To report cases and receive legal assistance for human rights violations Email: info@haki.or.ke Telephone: 0799 800 788 331 471 Twitter: @HakiAfrica www.haki.or.ke</p> <p>To Report Incidents On Threats And Harassment Of Journalists And Interference With Media Freedom, Contact:</p> <p>Telephone: 0727 735253, 0702 558233, 0702 558234, 0702 558483 Email: info@mediasoc.or.ke www.complaints@mediasoc.or.ke/make-a-complaint/complaints-procedure Twitter: @MediaCouncilKE</p> <p>To Report Incidents Of Hate Speech And Incitement, Contact:</p> <p>Telephone: 0727 735253, 0702 558233, 0702 558234, 0702 558483 Email: info@haki.or.ke Twitter: @HAKI_KE</p> <p>To Report Conflict Early Warning Incidents, Contact:</p> <p>Telephone: +254 20 343462 / +254 20 343468 Email: info@peacego.or.ke Twitter: @PeaceGoKE www.peacego.or.ke</p> <p>For General Emergency Response Assistance, Contact:</p> <p>Toll Free Helpline: 1599 Tel: 0702 637 209 Email: info@kenyaredcross.or.ke Twitter: @kenyaredcross</p> <p>Nairobi: Tel: +254 722 462 407 Machakos: Tel: +254 720 707 053 Kajiado: Tel: +254 720 781 476 Nakuru: Tel: +254 720 708 092 Kiambu: Tel: +254 720 720 321 Moi: Tel: +254 720 620 058 Havili: Tel: +254 720 620 053 Mombasa: Tel: +254 721 949 086 Mau Mau: Tel: +254 727 868 091 Isiolo: Tel: +254 720 320 743 Samburu: Tel: +254 720 483 448 Bungoma: Tel: +254 703 353 847 Nandi: Tel: +254 722 227 151 Turkana: Tel: +254 720 248 628 West Pokot: Tel: +254 720 742 024</p> <p>Uasin Gishu: Tel: +254 713 137 208 Egropo Roadhouse: Tel: +254 720 620 053 Trans Nzoia: Tel: +254 720 520 639 Kakamega: Tel: +254 710 927 237 Kisumu: Tel: 072 574 420 Nairobi: Tel: +254 710 949 149 Vihiga: Tel: +254 740 762 638 Higati: Tel: +254 720 660 038 Kaji: Tel: +254 725 718 411 Siaya: Tel: +254 720 462 288 Bondo: Tel: +254 714 999 932 Bomet: Tel: +254 727 729 994 Nyandarua: Tel: +254 727 221 342 Kericho: Tel: +254 720 373 877 Baringo: Tel: +254 708 987 553</p>

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FINDING 12: This project has contributed towards strengthening the capacity of the justice system towards effective reporting, monitoring and response.

The investments towards strengthening justice institutions towards delivery of quality justice and essential services, has generated a variety of survivor centered responsive interventions. The project has enhanced the capacity of justice institutions (supply) and CSO and human rights defenders (demand creation) to support survivors to access quality and timely services. The human rights defenders and survivors received training on how to assist other survivors report GBV cases and how to access medical and legal services including the chain of custody. They were also familiarized with the POLICARE policy and the Sexual Offenders registry. A series of investments were made towards the justice actors including training, mentorship and coaching to familiarize them with the Criminal Justice Manual. For instance, there has been training of justice actors drawn from the judiciary, police prosecutors, probation officers, lawyers, medical officers on legal frameworks, collection and documentation of forensic evidence of sexual violence and integration of survivor centered approaches in investigations, prosecutions and adjudication of GBV cases. The post-training assessment administered following one of these trainings indicated an average of 78% improvement in knowledge on the various topics covered¹⁰³. This has been corroborated through the evaluation by respondents and including one from

¹⁰³ UN Women Annual Report

IPOA who noted that following the training, the investigations they undertook were more thorough and the evidence documentation was strengthened. The technical assessment to the office of the ODPP has also helped in designing the SGBV units in the counties. Through the support to the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ) on survivor centered approaches has contributed to increasing judicial officers' skills in integrating human rights standards and gender responsiveness in adjudicating matters. They have also supported the creation of the national SGBV Court Users Committee as well as the establishment of the specialized SGBV courts.

The project has also supported The Court Users committees by enhancing their capacities to identify and address the vulnerabilities or shortcomings within the chain of custody. These efforts have led to increased comprehension across the chain and fostered a shared responsibility to serve survivors effectively. Interactions have resulted to increased understanding across the chain as well as collective responsibility to serve the survivors.

Positive observations regarding the project's interventions supporting CUC convenings and training are reflected in various human-interest stories documented within this project. For instance, a principal magistrate highlighted, *"We have made several resolutions, for example, seeing that the medical superintendent is part of the CUC, every time we have a survivor that needs medical attention, a letter from a chief is sufficient for them to access free medical services. The police also provide free transport to hospital and court."*¹⁰⁴ Regarding the training offered, she praised them, affirming that the sessions were transformative as they brought stakeholders together, marking a significant shift. *"The trainings offered were a game changer because all stakeholders were brought together, including police. This was key, because no one was being left behind, and we got to share experiences on how to handle matters that come to us, and more important to find solutions to our daily challenges"*.

She further shared that, *"We hold Court Users Committee (CUC) meetings every quarter, where we take note of challenges, and how to collaboratively address them."*¹⁰⁵ She emphasized that owing to the CUCs and the integration of technology, GBV cases are now fast tracked, concluding within two to three months, a stark improvement from the previous duration of over two years.

FINDING 13: There has been increased access to justice and essential services to survivors of GBV.

In terms of increasing access to justice, data from the police indicate that in 2019/2020 reported sexual offence cases were 8076 and in 2020/2021 were 9361¹⁰⁶. The project contributed to an increase in justice as captured in the Status of the Judiciary and Administration of Justice Report (SOJAR) which indicates an increase in access to justice for GBV survivors with the clearance rate for sexual offenses rising by 58% in 2021 to 98% in 2022. The training of judicial officers has resulted in the enhancement of management and handling of GBV cases in relation to length of time taken per case, the steps taken to protect the survivor and witnesses especially women and children. In Winam court, Kisumu County the adoption of outreach to communities through open days and service weeks has resulted in increased and faster processing of GBV cases. The court also has a voice distortion box to enhance protection of survivors and witnesses. A respondent confirmed that there has been increased confidence in the justice system following outreaches and other project supported interventions for the Court users' committees.

¹⁰⁴ <https://africa.unwomen.org/en/stories/news/2022/01/un-and-kenya-police-host-forum-towards-peaceful-2022-elections>

¹⁰⁵ Ibid

¹⁰⁶ SOJAR 2020/21 report. Page 161

In addition, the judges and magistrates are dedicated to completing their cases within 3 months. The Winam and Vihiga courts have designated specific days for children matters.

The project has made positive inroads in increasing access to justice and uptake of essential services by survivors of GBV (CSO and HRDs). The project target to reach 1200 GBV survivors was surpassed reaching 2689 survivors. The support provided to the Human rights defenders and members of Survivors' Networks in accompanying and aiding survivors was instrumental in facilitating their access to justice and essential services.

Through the national GBV helpline HAK 1195, 5,689 women and girls who reported GBV cases received the referral and tele-counselling services¹⁰⁷This number represents a 77.7% increase in the number of GBV cases reported through the hotline compared to 3,201 in 2021. The project supported ¹⁰⁸6892 (2,283 females and 406 males) GBV survivors to access timely essential services¹⁰⁹ and commodities in the 4 project counties.¹¹⁰ The referrals through HRDs 3850 (3162 females and 688 males)¹¹¹.

The justice systems have enhanced their capacity to deliver justice services to survivors of GBV through new survivor centered practices to protect the survivors. For instance, respondents confirmed that after the Vihiga CUC meetings convened within the project, decisions were made to allocate a designated a space for young survivors while they await to testify as well as enhanced psychosocial support throughout the testimony process. The court has also assured specific days of the week when their matters are heard. Although the project may not claim complete credit for the increased responsiveness due to additional complimentary initiatives like judicial reforms and other partner projects, it was identified as a contributing factor.

Through interviews and observations at Winam (following training of the court administration and members of the CuC, the court's management of defilement case, judicial officers have put in place practices to fast-track cases. In the case in question, arrangements were made for the complainant to testify on the same day the accused takes plea. The court has also put measures to prioritize health personnel testimony. As the matter had no defense counsel the court provided the accused sufficient time as per his requested to prepare for the defense. The voice distortion and secure witness box have provided further protection to complainants. The case in question had taken under a month to conclude. The court emphasized the importance of quickly dispensing with GBV cases to avoid traumatization of survivors and ensure justice is secured.

The evaluation, through focus group discussions, key informant interviews as well as the survey¹¹² revealed satisfaction in the programmes interventions by improving GBV's survivors' access to services. The figure below illustrates the survey findings on this aspect.

¹⁰⁷ These are general GBV cases including VAWE

¹⁰⁸ 2,114 accessed services from HAK, and 575 accessed essential commodities from the Wangu Kanja Foundation and GVRC

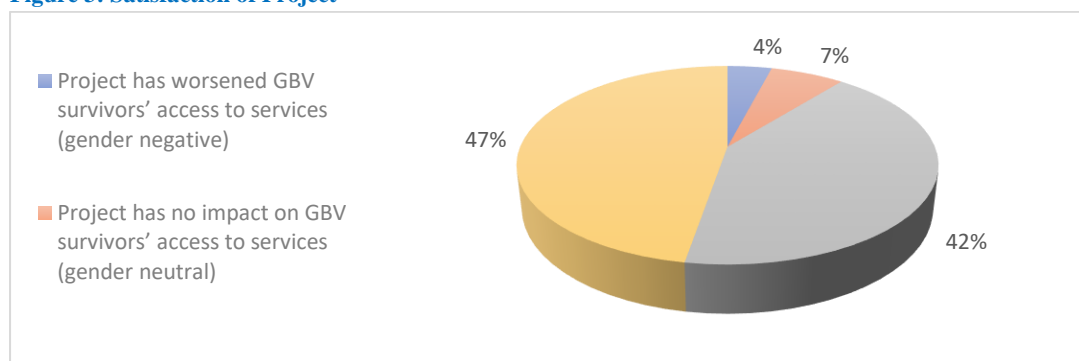
¹⁰⁹ Tele-counselling and referrals to other services such as medical care, psychosocial support, legal aid, court, shelters, and economic assistance

¹¹⁰ UN Women Report

¹¹¹ Annex GBV access to services via referrals

¹¹² A total of 88 respondents drawn from survivors' networks and human rights defenders

Figure 3: Satisfaction of Project



The project has also contributed to increasing knowledge of referral pathways for survivors. The focus group discussions and key informant interviews confirmed that the project was relevant, generating positive results and all confirmed that it needs to continue to sustain the momentum of change in GBV prevention and response.

The SOJAR report indicates the average time taken to dispose of criminal cases (including GBV cases) in magistrate's courts was 194 days (6.5 months) with a Case Clearance Rate (CCR) of 82%, a decline from a CCR of 84% in 2019/20.³⁴ This was attributed to the inadequate number of magistrates and the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The baseline study conducted by UN Women in 2020/21¹¹³ revealed it took one to two years to resolve GBV cases. The study highlights some of the challenges being lack of adequate training for the police on GBV, poor evidence collection, and community interference among other factors. The above figures are below the 2021 project target of reducing the average time taken to complete police investigations in reported cases of GBV to 2 months. However, there is a notable improvement in the capacities and attitudes of judicial officers to deliver gender-responsive and survivor centered justice services as seen in the jurisprudence emerging from the courts, indicating progress in the adoption of international human rights principles and standards in the adjudication of GBV cases.¹¹⁴

3.3 Efficiency¹¹⁵

A measure of how economically resources/inputs (funds, expertise, time) were converted to results. Extent to which local capacities were utilized.

- Was the project's organizational structure, managerial support and coordination mechanisms effectively supporting the delivery of the project? What are the key successes and recommendations for improvement?
- Did the project build synergies with different other ongoing projects at national and state levels including those implemented with other actors (e.g., National and County Governments, CSOs) etc.?
- How did the project utilize existing local capacities of right-bearers and duty-holders to achieve its outcomes?
- To what extent are the project's monitoring mechanisms in place effective for measuring and informing management of project performance and progress towards targets? To what extent was the monitoring data objectively used for management action and decision-making?
- Did the project's organizational structure, managerial support and coordination mechanisms effectively support the delivery of the project.

¹¹³ This Baseline was conducted in 4 different counties of Turkana, Kwale, Marsabit and Kitui (not the current project counties)

¹¹⁴ UN Women report Phase 2

¹¹⁵ Initially omitted in the first inception report design as noted in the Evaluation section.

FINDING 14: The partner selection enhanced the programmes potential for success.

The selection of partners for the project was found to be well structured and comprehensive. By employing a three-fold approach a strategic and diverse range of partners were identified enhancing the programmes potential for success at the national and county levels. The selection process was as follows:

- a) *Prior Experience and Expertise*: Partners selected based on their previous collaboration with agencies and their expertise in thematic areas. Partners with a track record of success in similar initiatives can bring valuable experience and specialized knowledge to the project, likely to enhance its effectiveness.
- b) *Co-Creation Involvement*: Partners who were part of the initial co-creation of the project such as Wangu Kanja Foundation, IAWJ, PHR ensures a sense of ownership and alignment with the programmes from its inception. Their involvement also means a deeper commitment and understanding of the projects goal, thereby fostering smoother collaboration.
- c) *UN Women Call for Proposals*: This selection enables additional partners to enlist and reflects inclusivity and openness in the selection process. It allows for the inclusion of a range of organizations and perspectives that respond to the specific needs outlined in the call.

By combining these three approaches, the project benefited from a well-rounded and specialized pool of partners who not only brought expertise but also had a stake in the project’s success from different perspectives. This multi-pronged strategy in partner selection has made great contributions great in efficiently realizing the planned results at both national and county levels. The list below illustrates the partners, their roles and responsibilities.

Table 10: Project Partners and Responsibilities

PARTNER	ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
State Department for Gender (SDfG), under the Ministry of Public Service, Gender, Senior Citizens Affairs and Special Programs.	<p>The SDfG played a key gender-coordination role which informed the success of the project, ensuring that it was aligned with government priorities.</p> <p>The lessons learnt from this project were also shared and amplified in various coordination structures at the national level e.g., the GBV Gender Sector Working Group that is convened by the SDfG.</p>
National Police Service (NPS)	<p>The partnership with NPS enhanced the capacity of duty bearers through training and mentorship using the Criminal Justice manual.</p> <p>The NPS participated in various GBV coordination mechanisms both at the National and County levels.</p>
Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP)	<p>Through partnering with the ODPP, the capacity of specific prosecutors was enhanced through training and mentorship to prosecute serious human rights violations, and an assessment of the needs of the Office to prosecute GBV cases committed by Police officers was undertaken.</p> <p>ODPP also played a critical role in cross-sectoral coordination through their participation in Court Users Committees.</p>

Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA)	Partnership with IPOA was important as it facilitated the achievement of the results related to capacity enhancement of duty bearers through training of senior investigators on the investigation of serious human rights violations committed by Police officers, towards enhancing accountability from the state for violations.
Internal Affairs Unit (IAU)	The partnership resulted in the training of senior investigators on the investigation of serious human rights violations committed by Police officers, towards enhancing accountability from the state for such violations. The IAU also participated in coordination structures at the national and county level, towards ensuring prevention and access to quality services for survivors.
Physicians for Human Rights (PHR)	The partnership was critical in achieving the results of all the 3 project outputs. PHR trained duty bearers in the counties on VAWE prevention and response focusing on management of forensic medical evidence, supported survivors through their networks and peers to access essential services and justice, convened survivors to participate in critical policy discussion and advocacy initiatives, demanded accountability from the state for previous violations; and convened county gender technical working groups and Court User Committees for enhanced cross-sectoral coordination.
The International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ)-Kenya Chapter	Through its pool of Trainer of Trainers (TOTs), the IAWJ trained other duty bearers on gender-responsive access to justice, including participation in key county coordination structures towards enhancing cross-sectoral coordination for access to justice.
Grace Agenda	Grace Agenda supported other survivors to access essential services, convened survivors to participate in key policy discussions and advocacy platforms, and demanded accountability from the State for violations including payment of reparations.
Social Justice Centers (SJs)	Through these centers, human rights defenders (HRDs) were trained on peer support and referral mechanisms and subsequently supported other survivors to access essential services in the counties.
Wangu Kanja Foundation (WKF)	WKF convened survivors to participate in key policy discussions and advocacy platforms, and demand accountability from the State for violations. WKF participated in various coordination mechanisms both at the county and national levels, ensuring that issues relevant to survivors were addressed. WKF also trained members of the Survivors of Sexual Violence network on peer support and survivor centered approaches, to support other survivors in the communities to access various essential services.
Haki Africa	Haki Africa advocated for gender-responsive county budgeting processes and trained HRDs to monitor county budgeting processes for adequate resource allocation towards comprehensive GBV services for survivors.
Healthcare Assistance Kenya (HAK)	HAK provided psychosocial counseling to survivors and referred survivors to other essential service providers through its GBV Rapid Response System (1195 helpline). HAK also collected and shared GBV data with government and CSOs, that informed relevant policies and programming on GBV prevention and response.

FINDING 15: The project management and coordination has enabled efficient delivery of results.

The project management systems were efficient as evidenced by interviews, observations, questionnaire and document reviews. **The project has cultivated close ties with implementing partners across all four counties.** The frequent interactions facilitate swift resolutions and guidance on project related matters, ensuring efficient progress and support. The agencies involved demonstrated a close-knit interaction, maintaining regular updates to keep everyone informed about forthcoming matters and facilitate reporting on any issues that arise. This collective awareness of the project was notably evident when the contact person for this evaluation left the organization and the handover to other team members was seamless, showcasing the strong continuity within the team. This proactive approach in maintaining integrated communication has also enabled efficient resolution of emerging concerns through seamless reporting and action.

The project has put in place measures to uphold close engagement with its donors. This involves coordinating joint monitoring missions to the counties, convening quarterly meetings for information exchange and ensuring donor visibility. This visibility encompasses featuring donors in displayed banners, acknowledging their contributions in interventions and documenting their logos across various knowledge products.

The evaluation respondents confirmed that these efforts are consistently undertaken across various project related platforms and events, alongside documentation of comprehensive annual reports. To maximize resource utilization and ensure efficiency, the focal persons also receive assistance from additional staff within each of the partner agency, specifically in areas such as monitoring, mobilization, logistics and other administrative aspects. This approach aims to push the boundaries of resource utilization while maintaining optimal efficiency. The lessons learnt component is integrated within the programme and evaluation respondents as well as annual reports speak to reflections of field experiences which are factored in the next phases.

The partnership of UN Women and OHCHR has strategically capitalized on each partners strength ensuring that human rights and gender equality themes were deeply embedded in the programme. Both UN agencies brought unique advantages to addressing violence against women and safeguarding human rights and freedoms. As one respondent aptly put it, *“this partnership facilitated a collective approach, allowing each partner to contribute their expertise and connections, resulting in a unified strategy toward promoting the rule of law and access to justice”*¹¹⁶. This joint endeavor by these neutral entities effectively positioned UN Women and OHCHR as influential conveners, bringing together both duty bearers and rights holders to actualize the planned project activities. In addition, other similar programmes have emerged such as the Irish Aid support to UN Women, Joint Programme on Prevention and Response to GBV, as well as the Finish government support to ending GBV.

The management and joint implementation of the project enhanced the UN agencies’ convening power, establishing them as impartial while also ensuring comprehensive coverage of the project.

As such both agencies have successfully steered high level state led interventions earning recognition for their technical expertise in the various spheres for instance, the directorate of NPS reforms nominated UN Women and OHCHR into the Police Reforms Working Group; and engaged the UN

¹¹⁶ Key informant interview partner

Women and OHCHR in the process of developing and implementing the NPS National Action Plan that integrates police reforms in prevention and response to GBV.

The project approach provided a strong framework for collaboration and networks. The experiences expressed by beneficiaries throughout the project phases highlighted the good practices of the referral pathways that contributed to better understanding of defined roles, responsibility for accountability. In this context, enabling factors included demystifying and trust-building through multiple stakeholder workshops involving duty bearers, judiciary, civil society and HRDs. This was particularly appreciated during the FGD exercise. This has enhanced confidence but more needs to be done to strengthen the constraints voiced in the reporting mechanisms of GBV cases including the protection of the survivor.

The UN Women and OHCHR staff offered essential assistance for executing, monitoring and overseeing the project, which involved coordinating among implementing partners (IPs). Most challenges were effectively managed, showcasing the project's remarkable adaptability, responsiveness and transition strategies. The project also provided internal technical expertise for its partners resulting in successful data collection processes by human rights defenders in the counties, for instance documenting cases referrals. The project also prioritized documentation and evidence driven initiatives, creating human interest narratives shared across various online media platforms such as its police reforms work¹¹⁷ and its work on elections¹¹⁸

The management structure and coordination of the “Let It Not Happen Again” project was efficient in supporting the realization of the expected results. This project has recruited designated highly skilled focal persons for the project from each agency who dedicate their support to implementing partners as well as provide technical capacity for them to deliver on high level advocacy spaces such as: United Nations Human Rights Council (35th Session of the Universal Period Review, United Nations Committee Against Torture and other cruel inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (shadow report for 71st Session), Petition to the Hon Chief Justice of the Republic of Kenya titled “Justice for All, Towards Accelerating Gender Justice in Kenya.”

3.4 Early impact

Early Impact: Positive and negative, primary, and secondary long-term effects produced by the project, directly or indirectly, intended or unintended.

- To what extent can the changes (outcomes) that have occurred because of the project be identified and measured?
- Has the project affected/influenced behaviors, relationships, activities, actions, practice, or policies related to GBV and VAWE?
- Have there been unintended effects as a result of the interventions?
- To what extent were gender equality and women's empowerment advanced as a result of this project interventions?

¹¹⁷ <https://africa.unwomen.org/en/stories/news/2022/01/un-and-kenya-police-host-forum-towards-peaceful-2022-elections>

¹¹⁸ <https://africa.unwomen.org/en/stories/feature-story/2022/12/kenyas-strides-towards-eradicating-violence-against-women-and-girls-in-election>

FINDING 16: The incorporation of new knowledge, skills and practices amongst duty bearers to assist survivors of GBV has resulted in lasting and meaningful impact.

This project's impact in **setting judicial precedent that establishes accountability standards for police practices, specifically in elections marks a ground-breaking achievement.** This has far-reaching scope and has significant implications for shaping future practice. The work of OHCHR with the Independent Policing Oversight Agency (IPOA) and other justice actors¹¹⁹ in investigation and prosecution of serious human rights violations has resulted to this precedent setting case. This is the first crimes against humanity case, High Court E074 of 2022, Republic vs. Titus Yoma and 12 Others filed in the Kenyan National courts emerging from Post-Election Violence filed by the ODPP against 11 senior police officers. The officers are charged for rape, torture and murder including of a six-month-old baby, Samantha Pendo. The filing of this case is a remarkable step toward justice for victims in Kenya. This case marks the first crimes against humanity case to be brought in the Kenyan national courts. It is also the first such case alleging post-election violence under a theory of command responsibility, a form of legal responsibility charged under the 2008 Kenyan International Crimes Act whereby superior officers can be held accountable for the atrocity crimes committed by those who serve under them.¹²⁰ This process is crucial for several reasons:

- a. Successful prosecutions can potentially restore trust in the legal system for survivors by sending a message that justice is possible and encouraging survivors to report knowing that action can be taken.
- b. Prosecutions can serve as deterrent, signaling to law enforcement and any other authority figures that such acts will not be tolerated.
- c. It establishes accountability which can potentially lead to reforms within the law enforcement and justice systems.
- d. Although the legal process can be emotionally taxing and traumatic, seeing perpetrators held accountable can offer a sense of closure and validation for survivors. It can also contribute positively to their healing process.
- e. It presents an opportunity to embolden survivors to seek support and demand for accountability. It also fosters a safer environment for survivors of violence in the future.

The early impact of the project is evident in the establishment of institutionalized and specialized justice mechanisms for survivors of violence. Most importantly, it has resulted in the production of the Criminal Justice Manual on Gender Based Violence with specific reference to violence against women and girls during elections. Furthermore, the establishment of twelve (12) specialized courts dedicated to GBV¹²¹ stands as a significant achievement stemming from these efforts. The project has seen additional early impacts, including the development of the First Convicted Sexual Offenders Electronic Register launched by the Chief Justice as a vital tool in combating GBV by providing accurate data and

¹¹⁹ The justice actors also include ODPP, NPS who have received training and case mentorship from UN Women and OHCHR through its Partner in Justice International (PJI), on how to investigate and prosecute sexual violence as a human rights violation and international crimes

¹²⁰ Partners in Justice report: Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Kenya, and UN Women Final Report by Partners in Justice International Partnering for Justice in Kenya – Mentoring National Justice Actors in Investigation and Prosecution of CRSV and Other Grave Crimes May 2022 to 30 June 2023

¹²¹ 12 GBV Courts in Shanzu, Kibera, Makadara, Meru, Nakuru, Kiambu, Machakos Kisii, Kitale, Kakamega, Kisumu and Siaya

enabling offender monitoring. It also contributes to safety and security of communities¹²² whilst aiding law enforcement and judicial processes.¹²³

The project played a crucial role in the establishment of the inaugural Elections Security Management arrangements incorporating strategies to address sexual and gender-based violence, consequently resulting in a notable reduction in reported cases of violence¹²⁴. These efforts included the development and implementation of contingency plans addressing specific risks of GBV during elections such as ethnic or communal tensions, hate speech and intense political rallies in case any form of violence erupts. The focus on a collaborative, inclusive and participatory approach enabled women to actively engage in various peacebuilding and conflict mitigation processes.¹²⁵ This involvement played a crucial role in sustaining peace and ensuring meaningful elections. For the first time in Kenya's electoral history, the review and localization of the Electoral Security Arrangement Plan (ESAP) into county electoral contingency plans resulted to the prevention and response of VAWE being prioritized in ESAP 2022¹²⁶

The early impact of the project is also visible in **the successful integration of fresh knowledge, enhanced skills and improved practices among duty bearers**. These advancements aimed to respond more effectively to survivors of GBV. As noted elsewhere in this report, this evaluation established that justice systems have enhanced their capacity to deliver justice services to survivors of GBV. In Vihiga, after the Vihiga CUC meetings convened within the project decisions were made to allocate a designated space for young survivors while they await to testify as well as enhanced psychosocial support throughout the testimony process. Positive observations regarding the project's interventions supporting CUC convenings and training are reflected in various human-interest stories documented within this project. For instance, a principal magistrate highlighted, *"We have made several resolutions, for example, seeing that the medical superintendent is part of the CUC, every time we have a survivor that needs medical attention, a letter from a chief is sufficient for them to access free medical services. The police also provide free transport to hospital and court."*¹²⁷ With respect to the training offered through this project, she praised them, affirming that the sessions were transformative as they brought stakeholders together, marking a significant shift. *"The trainings offered were a game changer because all stakeholders were brought together, including police. This was key, because no one was being left behind, and we got to share experiences on how to handle matters that come to us, and more important to find solutions to our daily challenges,"*¹²⁸ She emphasized that owing to the CUCs and the integration of technology, GBV cases are now fast tracked, concluding within two to three months, a stark improvement from the previous duration of over two years.

¹²² It can help adoption of proactive measures such as community policing and Nyumba kumi notification programmes to provide alerts about the presence of convicted offenders, thereby empowering communities

¹²³ It will assist by providing accurate historical data on offender which can aid in sentencing and ensuring informed decision during the legal proceedings

¹²⁴ <https://africa.unwomen.org/en/stories/news/2022/01/un-and-kenya-police-host-forum-towards-peaceful-2022-elections>

¹²⁵ <https://africa.unwomen.org/en/stories/feature-story/2022/12/kenyas-strides-towards-eradicating-violence-against-women-and-girls-in-election>

¹²⁶ UN Women Annual Report

¹²⁷ <https://africa.unwomen.org/en/stories/news/2022/01/un-and-kenya-police-host-forum-towards-peaceful-2022-elections>

¹²⁸ Ibid

Both Vihiga and Winam courts indicated that they had begun to capture the trends in case management relating to GBV and which data is reviewed during the CUC meetings. The Table 11 below is presented from Winam court.

Table 11: Sexual offences cases trends

Winam Sexual Offences records 2017 -2023							
YEAR	NO OF CASES REGISTERED			CONVICTION			
2017	39			9			
2018	63			19			
2019	70			21			
2020	105			30			
2021	81			22			
2022	70			23			
2023	26			7			

CASE TYPE	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
DEFILEMENT	30	56	64	87	64	61	21
RAPE	5	7	4	5	11	1	1
INCEST	1	0	2	7	1	2	2
SEXUAL ASSAULT	3	0	0	6	4	2	2

One of the unexpected results of this project was the scale and replicability of the approach utilized to address social norms that perpetuate VAWE and impede women’s political participation, which has garnered acclaim. This proven model is being replicated in other countries such as Zimbabwe and South Sudan. The insights and outcomes from the project have played a crucial role in shaping the UN Women global training manual on VAWE/P. Additionally, the Kenyan country office has been actively sharing these lessons and results with other country offices. Feedback from the regional office affirms the significance of peer to peer sharing in enhancing their programming efforts as elaborated below.

“UN Women Global and Regional Office Women Political Participation teams have benefitted immensely from the collaboration and technical support of UN Women Kenya Country Office team especially contributions to capacity building efforts on one of UN Women key strategic areas of focus ...addressing VAWE/P and tackling negative social norms which hinder women’s effective political participation. As part of that effort global tools have been developed including a module to train security sector actors. It is in the development and piloting of that module that we have received tremendous support from the Kenya country office through the review of the developed material and presentations on the same to other country offices. KCO has been one of the good practice countries which we have showcased the good collaboration that can happen with the security sector to prevent and mitigate VAWE/P during electoral processes. The modules are now in the final stages of review and will be launched for use. We appreciate the specific support of Christine Okeno in contributing to this result.”¹²⁹

¹²⁹ 9th November 2023 Email by Maureen Shonge, Regional Policy Specialist – Women’s Political Participation Eastern and Southern African Region (ESARO)

3.5 Interconnectedness and Sustainability

The likelihood of continuation of benefits for women from a development intervention after the project is completed, or the probability of long-term benefits.

- Were requirements of national and/or county ownership satisfied? Was the project supported by national/county institutions? Do these institutions, including Government and Civil Society, demonstrate leadership commitment and technical capacity to continue to work with the project or replicate it?
- What capacities of national and/or county partners, both technical and operational, have been strengthened?
- To what extent have the capacities of duty-bearers and rights-holders been strengthened?
- What is the likelihood that the benefits from the project will be maintained sustained long-term if the project were to cease?
- To what extent are relevant national stakeholders and actors included in project implementation and policy advocacy?
- To what extent are the financial capacities of partners likely going to maintain the benefits from the project? What might be needed to support partners to maintain these benefits?
- Which innovations have been identified (if any) and how can they be replicated? How successful was the project in promoting replication and/or up-scaling of successful practices

FINDING 17: The promising results of this project if strategically and collaboratively supported, have the potential to generate positive, enduring effects and foster long term sustainability. While the sustainability of project interventions and results cannot be fully appreciated at this stage, this evaluation finds that they are good results that could lead to positive long-term effects and sustainability if strategically and collectively supported.

The achieved results are poised for sustainability due to the ownership established. Many actors have internalized the projects lessons, integrating them into their own practices. As demonstrated elsewhere in this report, stakeholders engaged have taken responsibility and leadership on components of the project such as judiciary¹³⁰, ODPP¹³¹, human rights defenders¹³². The involvement and commitment of these stakeholders have positively influenced the sustainability of the project results.

This evaluation has demonstrated a notable surge in interest towards institutionalizing GBV interventions. There are several partners who have initiated GBV mechanisms, plans and/or policies. These can serve as replicable models poised for upscaling across various domains. For instance, the GBV policies in Counties as well as budgets that cater for survivor needs (e.g. Kisumu County and the shelter budget).

The momentum to end GBV is palpable, evidenced by the dedicated individuals – survivors and human rights defenders, who are undertaking the profound responsibility of privately assisting and sheltering other survivors at their own risks and expense, demonstrating a deep commitment to this cause as elaborated in Finding 9 of this report. The Wangu Kanja Foundation in collaboration with survivor networks nationwide operates on a voluntary basis. This ensures that survivors receive essential psychosocial support, treatment and assistance in seeking justice. Similarly, the volunteerism was

¹³⁰ Adoption of the Petition to the Chief Justice by women rights advocates supported by the project

¹³¹ Integration of survivor centered investigative skills as well as setting up of GBV units in counties

¹³² Sustained voluntary support to survivors across the referral pathway

observed in Kibera through the efforts of Feminist for Peace Rights and Justice Centre, along with several Social Justice Centers in the four counties.

FINDING 18: The projects alignment to national and county priorities enabled it to anchor its work strategically and providing room for sustainability.

The ownership and leadership by the government has contributed to the expedited results witnessed in the evaluation. Leveraging on existing strategies in combating this issue through collaborative efforts and resource pooling has resulted in positive outcomes. Furthermore, these achievements are poised to be sustained owing the Government of Kenya’s leadership on the Gender Based Violence Action Coalition of the Generation Equality Forum and the 12 commitments on GEF, ensuring a continued focus on addressing GBV. At the county level, the 2017 County Government Policy on Sexual and Gender Based Violence and model legislative framework for GBV provides room for sustained actions to advance GBV prevention and response. In addition, since one of the mandates of the county governments to establish facilities and infrastructure necessary for GBV responses, the projects goals are likely to be sustained.

FINDING 19: The resource constraints might persist as a significant challenge for the sustainability of the project’s outcomes.

Although the project received enthusiastic reception, the evaluation revealed uncertainty regarding the extent to which institutions dedicated resources for sustainability or applied knowledge to enhance internal policies and practices. While counties have invested in localizing the Gender Mainstreaming policy into their County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) and other initiatives, limited resource capacity could hinder behavior changes.

FINDING 20: Staff turnover and transfers affected the implementation and momentum of the project.

The evaluation found that most of the duty bearers who had received training and capacity enhancement through this project had been transferred. Respondents observed that staff turnover was a challenge for government institutions and sectors that have trained staff on specific subject matters. Sometimes staff who had been capacitated and trained on GBV issues were transferred and/or their positions taken over by new leadership with limited or no knowledge on GBV and gender equality and women’s empowerment. These staff transfers affected the momentum already created for the project and as such the nuances of the projects success and challenges could not be comprehensively covered. The evaluation proposes that there is sustained training of duty bearers. In addition, to strengthen this by training champions who would roll out the training within the relevant institutions.

3.6 Gender Equality and Human Rights

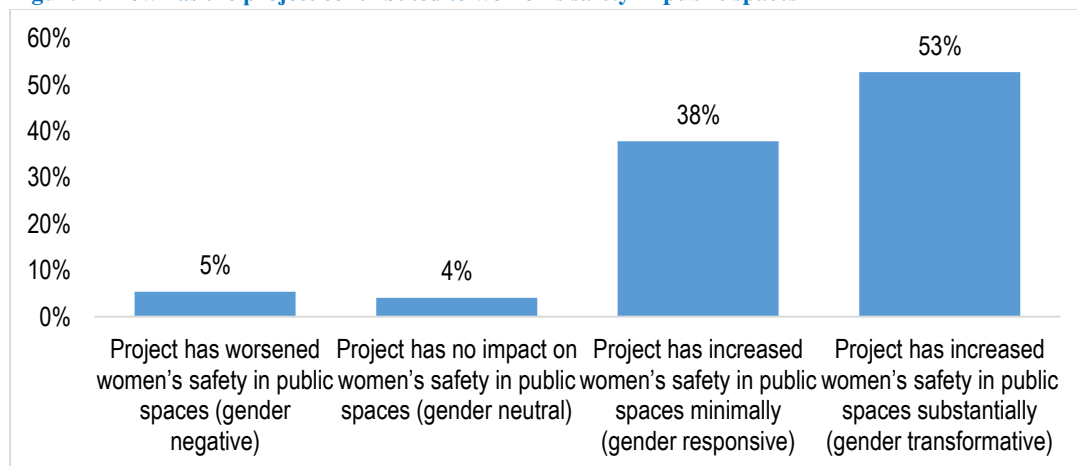
- To what extent have gender and human rights considerations been integrated into the project design and implementation?
- How has attention to/ integration of gender equality and human rights concerns advanced the area of work?
- Has the Project been implemented in accordance with human rights and development effectiveness principles (participation, empowerment, inclusion, non-discrimination, national accountability, transparency)? What was the main value added of the project in changing the quality of life of women and girls?

FINDING 21: The Foundation of the project was rooted in a gender equality and human rights perspective.

The project was anchored on a gender equality and human rights approach. This is derived by both institutions mandate for OHCHR and UN Women. The programmatic interventions were aligned with international conventions and standards related to gender equality and human rights. The basis of training anchored on the universal declaration of human rights, the civil and political rights as well as the social economic rights conventions¹³³. The training material reviewed in this evaluation and pre- and post-training results confirm that the training content was anchored on these standards. As illustrated in this evaluation report, the participation and empowerment components were embedded in the design as well as roll out of the programmes. Informed by gap analysis, the gender responsive and survivor centered capacity building approaches were undertaken across duty bearers and rights holders. This has for example, resulted to the new practices in the NPS, IPOA and ODPP offices in terms of investigations and prosecutions. The survivors’ networks and human rights defenders reported their confidence had been enhanced and the interventions enabling their participation and articulation of issues from their perspectives were empowering. The project observed and reviewed documentation that revealed that participation rates were documented in a sex disaggregated manner enabling keen attention to assure gender equal representation. Monitoring reports at the different phases of the report document the incremental shifts in norms witnessed and the achievements towards compliance to human rights and to creating an environment free from violence.

In terms of whether the project was found to be gender transformative the survey revealed that amongst the 74 respondents who were aware (84 percent) of the project, they found it contributed to women’s safety in public spaces as shown in Figure 4 below.

Figure 4: How has the project contributed to women’s safety in public spaces



Overall, the project has significantly influenced the perspectives of duty bearers through its emphasis on proactive prevention and comprehensive support. Its efforts have been around shaping the mindsets and raising the profile of GBV crimes (largely affecting women and girls) importance of enhanced prevention and holistic responses at all stages of the referral pathway to secure timely and quality justice for survivors.

¹³³ For instance, as elaborated in the performance table, women’s rights organizations were trained on how to participate effectively in implementation of recommendations from UN HR processes and prepare an implementation matrix on the Universal Periodic Review recommendations

4. Lessons learned

- a) **Prominence of Survivor’s voice in guiding intervention and informing policy makers is fundamental for creating responsive and relevant programmes to address GBV.** Their firsthand experiences and insights are invaluable in designing effective strategies that truly meet the needs and challenges faced by survivors. Collaboration can strengthen ownership – collaboration serves as a powerful catalyst, fostering a sense of shared ownership among stakeholders. This shared responsibility strengthens commitments and enhances effectiveness in attaining shared objectives and goals. The coordination mechanisms such as GTWG and CUCs at the Counties stand out as good examples for the level of commitment to advance the protection of survivors.
- b) **Accurate and relevant gender data has immense credibility and serves as a catalyst for collective action.** Targeting hotspot areas based on a precise problem analysis is a strategic approach derived from data driven insights. Anchoring the project on research, like the Gap Analysis informing this project, serves a dual purpose. Firstly, it aids in comprehending specific issues offering a deeper understanding. Secondly, it facilitates the mobilization of a diverse range of stakeholders enabling effective intervention strategies.
- c) **Interventions designed within an enabling environment contributes to legislative and policy improvement and strengthening gender-responsive of institutions.** The Projects alignment to national priorities enabled it to anchor its work strategically.
- d) **Reinforcing existing structures** provides momentum for project delivery. It also fosters deeper engagement in specific programmatic interventions, whilst reducing duplication. As a result, targeted interventions with police gender desk, GBVRCs, Gender Technical Working groups, Court Users committees, Peace committees, *Nyumba Kumi*¹³⁴ has significantly contributed to the successful delivery of the GBV interventions.
- e) **Building synergy plays a key role in value addition for UN Women and OHCHR’s implementation approach. The project approach provided a strong framework for collaboration and networks.** The Evaluation found evidence of UN Women’s contribution to convening and strengthening survivor networks and contributing to capacity building. The continuous engagement of the County GBV working groups as an approach was commended by respondents as having contributed to fostering good linkages amongst sectors addressing GBV and establishing swift- response mechanism. The experiences expressed by beneficiaries throughout the project phases highlighted the good practices of the referral pathways that contributed to better understanding of defined roles, responsibility for accountability. In this context, enabling factors included demystifying and trust-building through multiple stakeholder workshops involving duty bearers, judiciary, civil society and HRDs.
- f) **Disability Inclusion** -Disability inclusion was a core aspect of the project design aligning with the principle of “leaving no one behind” and emphasizing the integration of human rights considerations. Whilst most respondents acknowledged the need for inclusion and endeavored to do so, there was a noticeable lack of participation within the project. While there is concerted effort at project design to promote integration of marginalized and vulnerable communities, it was found that integration of persons living with disability will require more commitment at implementation level.

¹³⁴ Community policing structures at the village level

5. Conclusions and Recommendations

This section presents the main final evaluation conclusions and recommendations. The conclusions and recommendations are based on the evaluation matrix (annexed to this report) and are derived from triangulation of evidence from various sources, informed by the findings of the review, and discussions with the various stakeholders.

5.1 Conclusions

Conclusion 1: The project was appropriate and relevant to the context, needs and priorities of responding to GBV. It was aligned with and contributed to the relevant national, regional and international normative frameworks on gender equality and human rights. At the national level, the project was found to be aligned to Kenya's commitments to ending GBV and promotion and protection of human rights articulated in the Constitution of Kenya and other relevant laws. The project interventions were also found to be closely linked with the country development priorities, various proclamations including its recent lead on Generation Equality Forum thematic area of ending GBV. The governments prioritization of ending GBV is also confirmed through its various programmes such as the State Departments' Joint Programmes on ending violence against women. Drawing from the Gap analysis, the project was designed to respond to identified challenges and weaknesses around the prevention and response to GBV. As demonstrated in this report, the projects alignment, contributions and early impact are indicative of its appropriateness and relevance in responding to GBV. Based on Finding 1, 3 and 5 (Relevance and Effectiveness).

Conclusion 2: The projects' intervention logic and strategy were well suited to Kenya's context as informed by the Gap Analysis. Despite the existence of multiple results frameworks and theories of change, the primary strategic components, diverse interventions and approaches within the project logically interconnected and collectively contributed to the overall goal. The project identified key areas to intervene namely:

- Enhancing accountability for VAWE survivors of the elections in 2017 and strengthen (emergency) response and accountability mechanisms towards, prior, during and after future elections;
- Strengthening the quality and delivery of justice services by justice institutions and to enhance access to justice for GBV survivors and to develop and enrich early warning and contingency planning to prevent electoral related violence; and
- Strengthening the quality and delivery of justice services to enhance access to justice for GBV survivors.

The projects' design of a dual strategy, focusing on enhancing the capacity of duty bearers while empowering rights holders to demand accountability has fostered a stronger relationship and improved rapport between state actors and non-state actors. This approach holds the potential to create a sustainable environment that bolsters the protection of survivors of violence. Based on Finding 4, 6, 7, 8, 9,10, 11 and 12 (Effectiveness).

Conclusion 3: Each of the project phases demonstrated great levels of progress in achieving results as outlined in the Performance Achievements table. These achievements are further narrated and presented alongside the outcomes namely: improved legislative and policy environment in line with international,

regional and national standards on violence against women in elections; enhanced advocacy for accountability by rights holders and women and Girls influence and benefit from prevention of VAWE and access to justice and essential services. Some of the pioneering and notable achievements include the projects' contributions to the inaugural Elections Security Management arrangements incorporating strategies to address sexual and gender-based violence, that consequently resulting in a notable reduction in reported cases of violence.¹³⁵ The project has offered capacity enhancement training to at least 109 human rights defenders and survivors' network members and reached 7519 duty bearers as illustrated in Annex 7 on Training Data. The project has also increased access to GBV services and essential services, reach a total of 12,868 survivors, as specified in the Annex 7 on GBV services. These interventions lay the groundwork for expanding and scaling up other GBV projects by establishing a solid foundation in comprehending key concepts, reforming justice systems to prioritize survivor centered approaches and cultivating a group of dedicated and passionate survivors and human rights defenders. Based on Finding 4, 6, 7, 8, 9,10, 11 and 12 (Effectiveness).

Conclusion 4: At this stage and as a weakness, the full sustainability of the projects initiative and results is not certain. However, the promising results could potentially lead to positive long-term effects and sustainability if strategically and collaboratively supported. The project has generated numerous benefits encompassing changes in duty bearers' accountabilities to GBV programming, knowledge products of high quality, promoted the agency and voice of survivors of violence, capacity enhancement and awareness raising that could significantly contribute to sustained impact. The strategic collaboration with stakeholders in this project is a ground for long term sustainability, the evaluation witnessed the interactions with duty bearers and rights holders to be cordial. The raised awareness created on human rights and gender equality has also signaled potential for positive long-term effects. Examples include courts allocating resources for safe spaces for children, where human rights defenders actively reshaping community attitudes and behaviors, especially in how survivors of violence are treated and managed. Based on Finding 17 (Early impact).

Conclusion 5: This evaluation observes that the design of the project was strategically anchored to ongoing interventions and programmes enabling the successful delivery of results. The project has effectively delivered against UN Women's County Office mandate in line with the UN Women Global Strategic Plan particularly, Outcome 4 on violence against women and girls and Outcome 5 on promoting women and girls' involvement in peacebuilding and resilience. It is also aligned with the mandate of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) whose mission is around safeguarding all human rights for everyone, empowering individuals to actualize their rights and supporting duty bearers responsible for upholding these rights in ensuring their implementation. The project was found to be contributing to the implementation of UN programming in the country of UN agencies on gender mainstreaming. Based on Finding 15 (Efficiency).

5.2 Recommendations

The focus group discussions and key informant interviews aimed to gather respondents' insights regarding project recommendations. Overall, there was widespread agreement on the project's

¹³⁵ <https://africa.unwomen.org/en/stories/news/2022/01/un-and-kenya-police-host-forum-towards-peaceful-2022-elections>

significance and the necessity for its expansion. **The following section outlines recommendations for future programming organized based on their priority order.**

Recommendation 1: Based on Findings 5, 7: There is a need to increase investment in prevention interventions. Since GBV is driven by negative social norms and behaviors that will require norm and attitude change, this is an incremental process requiring time. The interventions should aim to challenge entrenched norms, gradually shift attitudes and create an environment that rejects GBV. These types of interventions recognize that transforming social norms is a complex and ongoing process that requires a multifaceted approach and long-term commitment. The norms change is already anchored in existing laws, policies and guidelines will have a long-term reduction in the economic costs as captured in the NGECC report on costs of GBV. Sustaining and scaling the support to the project prevention interventions will significantly contribute to these social norm changes. Incorporating a robust multimedia component would serve as a catalyst for instilling new positive norms, thereby acting as a transformative force. It is recommended that both UN Women and OHCHR maintain consistent support to the current four counties while scaling the project to additional counties with higher GBV prevalence based on available data. In addition, the State Department of Gender could lead and cascade these prevention efforts alongside CSOs.

Recommendation 2: Based on Findings 6, 8, 9, 11: There is need to create interventions that stimulate demand for GBV services as this holds the potential to show case successful high quality service delivery. These are interventions that aim to address barriers, reduce stigma and increase awareness and ensuring that survivors have access to the support they need. Thus, popularizing the existing mechanisms and services for survivor's protection such as HAK help lines, survivors' networks, human rights defender groups, court users' committees, gender technical working groups as well as generating accountability reports will enhance community trust and uptake. UN Women and OHCHR could, for instance, provide support to IAWJ on annual case study documentation of successfully prosecuted cases, sensitization of informal justice systems anchored on the constitution, annual convening of survivor's networks and sharing stories of how engagement with the project has contributed to their healing and confidence. It is recommended that the project partners especially duty bearers focus on enhancing the survivor centered approaches. This effort to be complemented by assistance in crafting and executing a communication strategy aimed at showcasing their services and encouraging survivors to seek assistance.

Recommendation 3: Based on Findings 11, 12: It is crucial to sustain and expand investments in supporting duty bearers, particularly justice actors. When there is consistent support and resources allocated, it allows for scaling up of their efforts and deepening their impact. The interventions for the justice actors have already demonstrated their potential in assuring survivors get justice. This evaluation has found that the project activities have contributed to development of some protocols and guidelines within the justice system that outlines procedures for handling GBV cases advancing survivor centered approach in all stages of legal proceedings. These protocols in form of Practice Directions and ad hoc practices for children's survivors of violence are yet to be replicated in all justice actors practice and guidelines. Hence the training and skills enhancement would be creating a critical mass or cohort of well-equipped duty bearers through training of trainers who can significantly enhance their ability to cascade best practice and lessons learned. The demonstrated potential for justice actors in ensuring survivors receive justice underscores the importance of continuing and expanding efforts. It's not just about individual cases but also about institutionalizing effective practices within the justice system, thereby creating a more supportive environment for survivors seeking justice. UN Women and OHCHR

together with the key government stakeholders, especially justice sector partners are recommended to take a lead on this.

The investments through diverse interventions articulated in this report during the election period should be sustained. Sustaining investments in security and support for survivors of violence is crucially important. Thus, embedding the projects' goal in overall peacebuilding and security measures would have contributed to mitigating violence arising from post electoral demonstrations. This would have fostered a stable environment even when elections have passed. As this is about maintaining focus beyond the immediate political events to ensure lasting positive change. UN Women, OHCHR and other donors to support the NPS in finalizing the production of their assessment report with 16 cases studies on elections and violence against women and girls as knowledge product for informing peace and security. To enhance the capacity strengthening of duty bearers UN Women and OHCHR to invest in training a cohort of ToTs and support the roll out of the training within the institutions. It is also proposed that UN Women, OHCHR and PHR expand the training for health personnel beyond storage of forensic evidence to capacities on how to testify and role modelling through simulation of moot courts.

Recommendation 4: Based on Finding 10; Addressing the absence of harmonized GBV data across different levels is crucial, as it has been identified as a significant gap. There is need to address the lack of GBV data harmonization at various levels which was recognized as a gap. Holistically covering GBV research is crucial to capture its complete profile. The discrepancy arising in documenting electoral related sexual violence is also a gap in capturing the varied forms of violence. At the community levels, there is need for diligent and consistent tracking incidents and magnitude as well as how case management and referral support survivors. As such, sustaining the support to expand data capture by the national Gender-based Violence (GBV) Hotline Health Assistance Kenya (HAK) 1195 to encompass perpetrators profile will facilitate a seamless connection with the Sexual Offender's Digital Register.

On the elections related data, supporting the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights to capture a wider spectrum of electoral related violence, including insights akin to FIDA Kenya's 2022 report, will significantly enhance the depth of future programming and understanding in this domain. It is recommended that UN Women and OHCHR support and work with the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics to review and design data collection instruments that capture all forms of violence particularly emerging ones. In addition to support the revision of health data collection tools for sexual violence to get more details of the perpetrator beyond the survivor's experience

Recommendation 5: Based on the lessons learnt: There is need to incorporate economic empowerment elements within GBV programming. The link between poverty and vulnerability to GBV was found to be close. As such to successfully implement a GBV project the component of economic empowerment will help close the loop. The components should aim at providing survivors of GBV with the means to rebuild their lives, regain independence and reduce vulnerabilities that might contribute to their risk of experiencing violence in the future. These could include livelihood and skills building/entrepreneurship programmes; micro finance and access to credit including savings programmes and financial literacy training to enable start and grow small businesses; market linkages and business development as well as financial and entrepreneurial education for business skills and planning. It is recommended that UN Women and OHCHR ensure that the next phase of this project includes the economic empowerment component for all GBV interventions.

Recommendation 6: Based on Findings 8, 9, 12: It is essential to integrate robust psychosocial support element in all interventions addressing GBV. Survivors of violence become broken and the trauma they experience has lifelong consequences affecting their wellness and mental wellbeing. This support ensures survivors receive comprehensive care that addresses their emotional and mental well-being enabling them to heal, recover and move forward from their experience of GBV. These measures also assist survivors to regain a sense of control, rebuild their self-esteem as well as a sense of agency over their lives. The interventions can also help in uncovering underlying issues that contribute to GBV such as gender inequality, power dynamics and social stigma promoting a comprehensive approach to the intervention. In so far as accessing services for survivors is concerned, a psychosocial component facilitates access in several ways. In the first instance, fear, stigma and judgement or retaliation often prevents survivors from accessing essential services including justice services, hence psychosocial services provide the coping mechanism to manage these fears and encourage survivors to seek help. Secondly, shame can be a significant barrier to seeking help, as such psychosocial interventions help survivors address feelings of shame, fostering an environment where they feel more comfortable accessing services without judgement. Thirdly, psychosocial support empowers survivors by enabling them to make informed decisions about accessing services and so they can have agency over their own recovery process. Additionally, these interventions prevent survivors from being retraumatized by providing coping mechanisms and tools and ultimately building resilience and maintaining long term recovery.

Those providing services also experience secondary trauma and require inbuilt programmes to debrief. It is recommended that all UN Women GBV programming interventions include a strong component for psychosocial support for survivors, human rights defenders and providers of GBV services. Further, it is proposed that all actors, GoK and partners receive support from UN Women, OHCHR and other partners to implement the Options Paper on safe spaces applicability model by the State Department for Gender, to enhance the psychosocial skills for social development workers and community health workers who are in proximity with survivors. It is also recommended that UN Women and OHCHR ensure responding to secondary trauma through the next phase of the project.

Based on all Findings

Recommendation 7: Based on Findings and lessons learned. The significance of the project in reshaping the national prevention and management of SGBV in Kenya cannot be overstated. Scaling up for comprehensive transformation and increased impact is imperative. It is recommended that UN Women and OHCHR ensure that the next phase of the project embeds a strong advocacy component for a declaration that Sexual and Gender Based Violence is a national disaster. Its financial and human personnel costs managing the referral pathways to securing justice and care for survivors could be minimized if GBV was rooted out through aggressive, well-resourced and coordinated national efforts. UN Women and OHCHR to consider that the projects next phase could also focus on supporting the finalization and implementation of the Sexual Offences Policy 2021, which would greatly support this national move. In addition, at county level, the next phase of the project should ensure an accelerated pace to domesticate the model legislation to enable adequate policy prioritization and commensurate resources.

Table 12: Recommendations Presented in Priority Order

The following table presents the specific details of the 7 key recommendations of the evaluation in order of priority.

Priority 1 & Recommendation 1: Increase investments in SGBV prevention interventions

How to do	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ensure full alignment of the recommendation outlined ¹³⁶ to the project phase II annual workplans and the result framework- Monitor the progress together with OHCHR and the donor Italy on bi-annual basis
Justification/rationale	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- SGBV is driven by negative social norms and behaviors. Transforming norms is complex and is an incremental process.
Responsible actor(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- UN Women (Senior Management, EVAWG Team Leader, EVAWG Program Analyst), OHCHR (Senior Management, Programme Manager/Analyst), Government of Italy, other donors/development partners
What if it is not done	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Discontinuing investment in prevention work within a GBV project's second phase could lead to reversal of gains, diminished efforts to prevent violence, reduced awareness and education, limited policy influence, challenges in supporting survivors, decreased long-term sustainability, and missed opportunities for collaboration
Urgency and recommended implementation period	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- High because there is need to maintain and sustain the already created momentum and to safeguard the gains that have been made during the project Phase I in the priority counties.- Phase II of the project: 1st June 2023 to 31st May 2026
Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- High, potentially ensures sustainability of the achieved project results.
Difficulty	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Low, UN Women to discuss with OHCHR and Italy to continue investing in this for sustainability of the results achieved and to drive impact.
Link to findings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Linked to findings 5 and 7

Priority 2 & Recommendation 2: Create interventions that stimulate demand for SGBV services at this holds potential to showcase successful high-quality service delivery

How to do	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ensure full alignment of the recommendation outlined¹³⁷ to the project phase II annual workplans and the result framework- Monitor the progress together with the donor Italy on bi-annual basis
Justification/Rationale	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Reducing stigma and addressing barriers increases awareness of support services and breaks the silence to violation
Responsible actor(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- UN Women (Senior Management, EVAWG Team Leader, EVAWG Program Analyst), OHCHR (Senior Management, Programme Manager/Analyst), Government of Italy, other donors/development partners
What if it is not done	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Potential SGBV survivors and human right defenders supporting them may not be aware of the existing essential services, and the demand for the services is lower than expected. Also, survivors would not have access to services, leading potentially to several challenges in their lives.
Urgency and recommended implementation period	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- High because there is need to maintain the already created momentum of phase I of the project and to safeguard the gains that have been made during the project in the priority counties.- Phase II of the project: 1st June 2023 to 31st May 2026
Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- High, because this potentially ensures sustainability of the achieved project results.
Difficulty	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Low, UN Women to discuss with OHCHR and Italy to continue investing in this for sustainability of the results achieved and to drive impact.
Link to findings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Linked to findings 6, 8, 9 and 11

¹³⁶ As elaborated in narrative text on Recommendation 1 page 67

¹³⁷ As elaborated in narrative text on Recommendation 2 page 67

Priority 3 & Recommendation 3: Sustaining and expanding investments in supporting duty bearers particularly justice actors¹³⁸

How to do	- Ensure full alignment of the recommendation outlined ¹³⁹ to the project phase II annual workplans and the result framework - Monitor the progress together with the donor Italy on bi-annual basis
Justification/Rationale	- The project interventions have shown their potential to support SGBV survivors. Emerging protocols and structures demonstrated sustained infrastructure, reinforcing the necessity and effectiveness of the project
Responsible actor(s)	- UN Women (Senior Management, EVAWG Team Leader, EVAWG Program Analyst), OHCHR (Senior Management, Programme Manager/Analyst), Government of Italy, other donors/development partners, justice actors
What if it is not done	- If the support to duty bearers is not institutionalized and ToT-approach is not used, the scale of phase II of the project remains limited, and duty bearer capacity building is less likely to have sustainable and positive results for GBV survivors to access essential justice services.
Urgency and recommended implementation period	- High, because this potentially ensures sustainability of the achieved project results. - Phase II of the project: 1st June 2023 to 31st May 2026
Impact	- High, because this potentially ensures and extends the sustainability of the achieved project results from phase I.
Difficulty	- Low, UN Women to discuss with OHCHR and Italy to continue investing in this for sustainability of the results achieved and to drive impact.
Link to findings	- Linked to finding 10

Priority 4 & Recommendation 4: Address the absence of harmonized GBV data

How to do	- Ensure full alignment of the recommendation outlined ¹⁴⁰ to the project phase II annual workplans and the result framework - Monitor the progress together with the donor Italy on bi-annual basis
Justification/Rationale	- Critical to holistically capture SGBV drivers including understanding perpetrators profiles, the magnitude of the issue, its diverse and multiple forms including emerging technologically driven types, and its physical and psychosocial impacts. Data is key in grasping SGBV as a development concern revealing its economic and social costs/losses. Recognizing and addressing SGBV as a national disaster is imperative.
Responsible actor(s)	- UN Women (Senior Management, EVAWG Team Leader, EVAWG Program Analyst), OHCHR (Senior Management, Programme Manager/Analyst), Government of Italy, other donors/development partners, Government of Kenya
What if it is not done	- Incomplete Understanding of the Problem: Without comprehensive GBV data, it's difficult to accurately assess the scope, prevalence, and patterns of violence against women and girls. - Inadequate Resource Allocation: Without reliable data on the extent and nature of GBV, it becomes challenging for governments, NGOs, and other stakeholders to justify and allocate sufficient resources to address the issue. This can result in underfunded programs and services for survivors, as well as limited investment in prevention and advocacy efforts. - Lack of Evidence-Based Interventions: Data is essential for identifying effective interventions and evaluating their impact. In the absence of harmonized GBV data, there may be a lack of evidence-based strategies for preventing and responding to violence against women and girls. This can lead to the implementation of interventions that are not tailored to the specific needs

¹³⁸ SDfG, IAWJ, NPS, IPOA, ODPP

¹³⁹ As elaborated in narrative text on Recommendation 3 page 67

¹⁴⁰ As elaborated in narrative text on Recommendation 4 page 68

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - of affected communities or that may be ineffective- inability to combat GBV both on an individual and systemic level - Difficulty in Monitoring and Evaluation: Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of GBV programs require reliable data to track progress, identify challenges, and measure outcomes. Without harmonized GBV data, it becomes challenging to assess the impact of interventions over time and make informed decisions about program adjustments or scaling up. - Underreporting and Stigma: The absence of harmonized GBV data may exacerbate underreporting of violence against women and girls due to stigma, fear of reprisal, and lack of trust in the justice system. This perpetuates a cycle of invisibility and impunity, making it difficult to hold perpetrators accountable and provide adequate support to survivors. - Limited Advocacy and Policy Influence: Comprehensive GBV data is crucial for advocating for policy changes, strengthening legal frameworks, and mobilizing resources to address the issue. Without such data, advocacy efforts may lack the necessary evidence to persuade policymakers and stakeholders to take action on ending violence against women and girls.
Urgency and recommended implementation period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High, because absence of harmonized data hinders evidence-based advocacy and programming by all stakeholders - Phase II of the project: 1st June 2023 to 31st May 2026
Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High, if data could be harmonized at national and local level advocacy and programming would become increasingly credible
Difficulty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High, a lot of work on GBV data harmonization has been already done but the harmonization continues to be a challenge
Link to findings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Linked to findings 11 and 12

Priority 5 & Recommendation 5: Integrating economic empowerment as a critical element for SGBV programming

How to do	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure full alignment of the recommendation outlined ¹⁴¹ to the project phase II annual workplans and the result framework - Monitor the progress together with the donor Italy on bi-annual basis
Justification/Rationale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vulnerability to SGBV is closely linked to poverty
Responsible actor(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UN Women (Senior Management, EAWG Team Leader, EAWG Program Analyst), OHCHR (Senior Management, Programme Manager/Analyst), Government of Italy, CSO implementing partners
What if it is not done	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The opportunity to create a sustainable change in GBV survivors' lives is potentially lost if economic empowerment is not added to phase II of the project. There is risk of missing out on a crucial aspect of holistic support for survivors, which could ultimately undermine the long-term effectiveness and sustainability of the project's impact.
Urgency and recommended implementation period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High because economic empowerment of the SGBV survivors is one of the best practices to both prevent and respond to GBV. - Phase II of the project: 1st June 2023 to 31st May 2026
Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High, the potential to change GBV survivors' lives through economic empowerment is highly potential
Difficulty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Low, UN Women to discuss with OHCHR and Italy to include economic empowerment component to phase II of the project
Link to findings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Linked to lessons learned

¹⁴¹ As elaborated in narrative text on Recommendation 5 page 68

Priority 6 & Recommendation 6: Psychosocial support for survivors and SGBV service providers

How to do	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure full alignment of the recommendation details¹⁴² to the project phase II annual workplans and the result framework - Monitor the progress together with the donor Italy on bi-annual basis
Justification/Rationale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trauma of survivors is long term. Secondary trauma for providers can impede quality of services
Responsible actor(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UN Women (Senior Management, EVAWG Team Leader, EVAWG Program Analyst), OHCHR (Senior Management, Programme Manager/Analyst), Government of Italy, other donors/development partners, CSO implementing partners
What if it is not done	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unaddressed Trauma: Survivors of GBV often experience significant psychological trauma, including anxiety, depression, PTSD, and other mental health issues. Without access to psychosocial support services, survivors may struggle to cope with their experiences and may be at risk of long-term emotional and psychological harm. - Risk of Re-traumatization: Interactions with service providers and engagement with GBV programming can potentially trigger or exacerbate trauma for survivors if adequate psychosocial support is not provided. Without proper support mechanisms in place, survivors may feel retraumatized by their experiences of seeking help or participating in interventions. - Reduced Effectiveness of Services: Psychosocial support plays a crucial role in enhancing the effectiveness of GBV services by addressing the emotional and psychological needs of survivors. Without such support, survivors may be less likely to engage with services, follow through with treatment or legal processes, or benefit fully from the support available to them. - Burnout and Secondary Trauma Among Service Providers: GBV service providers are often exposed to the trauma and distress of survivors on a regular basis, which can lead to burnout, compassion fatigue, and secondary trauma if adequate psychosocial support is not provided. This can undermine the well-being and effectiveness of service providers, impacting the quality of care and support they are able to offer. - Limited Capacity to Address Complex Needs: Survivors of GBV may have complex psychosocial needs that require specialized support and interventions. Without access to trained professionals and appropriate resources, GBV programs may struggle to adequately address these needs, leading to gaps in service provision and reduced effectiveness in supporting survivors' recovery and healing processes. - Impact on Long-Term Recovery: Psychosocial support is essential for promoting survivors' long-term recovery, resilience, and healing from the effects of GBV. Without access to such support, survivors may face ongoing challenges in rebuilding their lives, maintaining relationships, and achieving emotional well-being.
Urgency and recommended implementation period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High because psychological support to both survivors and SGBV service providers is an essential element of successful EVAWG programming - Phase II of the project: 1st June 2023 to 31st May 2026
Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Medium, because including a credible psychological support component to Phase II of the project is likely strengthen the results and sustainability of the work.
Difficulty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Low, UN Women to discuss with OHCHR and Italy to include a credible psychological support component to phase II of the projects.
Link to conclusions/findings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Linked to findings 8, 9 and 12

¹⁴² As elaborated in narrative text on Recommendation 6 page 69

Priority 7 & Recommendation 7: The project has reshaped of SGBV prevention and response needs to be scaled up for increased impact

How to do	- Ensure full alignment of the recommendation outlined ¹⁴³ to the project phase II annual workplans and the result framework - Monitor the progress together with the donor Italy on bi-annual basis
Justification/Rationale	- Interventions have resulted to key early impacts results, which have been transformative
Responsible actor(s)	- UN Women (Senior Management, EVAWG Team Leader, EVAWG Program Analyst), OHCHR (Senior Management, Programme Manager/Analyst), Government of Italy, other donors/development partners, CSO implementing partners
What if it is not done	- The project phase II will not use its full potential in changing GBV survivors' lives by creating credible results and sustainability
Urgency and recommended implementation period	- Medium, potentially ensures sustainability of the achieved project results. - Phase II of the project: 1st June 2023 to 31st May 2026
Impact	- High, potentially ensures sustainability of the achieved project results.
Difficulty	- Low, UN Women to discuss with OHCHR and Italy to include a credible psychological support component to phase II of the project
Link to findings	- Linked to all findings and lessons learned

6. List of Annexes

Annex 1. Results Frameworks

Annex 2. Term of Reference (ToR)

Annex 3. Bibliography

Annex 4. Data collection tools

Annex 5. Evaluation matrix

Annex 6. Survey results

Annex 7. Stakeholder mapping and mandate (Focus group discussions and Key Informant Interviews) & GBV Survivors Access to Essential Services through referrals by HRD's & Training of HRDs and Others

¹⁴³ As elaborated in narrative text on Recommendation 7 page 69