



IN BRIEF



DELIVERING IMPACT FOR ZERO VIOLENCE

UN WOMEN'S KEY RESULTS IN ENDING VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS, 2022–2025

Photo: Niels den Hollander

Introduction

One in three women experience violence in their lifetime, a global crisis that spans homes, workplaces, public and online spaces. Despite progress in laws, policies and services, violence against women and girls remains fueled by persistent inequality and efforts to address it are underfunded. Across 105 countries, UN Women works with governments, civil society, the private sector, and the United Nations system partners to prevent violence, improve survivor services, strengthen laws and policies, enhance data use and support civil society organizations and women's rights movements—driving the systemic change needed to end violence in all its forms. This brief highlights UN Women's comprehensive approach and impact in ending violence against women and girls (VAWG) from 2022 to 2025, in line with its Strategic Plan.

FIGURE 1.

UN Women's comprehensive approach to ending violence against women and girls



A whole-of-organization approach to ending violence against women and girls

As the global lead for women's rights, gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, [UN Women works across the interconnected drivers of gender inequality](#). Through its efforts to advance women's leadership and participation in decision-making, women's economic empowerment, women, peace and security, and humanitarian action, UN Women helps create the enabling conditions for women and girls to exercise their rights, access opportunities and services, and reduce the vulnerabilities and structural inequalities that increase the risk of violence.

UN Women works to end violence against women and girls across all its portfolios. In public life, the Entity has supported over 200 initiatives on violence against women in politics in 50 countries. In the economic sphere, UN Women advances safer workplaces, markets and transport systems while strengthening survivors' economic empowerment.

In crisis and conflict settings, gender experts were deployed to investigations, and more than 131,000 survivors of conflict-related sexual violence were supported to access legal and protection services.

Together, these efforts address violence wherever gender inequalities persist—in politics, economies, digital and humanitarian contexts.

Informing the development of global normative standards and supporting the implementation of laws and policies

[Comprehensive laws and policies are critical](#) as they provide the overarching frameworks that enable coordinated and multi-sectoral approaches to violence against women and girls. Global frameworks call on States to enact, enforce and monitor comprehensive legal measures and develop and fund national action plans to end VAWG. As of 2024, [104 countries had comprehensive domestic violence laws](#), [79 per cent of States had introduced, updated or expanded NAPs](#) and [78 per cent provided budgetary commitments for VAWG services](#).

UN Women continued to support the development of global normative standards by informing intergovernmental processes, including the Commission on the Status of Women and at the General Assembly and Human Rights Council, in line with its normative mandate. UN Women contributed to advancing global norms, with countries reaching agreements on [access to justice](#); [VAWG in the digital environment](#); links between ending VAWG and [climate change](#), [innovation](#) and [financing](#); and [survivor-centred approaches to conflict-related sexual violence](#).



UN Women also worked with governments and civil society partners on ensuring that international agreements and frameworks are implemented at national level through **laws, policies and national actions plans**.

BOX 1

UN Women Global Database on Violence against Women and Girls

UN Women maintains the [Global Database on Violence against Women and Girls](#) (the Database), the leading repository on government measures to end VAWG. It provides up-to-date information from 194 countries and territories on how they are addressing VAWG, including through laws, policies, and national action plans.

The Database serves as a vital accountability tool, enabling governments, policymakers, researchers, and civil society to:

- Track legal and policy progress across countries and regions.
- Track measures against international standards such as [Convention for the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women](#) and the [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#).
- Identify gaps and inform advocacy, programming, and resource allocation.

In 2022–2025, the Database received more than half a million visitors annually, underscoring its role as a global public good for evidence-based policy-making and advocacy.

Kazakhstan: With UN Women's technical support, [Kazakhstan adopted comprehensive legal reforms to criminalize domestic violence](#), strengthen child protection, and shift evidence-gathering responsibilities to law enforcement. The reforms—paired with Family Support Centres—are estimated to benefit more than 10 million women and girls by strengthening protection and access to justice.



Countries with **domestic violence legislation** report **significantly lower rates of intimate partner violence** (9.5%) compared to those without such legislation (16.1%).



1.48 billion women and girls live in countries where UN Women has supported governments to develop and adopt **multisectoral strategies, policies and action plans** to end violence against women and girls.



The **rates of intimate partner violence are 2.5 times lower** in countries with comprehensive prevention and response measures.



1.37 billion women and girls live in countries where UN Women has helped **strengthen laws** to advance gender equality and end violence against women and girls.

Fiji: In 2023, Fiji became the first Pacific Island country to adopt a whole-of-government [National Action Plan to Prevent Violence against All Women and Girls \(2023–2028\)](#), developed with UN Women's technical support. The NAP, built on years of nationwide consultations with over 2,000 stakeholders, provides a comprehensive framework addressing violence in 13 key settings, tailored to Fiji's cultural and social context.

BOX 2

Fostering partnerships for a comprehensive approach to ending technology-facilitated violence against women and girls (TF VAWG)

UN Women's [approach to TF VAWG](#) is designed to deliver transformative change across normative, programmatic, and coordination functions, including through multi-stakeholder partnerships such as the [Generation Equality Action Coalitions](#) and the [Global Partnership for Action on Gender-Based Online Harassment and Abuse](#) and by [contributing](#) to global standard-setting, such as the [CSW67 Agreed Conclusions](#) and the [Global Digital Compact](#). Because comprehensive laws and policies are needed to respond to and prevent [TF VAWG](#), a [model legal framework](#) is under development, informed by [global](#) and regional assessments in the [Americas](#), [Arab States](#) and [Eastern Europe and Central Asia](#). [Policy and programming initiatives](#), notably through the Global Programme funded by Spain on Accelerating Efforts to Address TF VAWG, include strengthening the [police response](#) and working to address the key drivers of TF VAWG by [transforming social norms](#), [engaging youth](#) and [countering the manosphere](#). Partnerships for data are also being leveraged to fill gaps in the [definition](#) and [measurement](#) of TF VAWG and coordinate the development of a [global statistical framework](#) and research is conducted [to strengthen the knowledge and evidence base and fill critical gaps](#) notably on [online violence against women in the public life](#) and [perpetration](#).

Strengthening prevention of violence against women and girls

[Violence against women and girls is rooted in gender-based discrimination, harmful social norms, and stereotypes that perpetuate cycles of abuse](#). [Prevention](#)—by addressing these structural drivers and strengthening protective factors—is pivotal to stopping violence before it occurs, and evidence from UN Women-supported initiatives shows it is [both possible and effective](#). [Engaging men and boys is an essential part of this work](#), helping

to challenge harmful masculinities and promote positive, gender-equitable behaviours. [Community dialogues](#), peer education, and campaigns led by male champions have demonstrated how men can become powerful allies in preventing violence.



Evaluations of the Safe Cities and Public Spaces programme have demonstrated measurable impact, including **reductions in sexual harassment** on public transport in Quito, **enhanced safety and comfort** for women in markets in Port Moresby, and **greater mobility** for women to access employment in Cairo.



2.19 billion women and girls live in countries where UN Women has helped prevent violence against women and girls by supporting **evidence-based programmes** that address **harmful social and gender norms** in communities and institutions.

Albania: With UN Women's support, more than 430 women and girls working in [Albania's tourism sector completed self-defense and safety training](#) designed to prevent harassment and violence. The initiative strengthened women's confidence and ability to respond to unsafe situations, with 95 per cent reporting increased confidence and 90 per cent feeling better equipped to handle harassment. The programme also catalyzed engagement with tourism businesses to adopt workplace safety protocols, helping create safer environments for women workers across the sector.

BOX 3

Driving UN System action to end violence against women and girls

UN Women is the UN system's lead coordinator on ending VAWG. Through the UN Inter-Agency Working Group on VAWG, the [Secretary-General's UNiTE Campaign](#), the [Generation Equality Action Coalition on Gender-Based Violence](#), and the [Spotlight Initiative](#), UN Women brings together governments, UN entities, civil society and other partners to advance coordinated action, advocacy and accountability on VAWG.

UN Women promotes system-wide coherence by convening UN entities and human rights mechanisms around major global advocacy and policy moments, supporting [joint messaging, campaigns](#) and policy positions. As part of its UN General Assembly-mandated coordination role, UN Women also produces the [Inventory of United Nations System Activities on Violence against Women](#), the only mechanism [tracking EVAWG efforts across the UN system](#).

UN Women further provides technical leadership through global frameworks, standards and guidance that support a coherent UN system approach to the prevention of, response to, and measurement of violence against women and girls.

Strengthening access to services for all survivors

[Effective response ensures that survivors can access timely protection, justice, and multi-sectoral services](#) delivered in a survivor-centred way. [Coordinated health, justice, policing, and social services](#) contribute to increased help-seeking and improved accountability.



1.67 billion women and girls live in countries that saw an **increase** in the number of women who **access services** after experiencing violence or discrimination.



2.64 billion women and girls live in countries where UN Women has helped strengthen the capacity of governments, civil society and private institutions to provide **essential services, goods and resources** to survivors of violence.

BOX 4

Global initiatives to strengthen survivor services

Lila.help (with GNWS): In 2022 UN Women and the Global Network of Women's Shelters (GNWS) launched the world's most comprehensive global directory of helplines for women and girls at risk of violence. More than 60 UN Women offices contributed with verified helpline and shelter information. By 2023, Lila.help operated in 15 languages, had vetted 267 organizations, and expanded from 6 to 100+ countries. Through the [Generation Equality GBV Action Coalition](#), GNWS also leveraged private-sector partnership (ACCOR) to improve information and reach in Southeast Asia—broadening safe referral pathways globally.

Gender-Responsive Policing Network: In 2024, UN Women launched the [High-Level Network on Gender-Responsive Policing](#), co-chaired by Chile, the Netherlands, and Senegal, bringing together senior police and Ministry of Interior officials from 19 countries. The Network strengthens institutional responses to sexual and gender-based violence by sharing good practices—such as survivor-friendly reporting mechanisms, specialized police units, and multi-sectoral support centres, and by promoting women's leadership in policing.

Digital Public Infrastructure: In 2024, UN Women joined the [Digital Public Goods Alliance](#) (DPGA) to explore how digital public infrastructure and digital public goods can advance gender justice. Through [research](#) and partnerships, UN Women identified opportunities to adapt and scale-up existing digital systems—including those used in finance, health, education and identity registration—to better serve women and girls, emphasizing the need to integrate their perspectives throughout design and implementation and to track impacts through gender-disaggregated data.

Kenya: With UN Women's support, Kenya strengthened prevention, protection and accountability to end violence against women and girls. [Specialized Gender Justice Courts](#), survivor-centred services and legal reforms improved access to justice, resulting in 31,880 VAWG cases concluded in 2024/25 and support provided to 1,767 survivors. At the same time, research, policy reforms and community-based prevention initiatives helped strengthen institutional responses and challenge harmful social norms that drive violence.

Strengthening data collection and research to inform evidence-based laws, policies and action

[Robust data make violence against women and girls visible and actionable](#), revealing prevalence, service gaps, and outcomes for survivors. Applying global ethical and safety standards across [surveys](#), [administrative systems](#), and complementary methods ensures [evidence](#) can guide targeted policy, funding, and programmes that work.

UN Women's efforts also focused on making data accessible and promoting their use by governments, civil society and other key stakeholders to inform policies and advocacy on ending violence against women and girls.



1.37 billion women and girls live in countries where UN Women has helped strengthen national **capacity to measure VAWG** through improved data collection and statistics.

BOX 5

Evidence to drive action to end femicide

In 2024, [an estimated 50,000 women and girls](#) were killed by intimate partners or other family members worldwide. UN Women, with UNODC, developed the [Statistical Framework for Measuring the Gender-related Killings of Women and Girls](#), endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission, and is supporting its rollout globally. Regional work has driven [model laws](#) and [protocols](#) in Latin America, and the creation of [femicide watches](#) in Europe & Central Asia to strengthen accountability and prevention.

Bolivia: With UN Women's support, Bolivia transformed its response to violence against women through the [modernization of the Unique Registry of Violence](#), expanding coverage from 31 to 237 municipalities. The upgraded system strengthened monitoring, accountability, and the investigation of femicide, while enabling better oversight of survivor services. To ensure no one is left behind, specialized protocols and accessible tools in Braille and sign language were introduced in 92 municipalities, improving access to survivor-centred services for women and girls with disabilities.

Indonesia: With UN Women's support, Indonesia strengthened evidence-based prevention of violence against women through improved collection and use of national survey, administrative, and qualitative data. Findings from the 2024 National Women's Life Experience Survey informed national prevention strategies, strengthened monitoring and accountability frameworks, and helped integrate violence prevention into the country's 2025–2029 National Development Plan. This data-driven approach enabled more targeted action to address risk factors, identify underserved groups, and track progress in ending violence against women.



Photo: UN Women/Ryan Brown

BOX 6

Amplifying evidence, advocacy and learning

UN Women strengthened global visibility, advocacy and knowledge-sharing on EVAWG, helping translate evidence into public understanding, policy dialogue and action. During the reporting period, UN Women's research, data and expertise informed major international media coverage, including in [The Guardian](#), [Associated Press](#), [EFE](#), [El País](#), [Infobae](#), [Euronews](#), [France 24](#), [CNN](#), [BBC News Africa](#), [Deutsche Welle](#), [Xinhua](#) and [Reuters](#). Coverage highlighted technology-facilitated VAWG, online abuse, femicide, backlash against women's rights, and the risks posed by funding cuts to women-led organizations and survivor services.

UN Women also expanded access to EVAWG knowledge through its global website, which features [articles](#), [explainers](#), [FAQs](#), [glossaries](#) and [Facts and Figures resources](#). Content was further amplified through global social media channels, particularly during key advocacy moments such as the 16 Days of Activism. The launch of the [EVAW Knowledge Hub](#) and regular publication of the newsletter supported global learning and exchange by sharing evidence, tools, promising practices and updates with policymakers, practitioners, civil society and partners worldwide.

Strengthening movements to end violence against women and girls

Investing in long-term, flexible resources and safeguarding civic space enables these actors to sustain services, lead advocacy, and advance sustained and inclusive solutions.



The presence of a **strong and autonomous women's rights movement** is **the single most critical factor to drive progress** in ending violence against women.



UN Women provided **\$504 million** in funding to CSOs, particularly **women's rights organizations**, to advance efforts to end VAWG. Through the **EU-UN Women ACT programme** alone, **757+ WROs were reached** and **60 partners funded**.



UN Women supported **2,946 civil society organizations**, especially women's organizations, to **strengthen their leadership and work** towards gender equality and ending violence against women and girls.

Advocacy in action: – Safeguarding the ban on female genital mutilation (FGM) in The Gambia: Through the [EU-UN Women ACT programme](#), high-level advocacy, media engagement, and grassroots organizing helped ensure that the National Assembly voted to maintain the ban, protecting over 1.3 million women and girls at risk of FGM and safeguarding hard-won legal gains.



Photo: UN Women/Lauren Rooney

BOX 7

ACT to end violence against women

Funded by the EU, the [ACT programme](#) strengthens feminist movements and coalitions to advance advocacy, policymaking and accountability on ending violence against women and girls across Africa, Latin America and globally. Since 2023, it has provided critical funding to 60 CSOs, strengthened the capacities of 449 civil society organizations and engaged 757 organizations in knowledge-sharing, networking and collective advocacy. ACT has enabled 179 women's rights organizations and coalitions to participate in key global and regional advocacy and intergovernmental spaces, contributing to 20 normative and policy wins. Achievements include support for the ratification of ILO Convention 190 in Costa Rica, regional survivor protection measures in MERCOSUR, engagement in the African Union Convention on EVAWG, and approval of the [Inter-American Model Law on Gender-Based Digital Violence](#). Through the ACT AI School, UN Women has strengthened women's rights organizations' ability to leverage AI for advocacy and movement-building, with 90 per cent of participants reporting increased capacity.

Occupied Palestinian Territory: With UN Women's support, [25 women-led and women's rights organizations played a central role](#) in preventing and responding to violence against women and girls during the humanitarian crisis. Using sex-, age- and disability-disaggregated data to inform services and advocacy, local partners provided

protection, legal assistance, psychosocial support and referrals to more than 159,000 women, girls and other crisis-affected individuals. The initiative strengthened locally led, evidence-based responses to violence and ensured that women's organizations helped shape recovery and protection efforts.

BOX 8

From resources to resilience: the UN trust fund to end violence against women and girls

Established by the General Assembly in 1996 and administered by UN Women on behalf of the UN system, the [UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women and Girls](#) is the only global grant-making mechanism dedicated exclusively to ending all forms of violence against women and girls. It played a critical role in advancing UN Women's mandate under the Strategic Plan (2022–2025) by investing \$54.8 million in over 66 countries and territories [supporting 116 CSOs/WROs](#) with long-term, flexible and core funding. Its grants strengthened [prevention efforts](#), expanded [access to essential services](#), improved [laws and policies](#), and catalyzed [movements](#). Beyond grantmaking, the Trust Fund accompanies grantee partners by investing in their [organizational resilience](#), co-creating [practice-based knowledge](#) with them, [amplifying their voices](#), facilitating knowledge exchange in 100+ languages through [SHINE](#), and ensuring that frontline actors are equipped to navigate [crisis](#) and [backlash](#).

UN Women exists to advance women's rights, gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. As the lead UN entity on gender equality, we shift laws, institutions, social behaviours and services to close the gender gap and build an equal world for all women and girls. We keep the rights of women and girls at the centre of global progress – always, everywhere. Because gender equality is not just what we do. It is who we are.