

IN BRIEF

DELIVERING IMPACT FOR ZERO VIOLENCE

UN WOMEN'S PROGRESS TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS, 2022–2025

Photo: Niels den Hollander

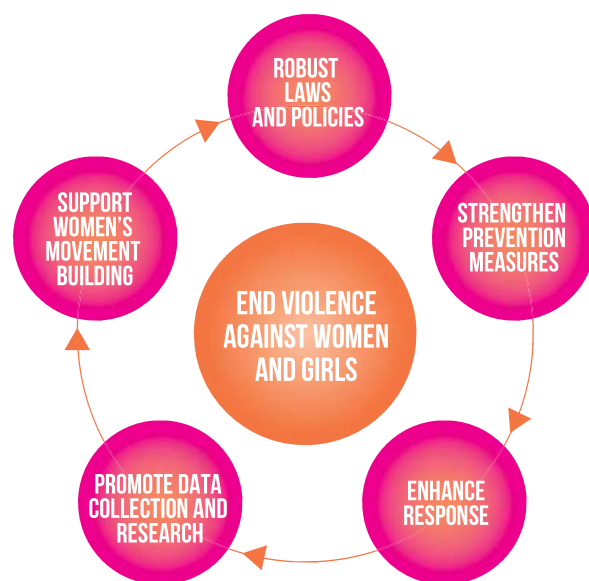
Introduction

One in three women experience violence in their lifetime,¹ a global crisis that spans homes, workplaces, public and online spaces. Despite progress in laws, policies and services, violence against women and girls remains fuelled 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**.

1. See UN Women's FAQs on Ending Violence Against Women available at: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/faqs>
Quantitative results reported in this brief cover the period 2022–mid 2025.

FIGURE 1.

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



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 responses to violence against women and girls. Whole of government and comprehensive action to end violence against women is more effective.

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 [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 worked with government and civil society partners on ensuring that international agreements and frameworks are implemented at national level.

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.
- Compare 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.



Countries with **domestic violence legislation** report significantly **lower rates of intimate partner violence (9.5%) compared to those without such legislation (16.1%)**².

2. UN Women. (2025). Beijing+30 action brief: Zero violence. New York: UN Women. Retrieved from <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2025-08/Brief-Beijing-30-Action-3-Zero-Violence.pdf>



1.36 billion women and girls live in countries where **laws were adopted, revised or repealed**, with UN Women's support, to advance gender equality and women's empowerment with a focus on ending VAWG.

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.



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



1.44 billion women and girls live in countries where national or local **multisectoral strategies, policies and/or action plans were adopted** on EVAWG.

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.

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.



1.99 billion women and girls live in countries where **programmes addressing harmful social and gender norms** at the community and organization levels, using evidence-based and practice-based methodologies, were implemented.

Malawi: Through the [Council of Traditional Leaders of Africa \(COTLA\)](#) and with UN Women's support, traditional and religious leaders in Malawi partnered with police and community groups to dissolve **1,893 child marriages** and ensure girls returned to school. The initiative combined community dialogues, engagement of chiefs and faith leaders, and coordination with justice actors, demonstrating how norm change at the community level can directly protect girls' rights and prevent harmful practices.

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.



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



2.34 billion women and girls live in countries where national and sub-national governments, civil society organizations, and private institutions strengthened their **capacities to improve the provision of essential services, goods, and resources** for women who have experienced VAWG.



Irina Budeanu, a young police officer in Moldova who has received support by UN Women. Photo: UN Women Moldova/Stela Dontu

BOX 2

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.

Moldova: With UN Women's support, Moldova established its first **Centre for Specialist Services for sexual violence survivors**. The one-stop centre brings together health, justice, and social services under one roof, providing immediate medical care, trauma support, forensic examinations, and psychological assistance. Fully aligned with national law and the Istanbul Convention, the centre ensures coordinated, survivor-centred services and sets a model for replication nationwide.

Strengthening data Collection to inform evidence-based 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.



41 data-collection initiatives on VAWG were supported, while women's machineries and national statistical offices in **21 countries, home to 395 million women and girls,** strengthened **capacities to measure** prevalence and related indicators. 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.

BOX 3

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.

Colombia: Following advocacy informed by the findings of the **rapid gender assessments** on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on VAW, the rural municipality of Pasto, capi-

tal of the Colombian Department of Nariño, adopted and implemented **concrete responses** to increase women and girls' safety: all streets now have lighting; a comprehensive care unit for victims of gender-based violence has been reactivated; more than 100 women are increasing their economic autonomy to prevent them from falling into cycles of violence; and the municipal budget for gender issues has tripled compared to before the pandemic.

BOX 4

Fostering partnerships for a comprehensive approach to ending 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** was produced, informed by **global** and regional assessments in the **Americas, Arab States** and **Eastern Europe and Central Asia**. **Policy and programming initiatives** 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**.

Latin America: UN Women partnered with the Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention - MESECVI to support a landmark regional study on cyberviolence and cyber-harassment as part of the 2022 report **Cyber-Violence and Cyber-harassment against Women and Girls within the Framework of the Belém do Pará Convention**. The evidence showed gaps in national laws to address TF VAWG, which directly informed the development of a **Model Law on Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence** for adoption by States Parties.

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 women³.



USD 155.7M was disbursed in support of CSOs, especially **women's rights organizations**, working to ending VAWG, through UN Women programmes and grant-giving. Through the **EU-UN Women ACT programme** alone, **757+ WROs** were reached and **60 partners** funded.

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.

BOX 5

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 USD 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 grant-making, 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](#).

Building coalitions for marginalised voices in Latin America: Through the [Spotlight Initiative Latin America Regional Programme](#), UN Women strengthened alliances with [228 civil society organizations](#) representing historically marginalized groups—including women with disabilities, indigenous, Afro descendant, trans and youth communities. These partnerships promoted inclusive participation in evidence-generation, capacity-building and advocacy, and disbursed grants to 15 CSOs to enhance organizational capacity and reduce vulnerabilities for women and girls.

3. Ellsberg, M., Arango, D.J., Morton, M., Gennari, F., Kiplesund, S., Contreras, M., & Watts, C. (2015). Prevention of violence against women and girls: what does the evidence say? *The Lancet*, 385(9977), 1555–1566.