

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT:

JOINT PROGRAMME ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN DATA

UN Women and the WHO are implementing the five-year (2018–2022) global Joint Programme on Violence against Women Data with funding from the United Kingdom's Department for International Development.

The Joint Programme seeks to ensure that quality, comparable data on different forms of violence against women are collected over time to address national data gaps and meet policy and reporting commitments under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Beijing Platform for Action, and the SDGs. The programme focuses on three areas:

- **Methodological developments:** Strengthening and disseminating standards for violence against women data collection; developing guidelines for the collection, analysis and use of administrative data on violence against women; updating country, regional and global estimates on the prevalence of intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence; and coordinating a United Nations inter-agency working group on violence against women data for monitoring and reporting on SDG Target 5.2 indicators.
- **Capacity-building:** Strengthening the ability of national institutions, particularly in the Arab States and East and Southern Africa, to collect, analyse and use population-based prevalence data on violence against women in line with globally agreed methodological, ethical and safety standards. The programme also contributes to institutionalizing prevalence surveys in national statistical systems.
- **Data use:** Ensuring data on violence against women are readily accessible for advocacy, policymaking and programming, including through strategic data literacy and data dissemination initiatives such as data user-producer dialogues.

LINKAGES WITH WOMEN COUNT

- The programme has engaged with Women Count in providing technical assistance and quality assurance on data collection, primarily through substantive inputs to the design of the rapid gender assessment surveys on the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19.
- It has contributed data on five indicators included in the Women Count Gender [Data Hub](#).
- It has closely collaborated with Women Count to advocate for national partners to commit resources to prevalence studies and other data work (i.e., strengthening administrative data systems).
- The programme is also working closely with the CEGS to develop an operational definition of femicide for statistical purposes.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2020

In 2020, its third year, the Joint Programme has led global efforts and inter-agency coordination in guiding violence against women data collection during the COVID-19 pandemic. This has been done mainly through the development of guidelines and standards to ensure that safety and ethical principles are not compromised. The programme continued to advance in the field of violence against women research and data by spearheading the updating of research instruments and standards. It also paved way to institutionalize national capacities by partnering with research institutions in the Arab States and East and Southern Africa.

Methodological developments

- **Measurements of psychological/emotional intimate partner violence have been enhanced** through the analysis of existing data and the review of question wording and severity thresholds against globally agreed operational definitions.
- **Measures to better capture the experiences of violence faced by women with disabilities were strengthened** with the development of a [protocol paper](#) for the scoping review.
- **Inter-agency collaboration advanced towards a global femicide measurement**, through the production of an [initial framework](#) to inform the global consultation.
- **The high demand for guidance on the production of violence against women data was met** through the production of tailored guidance on safety risks for respondents and reflections on the usefulness of collected data in unsettled conditions, including a [global guidance note on violence against women and girls data collection during COVID-19](#) and, with UNFPA, a [decision tree on violence against women surveys during COVID-19](#). The RGAs on the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19 supported by Women Count in 52 countries also received substantive technical inputs from the Joint Programme. Learnings will inform a round of RGAs on violence against women in 14 countries in 2021.
- **A new database was created with updated national, regional and global estimates of the prevalence of intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence.** The database was informed through country consultations and includes data for 161 countries and territories across all geographical regions for surveys conducted between 2000 and 2018.

Capacity-building

- **Two strategic partnerships were launched** with the Arab Institute for Women of the Lebanese American University and with the African Population and Health Research Centre to lead regional capacity-development initiatives that strengthen in-country resources on violence against women measurement in the Arab States and the East and Southern Africa regions.

Data use

- **Four countries were supported to collect data on violence against women**, as the Joint Programme provided technical support and quality assurance to Jamaica, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and Suriname.
- **A rapid assessment on the impacts of COVID-19 on service-provision to women survivors of violence was designed and implemented** at the beginning of the pandemic in 49 countries in five regions.
- **Government measures to prevent and respond to violence against women during COVID-19 were collected and analysed** through the UNDP-UN Women COVID-19 Global Gender Response Tracker.

PLANS FOR 2021*

- Launch the Global Database on Violence against Women Prevalence Estimates platform.
- Develop global guidance on psychological intimate partner violence, femicide measurement and experiences of violence among women over 50 and/or with disabilities.
- Update the global guidance on violence against women data collection during COVID-19 informed by RGAs on COVID-19's impact on women's well-being.
- Finalize the Technical Guidance Note 'Using Administrative Data on Violence Against Women' through a qualitative multi-country field research and consultation process.
- Develop a training curriculum on conducting prevalence surveys in partnership with research institutions in the Arab States and East and Southern Africa.

* Plans for 2021 may be further adjusted as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic