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JOINT PROGRAMME ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN DATA

OBJECTIVE

UN Women and WHO are implementing a 5-year (2018-2022) global joint programme on violence against women data (VAW Data JP), currently funded by DFID, aimed at ensuring quality, comparable data on different forms of VAW are available and collected overtime to address national data gaps and meet policy and reporting commitments under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Platform for Action and the SDGs. The Joint Programme focuses on three areas:

- **Methodological developments:** Strengthening and dissemination of standards for VAW data collection, in particular on psychological intimate partner violence (IPV), violence against older women and violence against women with disabilities; developing guidelines for the collection, analysis, sharing and use of administrative data on VAW, and coordination of an interagency working group on VAW data, engaging UNFPA, UNICEF, UNSD and UNODC, including for monitoring and reporting of SDG target 5.2 indicators.
- **Capacity building:** Strengthening capacities in the Arab region and Africa for the implementation of national population-based surveys on the prevalence of VAW and data use, through the selection

of institutions in each region to lead such capacity strengthening, based on core guiding principles of ownership and sustainability.

- **Data use:** Increased collection and use of VAW data for advocacy, policy and programming, through strategic data literacy and data dissemination initiatives including data producers and data users dialogues.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2018

The first Steering Committee meeting of the VAW Data JP was held in June to discuss plans for 2018- 2019 and approve budget allocations. Data on IPV and non-partner sexual violence (NPSV) have been extracted and the database updated for the calculation of country, regional and global estimates by WHO. A systematic review of studies, measures and survey instruments on violence against older women was also initiated. Work has commenced to develop a background paper and organize an expert group meeting on VAW administrative data to inform the development of global guidelines, and the technical advisory board has been set up. A partnership was established with UNESCWA for capacity building for implementation of VAW prevalence surveys in the Arab region.

At the national level, UN Women supported user-producer dialogues in **Jamaica**, with government and civil society stakeholders, around the results of the 2016 Women's Health Survey, and their use to support the implementation of the National Strategic Action Plan against Gender Based Violence 2017-2027. Specific recommendations include targeting all-boys schools to address gender discrimination and toxic masculinities from an early age, and carefully monitoring and addressing school drop-out and fertility rates among girls, based on the finding that IPV prevalence is higher in women who began living with a man before they were 18.

With support from the VAW Data JP, UN Women in **Georgia** ensured wide dissemination of the findings of the 2017 National Study on VAW, jointly implemented by Georgia's NSO (GEOSTAT) and with the support of the European Union. The survey findings greatly informed the drafting and advocacy process around regulating sexual harassment. In partnership with the Gender Equality Council of the Parliament of Georgia, UN Women advocated for the development and adoption of relevant legislation. As a result, the parliament of Georgia will adopt a bill introducing the definition of sexual harassment and its regulation in the public space as well as workplace environments in 2019.

The VAW Data JP contributed to strengthening UN inter-agency coordination and collaboration on VAW data. Partnerships were established with the European Institute for Gender Equality, the Gender-Based Violence Information Management System, UNESCWA and others, which set an important foundation for the successful implementation of the programme. The VAW Data JP also made efforts to ensure linkages with other global programmes, such as Women Count, the Spotlight Initiative, the UNFPA kNowVAWdata initiative in Asia and the Pacific, as well as the UN Global Joint Programme on Essential Services for Women and Girls Subject to Violence.

PLANS FOR 2019

Methodological developments

- Organize an expert group meeting on violence against older women and work towards identifying a core set of data for developing a standard module/ set of questions that could potentially be added to existing surveys;

- Conduct an analysis of data, questions and methods used to report on psychological IPV, in order to reach consensus on a standard measure;
- Finalise country, regional and global estimates on IPV and NPSV and conduct country consultations for validation;
- Coordinate the inter-agency working group reporting on SDG 5.2.1 indicator and proposal of an alternative 5.2.2 indicator on NPSV for the upcoming 2020 comprehensive review of the global SDG indicator framework;
- Finalise a background paper on VAW administrative data and organize an expert group meeting to inform the development of global guidelines; consensus on the outline of the guidelines and issues to address.

Capacity Building

- Support to UNESCWA to finalise of a VAW data toolkit, and organization of a joint meeting with NSOs and women machineries in the Arab region to present the toolkit and discuss methodological and ethical and safety principles for the implementation of VAW surveys;
- Organize a capacity building workshop with relevant pathfinder countries of the Women Count programme and the Spotlight Initiative planning the implementation of national VAW prevalence surveys in the East and Southern Africa region;
- Launch a call for proposals for a partner institution in the Arab region as well as in the East and Southern Africa region, to develop and implement a capacity building course for the implementation of VAW prevalence surveys;
- Partner with UNFPA to ensure synergies with the similar initiative being implemented in the Asia Pacific region, kNowVAWdata.

Data use

- Provide technical assistance for the planning and implementation of VAW prevalence surveys, as well as analysis and use of data, with a focus on pathfinder countries of the Women Count programme, including **Albania** and **Morocco**.